

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, Aug. 21

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Senior Menu: Turkey & Dressing, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Broccoli, Pumpkin Bar/Topping or Carrot Bar, Bread

Birthdays: • Tara Carlson • Scott Krueger

10:00am: Boys Golf at Milbank

12:00pm: Dakota Land Feed Golfing - 18 holes

Friday, Aug. 22

Senior Menu: Hearty Vegetable Beef Soup, Chicken Salad Sandwich, Mandarin Oranges, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie

Anniv: Rick & Melanie Rossow • Marc & Jayne Rossow

Birthdays: • Deb Thurston • Jeff Sippel • Connie McDonald • Colby Merkel • Virginia Breikreutz

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

4:00pm: Girls Soccer at Belle Fourche

6:00pm: Boys Soccer at Belle Fourche

Saturday, Aug. 23

Birthdays: Lisa Pray • Robin Fliehs • Allerie Loeschke • Ashley Larson • Jeremy Paul • Trista Telkamp • Lorraine Sippel

12:00pm: Girls Soccer at St. Thomas More

2:00pm: Boys Soccer at St. Thomas More

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

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is back and is open!

Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back in Groton at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.

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

Anniversary Wagon Train is a 17-day ride into History

SOUTH DAKOTA

HISTORY & HERITAGE

The 125th Statehood Anniversary Wagon Train is an opportunity to participate in and learn about South Dakota history.

The wagon train will begin at the Dakota Territorial capital of Yankton on Wednesday, Sept. 3 and will arrive at the South Dakota capital of Pierre on Saturday, Sept. 20. At each evening stop along the approximately 250-mile trip, local landowners and historians will present a history of that local area. Community and civic groups will be sponsoring many of the evening meals and events, so people can see the wagon train up close and visit with wagon train participants. The wagon train is sponsored by the South Dakota Draft Horse and Mule Association.

The route of the wagon train route is intended to commemorate historic trails. The route from Yankton to Mitchell will be near what was called the Fort James Trail, according to wagon master Gerald Kessler of Fort Pierre. Listed on the National Register of Historic Sites, Fort James was located near what is now Mitchell. The fort was probably named for the nearby James River. It was one of a series of forts built to protect settlers after the Dakota War of 1862, according to the television show "Time Team America," in which a group of archaeologists spent three days excavating the Fort James site. The fort was built in 1865 by the 6th Iowa Volunteer Cavalry. The men signed up to help fight in the Civil War, but instead found themselves sent to the western frontier. For the American Indians who lived in the area, it must have seemed like the cavalry was riding in to take over more of their land.

What makes Fort James unique was that it was built of stone. Fort James is believed to be the only military post in the United States built entirely of stone. A natural outcropping of quartzite granite was located nearby. Fort James was decommissioned after 11 months and burned to the ground in 1868.

When Firesteel came into existence in 1874, the Fort James Trail was extended to that community in Davison County. From Firesteel, trails would have followed Firesteel Creek much of the way to Fort Thompson and then continued on from Fort Thompson to Fort Pierre, or followed a more direct over-land route to Fort Pierre, according Kessler.

The trails would have been used primarily for hauling freight until white people started settling the area, Kessler said, with oxen used to haul the freight wagons.



The photograph of several head of oxen pulling three wagons was taken on April 10, 1886, by William John Collins. (South Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives photo)

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According to "Fort Pierre-Deadwood Trail: Then & Now" by James D. Osburn, Ken R. Stewart and Lonis R. Wendt, a freight team usually consisted of seven or eight yoke of oxen hitched to an old Murphy or Kern wagon. The load carried in the wagons generally weighed from 7,500 to 8,000 pounds.

The freight wagons were sturdy, wide-tracked, double-boxed vehicles with heavy iron tires and heavy canvas covers.

"What's real neat about South Dakota is our history is still not so old that we cannot find tracks from wagons or tepee rings," Kessler said. "We found ruts north and west of Gann Valley when laying out the trail."

The 17-day trip includes 15 days of travel and two days of rest.

After camping overnight in Yankton on Wednesday, Sept. 3, the 125th anniversary wagon train will leave Yankton on Thursday, Sept. 4. The route will pass within about 10 miles of Fort James, but will not stop there. Overnight stops are scheduled for Tabor, Scotland, Tripp and Ethan, Mitchell, Plankinton, Wessington Springs, Crow Lake, Gann Valley, the Allen Knippling ranch, near Mac's Corner and by Krull Lodge. The wagon train will camp at Farm Island Recreation Area near Pierre on Friday, Sept. 19 and is scheduled to arrive at the Capitol building in Pierre at noon on Saturday, Sept. 20.

For the first part of the wagon train, the route will be mostly on township and county roads, in road ditches and along undeveloped section lines. Once the wagon train reaches the Wessington Springs area, participants will travel cross-country or in road ditches near S.D. Highway 34.

Kessler said he anticipates that more than 200 people will participate when the wagon train leaves Yankton. About 120 people from eight states have signed up to be take part in the ride. They are allowed to participate in any or all of the trail segments, so Kessler expects the number participating will vary throughout the ride.

For more information, contact Kessler at (605) 223-2313 or visit www.125.sd.gov

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.

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Youth Horse Show Results

Kendyl Hanson-Brooks, Groton, was the judge for the Youth Horse Show Monday of the Brown County Fair. This was a fun show as the County and State Horse Shows have already been held.

Beg. Showmanship:

1. Lily Tobin
2. Ivy Schanzenbach
3. Hanna Miller
4. Sydney Evans
5. Turner Thompson
6. Blake Pauli
7. Sara Menzia

Jr. Showmanship:

1. Callin Sprinkel
2. Elle Schanzenbach

Sr. Showmanship:

1. Trey Wright
2. Katie Buttolph
3. Alexandra Stange

English Hunt Seat:

1. Gabi Siefkes
2. Danielle Podoll
3. Katie Buttolph
4. Elle Schanzenbach

Lead-Line:

1. Haily Pauli
2. Taryn Thompson

Walk-Trot Stock Seat:

1. Danielle Podoll
2. Lily Tobin
3. Morgan Haselhorst
4. Hanna Miller
5. Turner Thompson
6. Ivy Schanzenbach

Jr. Stock Seat:

1. Colin Sprinkel
2. Paige Evans
3. Elle Schanzenbach

Sr. Stock Seat:

1. Kaylee Braun
2. Trey Wright
3. Alexandra Stange

Beg. Egg & Spoon:

1. Danielle Podoll
2. Kira Goldade
3. Hanna Miller

Jr. Egg & Spoon:

1. Elle Schanzenbach
2. Paige Snyder
3. Colin Sprinkel

Sr. Egg & Spoon:

1. Kaylee Braun
2. Alexandra Stange
3. Katie Buttolph

Beg. Trail:

1. Kira Goldade
2. Turner Thompson
3. Lily Tobin

Jr. Trail:

1. Colin Sprinkel

Sr. Trail:

2. Alexandra Stange
3. Logan Flack
4. Trey Wright

Reining:

1. Kaylee Braun
2. Danielle Podoll

Jr. Barrels:

1. Danielle Podoll; 18.28
2. Danielle Podoll; 18.53
3. Paige Sydnier; 18.66
4. Paige Evans; 22.34
5. Skylar Mohr; 26.62
6. Sydney Evans; 28.57

Sr. Barrels:

1. Kaylee Braun; 19.30
2. Alexandra Stange; 22.34
3. Cassie Artz; 22.73
4. Trey Wright; 27.22

Jr. Poles:

1. Danielle Podoll; 23.16
2. Danielle Podoll; 25.01
3. Paige Sydnier; 25.94
4. Sydney Evans; 37.48
5. Kira Goldade; 40.90
6. Collin Sprinkel; 41.93

Sr Poles:

1. Alexandra Stange; 28.42
2. Kaylee Braun; 29.30
3. Katie Buttolph; 39.28

Let's go to the library to get books...



Newspaper Fun!

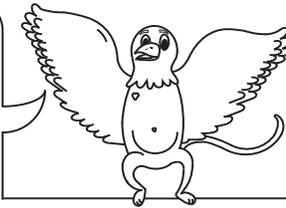
www.readingclubfun.com

Animills LLC © 2014 V11-31

...about myths and legends of other countries.



People all over the world have shared stories called myths. Myths are ancient tales that tried to explain mysterious things that people wondered about in the past – events they did not know the reasons for or things they did not understand. People believed these stories to be true. Myths were very important to them.



Myths and Legends!

I wonder if my friends "myth" me.



myths

archaeologists 1

trolls 2

gods 3

dragons 4

giants 5

dwarfs 6

brownies 7

heroes 8

goblins 9

gremlins 10

ogres 11

thief 12

fib 13

greed 14

life evil world unlucky lightning

What Are Myths About?

Find out by filling in the phrases:

1. how the _____ began
2. secret of the rhythm of _____
3. heroes slaying _____ animals
4. natural happenings like _____
5. why _____ things happen

Who or What? Myths are full of people, gods, heros and creatures. Who or what are these characters in myths? **Read the clues to fill in the crossword:**

1. powerful beings, rulers of all
2. stories to explain things people did not know or could not understand
3. huge manlike beings that some people thought existed before humans
4. pilots with problems in their engines or instruments would blame these
5. they search and dig to find items that will tell about myths of different peoples
6. played harmless pranks, did household chores overnight
7. people of great strength and courage
8. physically smaller than giants; hunted and ate people
9. fire-breathing, flying monsters
10. underground folk, under four feet tall, hard-working; they mined and worked precious metals like gold
11. ugly elves, pesky and annoying
12. they lived under bridges, in forests and on mountains; they protected their lands

Free Stuff



Come to print out free puzzles: **Super "Y", Warm Summer Nights, World Travel and Fun Under the Summer Sun @ www.readingclubfun.com**

Pandora opened a box and let evil into the world, but there was still HOPE.

Mythical Creatures

Have you heard or read myths? Ask Mom or Dad to help you **match each name to its description:**

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Neptune | A. one-eyed giant |
| 2. Cyclops | B. ruler of all the gods (Greek) |
| 3. Centaurs | C. bird rose from ashes: reborn |
| 4. Zeus | D. each was half man and half horse |
| 5. Phoenix | E. god of the sea (Roman) |

Do you see a winged monkey thing?



Nah, that's just a myth! But, I do see a fire-breathing dragon.

Mystical, Magical Things

Myths are full of magical things. **Read the items below and match them to their use:**

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Pandora's Box | A. magical "rug" brought rider anywhere instantly |
| 2. Excalibur | B. Greek god used this to pull the sun across the sky |
| 3. Flying Carpet | C. famous sword locked into an enchanted stone |
| 4. Magic Lamp | D. item that held all the evils of the world |
| 5. Crystal Ball | E. helped wizards see the future or cast spells |
| 6. Chariot of Apollo | F. rub this and a Genie pops out to grant wishes |

and Golden Things:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Golden Rings | A. Rumpelstiltskin could turn straw into this |
| 2. Golden Ram | B. food of the gods; Hercules would quest to find this |
| 3. Golden Goose | C. jewelry that gave protection or invisibility to wearers |
| 4. Golden Thread | D. fable tells of a hen that could lay this |
| 5. Golden Touch | E. time of peace, harmony and prosperity |
| 6. Golden Age | F. from German fairy tale; don't touch its feathers |
| 7. Golden Apple | G. king who could turn anything into gold had this |
| 8. Golden Egg | H. winged animal whose fleece was golden |



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Today in Weather History

1989: Extensive crop damage was done from Correll in Big Stone County to 10 miles north of Appleton. Baseball size hail caused near 100 percent crop damage. Most of Swift County also received 4 to 8 inches of rain.

2007: Thunderstorms produced large hail in southeast South Dakota, mainly near the Missouri River, during the late afternoon and early evening of August 21st. Very large hail fell in the Dante area in Charles Mix County, including a state record size hailstone certified as 6 and 7/8 inches in diameter. Very large hail broke windows, dented vehicles, and damaged roofs in Wagner. Crop damage was also reported. The largest stone was verified at 6 1/8 inches in diameter with a weight of 1.25 pounds. The amount of property and crop damage was not known. A larger hailstone was verified in the town of Dante with 6 7/8 inches in diameter. The storm also produced numerous stones around softball size. Damage included holes in roofs, broken rafters, broken awnings, numerous broken windows and dented vehicles, damaged siding, divots in the ground up to 12 inches long and 3 inches deep, and damaged crops. The amount of property and crop damage was not known. The state record hailstone was broken on July 30th, 2010 with the United States record hailstone in Vivian.

1883 - A tornado hit Rochester, MN, killing 31 persons and wrecking 1351 dwellings. (David Ludlum)

1888 - A tornado swarm occurred in Maryland and Delaware. Many waterspouts were seen over Chesapeake Bay. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1918 - A tornado struck Tyler, MN, killing 36 persons and destroying most of the business section of the town resulting in a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1983 - The temperature at Fayetteville, NC, soared to 110 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Early morning thunderstorms produced severe weather in eastern Iowa and west central Illinois. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 82 mph at Moline IL, and tennis ball size hail at Independence IA. Rock Island IL was drenched with 3.70 inches of rain. Total damage for the seven county area of west central Illinois was estimated at twelve million dollars. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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.

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Home: 605/397-8565



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1988 - Thunderstorms spawned several tornadoes in Iowa, produced wind gusts to 63 mph in the Council Bluffs area, and drenched Sioux Center IA with up to 6.61 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from Kansas to Minnesota and North Dakota. Thunderstorms in Minnesota produced baseball size hail from Correll to north of Appleton. Thunderstorms in north central Kansas produced wind gusts higher than 100 mph at Wilson Dam. Thunderstorms around Lincoln NE produced baseball size hail and up to five inches of rain, and Boone NE was deluged with five inches of rain in an hour and a half. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1888: A "grand spectacle" of four waterspouts near Jacobson, MD overturned boats and moved ashore. 15 people were injured. Another tornado moved east-northeast near Still Pond, MD killing 10 people in a cannery. A total of 11 deaths and 40 injuries were reported from this tornado.

1984: The State Fair in Pueblo, CO had to be closed during a vicious hailstorm. Nine people were hurt, including one seriously.

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.

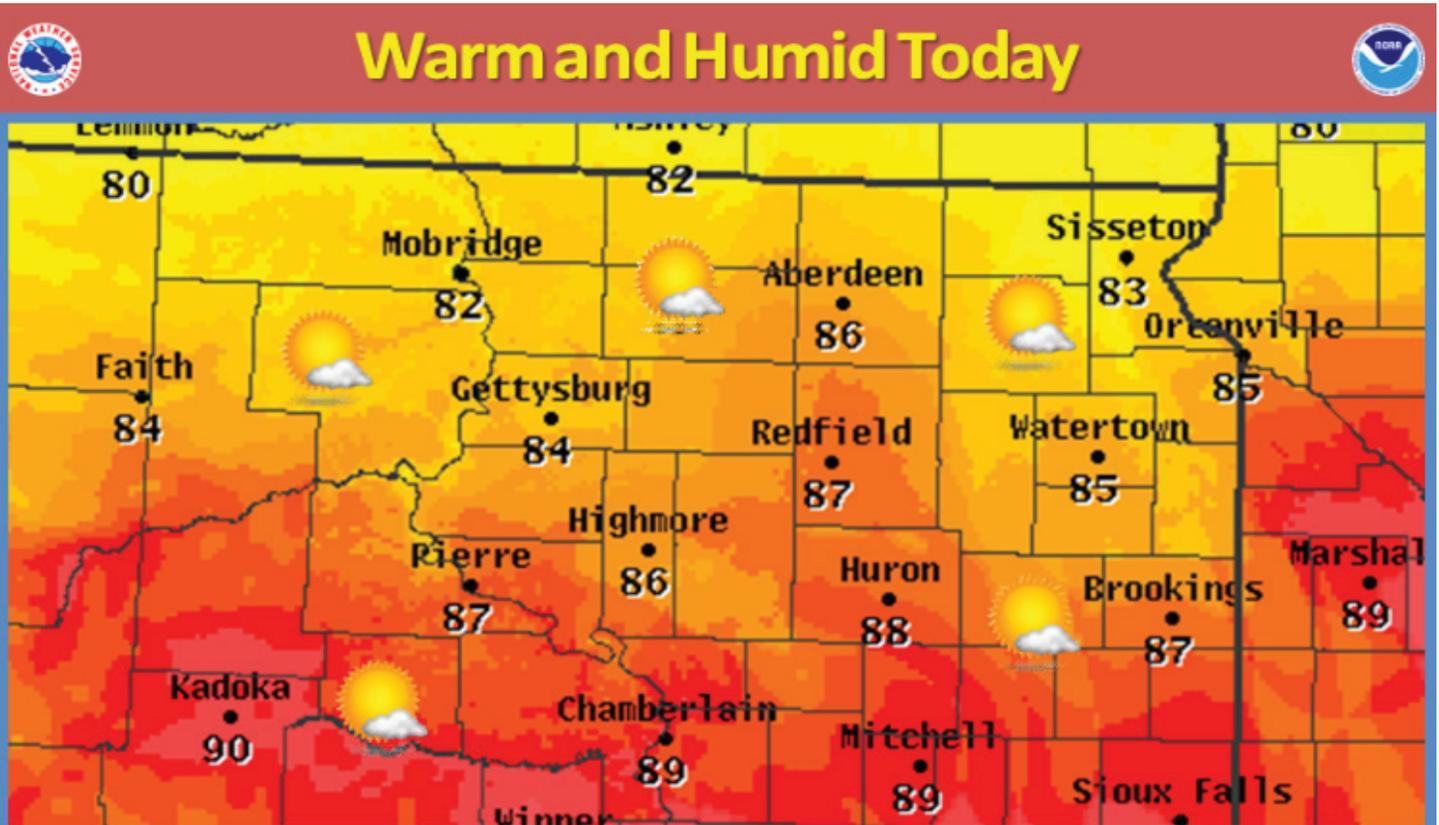


Come 'n' Get It!
Friday is Taco Bar and Soup Night
Andover Bar & Grill Serving 5-9 p.m.
120 S Main St. • 298-5252

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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
 30%	 70%	 Mostly Sunny High: 84 °F	 20% Slight Chc Thunderstorms Low: 63 °F	 50% Chance Thunderstorms High: 81 °F	 50% Chance Thunderstorms Low: 62 °F	 50% Chance Thunderstorms High: 76 °F



More Rainfall Friday Through the Weekend

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen | Updated: 8/21/2014 5:13 AM Central

Today will be dry across much of the region as we are in a break between systems. Warm and humid conditions will persist with highs in the 80s. Showers and thunderstorms return to the forecast Friday and are expected to last through the weekend.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 86.2°F at 2:17 PM

Low: 64.7°F at 4:06 AM

High Gust: 21 mph 2:09 PM

Precip: 1.00

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1947

Record Low: 37° in 2004

Average High: 81°F

Average Low: 55°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.56

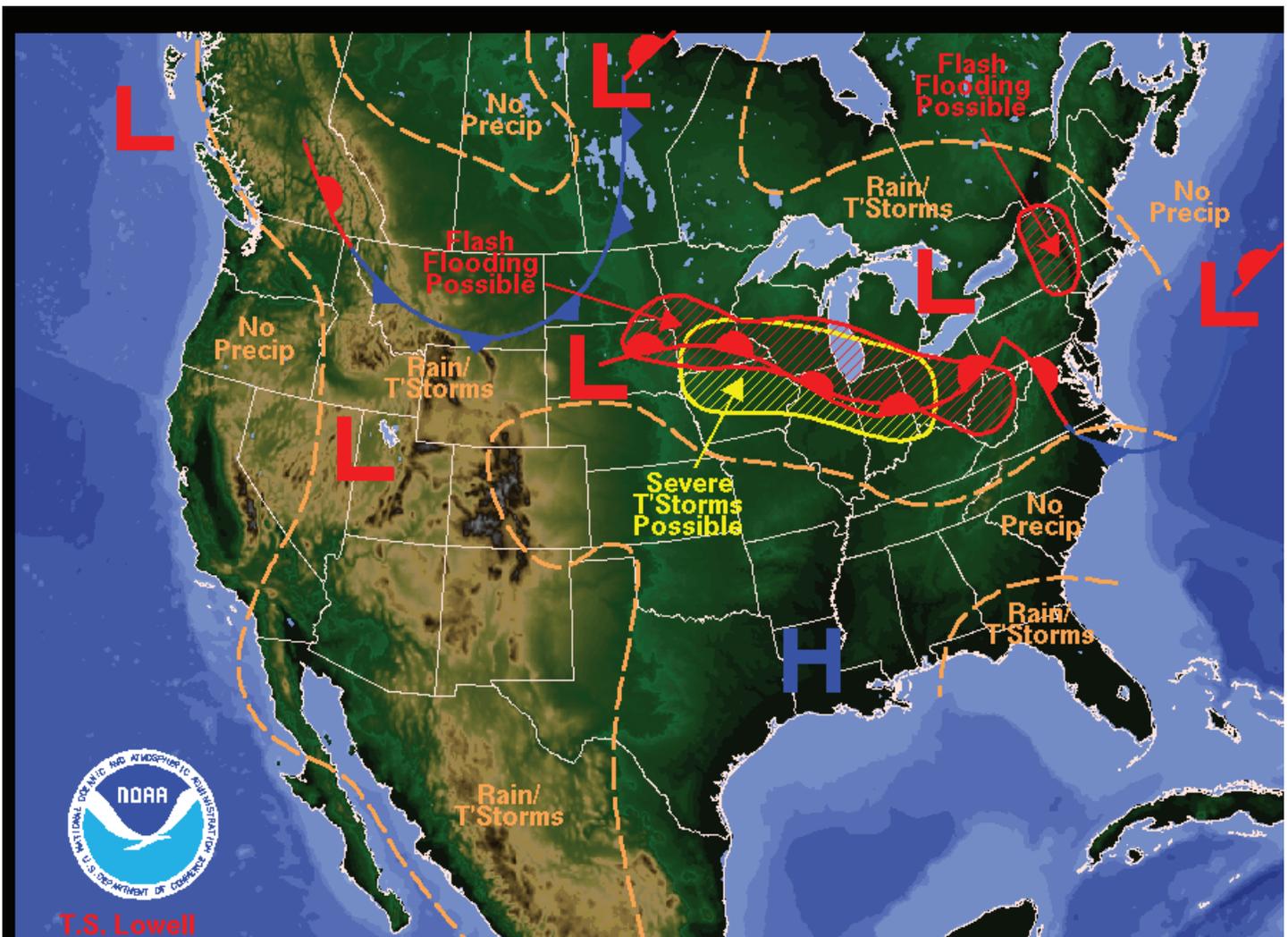
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.64

Average Precip to date: 15.42

Precip Year to Date: 11.62

Sunset Tonight: 8:31 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:43 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Aug 21, 2014, issued 2:42 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mc Reynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHAT GOD CAN DO

Has anyone ever looked at you and said, "You'll never change! You're hopeless! I can tell you are going no place in life." Painful words that many of us have heard at one time or another. And, no doubt, there were times when we might have thought the "charges" were accurate, based on the number of times we've started something in our lives that ended in disaster.

Imagine a king feeling like he was almost "unfit for duty." First he wrote, "Part Your heavens, O Lord, and come down...reach down Your hand from on high...deliver me and rescue me..." Imagine a king feeling so alone and abandoned - even by a God he worshiped - that he could not feel His presence at all. Things must have been about as bad as they could get.

But they didn't stay that way. God intervened - as He can and will - when our king or any one of us comes to the end of our strength and goes to Him for His!

God answered his cry and blessed him so mightily that he picked up a ten-stringed instrument and with it sang a "new song."

God wants to give us the desires of our hearts. Our every need is important to Him: large or small, significant or insignificant. They all matter to Him! He is our Father and a father who loves his children, as God loves us, does not want his children to go without.

When God answered his prayer, the first thing he did was to praise God and give Him His due recognition. Might God not bless us because we are so ungrateful?

Prayer: Father, it's so easy to live thankless and greedy lives. Make us aware of Your gifts. Give us grateful hearts. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 144:9 I will sing a new song to you, my God; on the ten-stringed lyre I will make music to you,

Federal jury convicts man in large drug bust

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal jury in Sioux Falls has convicted a Minnesota man in a drug case that authorities say involved large quantities of methamphetamine and marijuana.

Fifty-one-year-old Esteban Chavez-Cruz was convicted last week on a drug conspiracy charge that carries a sentence of at least 10 years in prison. He's to be sentenced Nov. 3.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says that during a January search of Chavez-Cruz's home in Heron Lake, authorities found 4 pounds of crystal meth, 5 pounds of marijuana, firearms and ammunition, and \$49,000 in cash under floorboards in the bedroom. Authorities say Chavez-Cruz was selling drugs to others, who distributed them in South Dakota and elsewhere.

Judge rules on evidence in Pierre teen's trial

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A judge has ruled on what evidence can be presented during the upcoming trial of a Pierre teenager charged in adult court with killing another teen.

Judge John Brown has granted defense motions to suppress any past criminal history of Braiden McCahren, along with statements from juveniles who attended school with him. But he is allowing limited testimony from several prosecution witnesses, including a juvenile whom McCahren briefly stayed with at a juvenile services center in Rapid City.

The 18-year-old McCahren has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder in the December 2012 shooting death of 16-year-old Dalton Williams. McCahren was 16 at the time of the shooting that happened in his home.

McCahren is scheduled to stand trial beginning Sept. 15 in Winner.

California drought stings bees, honey supplies

TERENCE CHEA, Associated Press

LOS BANOS, Calif. (AP) — California's record drought hasn't been sweet to honeybees, and it's creating a sticky situation for beekeepers and honey buyers.

The state is traditionally one of the country's largest honey producers, with abundant crops and wildflowers that provide the nectar that bees turn into honey. But the lack of rain has ravaged native plants and forced farmers to scale back crop production, leaving fewer places for honeybees to forage.

The historic drought, now in its third year, is reducing supplies of California honey, raising prices for consumers and making it harder for beekeepers to earn a living.

"Our honey crop is severely impacted by the drought, and it does impact our bottom line as a business," said Gene Brandi, a beekeeper in Los Banos, a farming town in California's Central Valley.

The state's deepening drought is having widespread impacts across the state. More than 80 percent of the state is under "extreme" or "exceptional" drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Gov. Jerry Brown has declared a drought emergency, and residents now face fines of up to \$500 a day for wasting water.

The drought is just the latest blow to honeybees, which pollinate about one third of U.S. agricultural crops. In recent years, bee populations worldwide have been decimated by pesticides, parasites and colony collapse disorder, a mysterious phenomenon in which worker bees suddenly disappear.

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The drought is worsening a worldwide shortage of honey that has pushed prices to all-time highs. Over the past eight years, the average retail price for honey has increased 65 percent from \$3.83 to \$6.32 per pound, according to the National Honey Board.

Since the drought began, California's honey crop has fallen sharply from 27.5 million pounds in 2010 to 10.9 million pounds last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And this year's crop is expected to be even worse.

California was the country's leading honey producer as recently as 2003, but it has since been surpassed by North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota and Florida. In 2013, California produced less than 10 percent of the country's \$317 million honey crop.

On a recent summer morning in Los Banos, swarms of honeybees surrounded Gene Brandi and his son Mike, wearing white helmets with mesh veils, as they cracked open wooden hives and inserted packets of protein supplement to keep the insects healthy.

This year their colonies have only produced about 10 percent of the honey they make in a good year, said Brandi, who is vice president of the American Beekeeping Federation.

Besides selling honey, beekeepers earn their living from pollinating crops such as almonds, cotton, alfalfa and melons. But farmers are renting fewer hives because the lack of irrigation water has forced them to tear out orchards and leave fields unplanted.

Like many beekeepers, Brandi is feeding his bees a lot more sugar syrup than usual to compensate for the lack of nectar. The supplemental feed keeps the bees alive, but it's expensive and doesn't produce honey.

"Not only are you feeding as an expense, but you aren't gaining any income," said Brandi's son Mike, who's also a beekeeper. "If this would persist, you'd see higher food costs, higher pollination fees and unfortunately higher prices for the commodity of honey."

Many California beekeepers, including Gene Brandi's brother, are taking their hives to states such as North Dakota where they can forage in clover and buckwheat fields.

The drought is hurting businesses such as Marshall's Farm Honey, which supplies raw honey to high-end restaurants, grocery stores and farmers markets in Northern California.

The Napa Valley business is having trouble making and buying enough honey to meet the demands of its customers. Many varieties such as honey made from sage and star-thistle aren't available at all because it's too dry for their flowers to produce nectar.

"They keep coming back wanting more, and it's very painful to have to say, 'We don't have it,'" said Helene Marshall, who runs the business with her husband Spencer. "There's increased demand because of increased awareness of how good it is for you, and there is less supply."

Spencer Marshall, who maintains hives throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, said this is by far the worst year for honey production he's seen in five decades of beekeeping. When the drought ends, "the bees may come back, but the beekeepers may not," Marshall said.

Amelia Barad-Humphries, who owns a restaurant and floral business in Napa Valley, said she's concerned about the drought's impact on bees and honey supplies. She said she eats a teaspoon of local honey every day to keep her allergies in check and she relies on bees to pollinate her backyard garden.

"We need honeybees for everything," she said. "People should be paying attention."

Transportation funding panel to meet in Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers will take input next week in Pierre on the state's roads and bridges.

The Highway Needs and Financing Interim Committee meets Tuesday and Wednesday in the Capitol.

It will include reports from the panel's subgroups that met with people around the state, information from two national organizations on how other states are funding transportation needs and ideas from groups about South Dakota's roads and bridge needs.

Public testimony is scheduled to be heard Tuesday afternoon.

US Senate hopefuls square off in 1st of 4 debates

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — The four South Dakota candidates vying for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Tim Johnson sparred over the nation's new health care law, the Environmental Protection Agency and the handling of an investment-for-visa program that's come under scrutiny in a debate Wednesday.

The forum, which took place during Dakotafest in Mitchell, was the first for former Republican Gov. Mike Rounds, Democrat Rick Weiland and independents Larry Pressler and Gordon Howie.

Among the notable moments:

— AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Rounds and Howie called for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama's signature health care law.

Rounds proposed replacing the law "section by section" with a market-based system that promotes competition. He told the crowd that South Dakota used to have 17 companies that provided insurance in the state.

"It's not going to happen in the first two weeks," Rounds said. "... You can't make promises to people that you can't honor. They have proposed a plan in which they want to pay for health care, but they don't have any way do it."

The federally run online marketplace offers policies from three insurance companies for South Dakotans. But people can buy from other insurers outside the marketplace.

Weiland said the law should be overhauled by giving all Americans the choice of getting Medicare coverage.

Pressler said that as "a practical matter" the law cannot be repealed but must be tweaked to better benefit South Dakota residents, many of whom live in rural counties and need some form of financial help to pay medical expenses.

— INVESTMENT-FOR-VISA PROGRAM

Rounds' opponents called on the Republican to release any additional information he knows about the operation of the federal EB-5 program during his administration. The program allows people to seek U.S. residency if they invest at least \$500,000 in approved projects.

The program has been under scrutiny in South Dakota because of allegations of financial misconduct at the Governor's Office of Economic Development. A state audit found that before Richard Benda left his job as head of economic development in 2010, he tacked on an extra \$550,000 to a grant agreement to help a struggling beef plant. A report from Attorney General Marty Jackley showed the same amount was improperly diverted to SDRC Inc., Benda's new employer and the administrator of the EB-5 program in South Dakota. Benda died in October.

Rounds told the crowd he has cooperated — and will continue to do so — with state and federal investigations into the matter.

Pressler suggested that Rounds write a document detailing what he knows about the misconduct allegations. He said that should Rounds be elected, the state's congressional delegation could be "weakened" by any national attention that the scandal could bring to South Dakota.

Weiland said Rounds should agree to testify before the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee, which some Democratic legislators have called on to subpoena the former governor.

After the debate, Rounds said he would testify before the legislative committee if its inquiry is related to a state investigation.

— FEDERAL AGENCIES

Rounds proposed drastically limiting the power of the EPA and eliminating the U.S. Department of Education. He said the EPA is "currently out of control" and should stop imposing regulations without the approval of Congress. He added that the elimination of the Education Department would cut about 5,000 bureaucrats.

Weiland said Rounds' proposals for the two federal agencies make for a "sound bite" and "talking point."

"What are we giving away when we give up the Department of Education?" Weiland said.

Weiland criticized Rounds, saying that the former governor added 1,500 people to the state's payroll under his administration.

Weiland calls Rounds 'senator' in forum gaffe

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Senate candidate Rick Weiland says it was a "light moment" when he called opponent and former Republican Gov. Mike Rounds "senator" during a public forum Wednesday.

Rounds, Weiland, a Democrat, and independents Larry Pressler and Gordon Howie met for their first debate of the race in Mitchell.

Weiland quickly corrected his remark to "soon-to-want-to-be senator." The quip happened while Weiland was criticizing an investment-for-visa program that's come under scrutiny in South Dakota over allegations of financial misconduct during Rounds' tenure as governor.

The Democrat says his gaffe "is really not a coronation" and adds that he's "more than willing to laugh at myself."

The candidates are vying for the seat being vacated by U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson.

UPS says 51 retail stores breached by malware

DAVID KOENIG, AP Business Writer

Some customers of The UPS Store may have had their credit and debit card information exposed by a computer virus found on systems at 51 stores in 24 states.

A spokeswoman for UPS says the information includes names, card numbers and postal and email addresses from about 100,000 transactions between Jan. 20 and Aug. 11.

United Parcel Service Inc. said Wednesday that it was among U.S. retailers who got a Department of Homeland Security bulletin about the malware on July 31. The malware is not identified by current anti-virus software.

The company is not aware of any fraud related to the attack, spokeswoman Chelsea Lee said.

Atlanta-based UPS said it hired a security firm that found the virus in systems at about 1 percent of the company's 4,470 franchised locations. At many stores, the intrusion did not begin until March or April.

Lee said that the problem was fixed by Aug. 11 and the company took additional steps to protect systems at other stores. She said the affected stores were not linked electronically, and UPS is still investigating how they were compromised.

UPS said it is providing identity protection and credit monitoring help to affected customers.

The affected stores were in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

From the company's description, the breach appeared far smaller than one that hit Target Corp. during the holiday-shopping season, when hackers stole credit and debit card information involving millions of customers. Fallout from the incident is still hurting profits. Target, which said Wednesday that second-quarter profit fell 62 percent, has spent \$235 million related to the breach, partly offset by \$90 million in insurance payments.

The UPS breach won't have a material financial impact on the company, Lee said.

Last week, Supervalu said that hackers might have stolen names, account numbers, expiration dates and other information from card holders who shopped at up to 200 of its grocery and liquor stores. Restaurant operator P.F. Chang's, Goodwill thrift stores and other retailers have been hit by data breaches.

A list of the 51 locations of The UPS Store where malware was discovered is at www.theupsstore.com/security

Man sentenced over lead poisoning of 5 workers

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) — A South Dakota man has been fined \$3,000 and ordered to attend a class on worker-safety standards after five employees he was supervising inhaled lead while working in Idaho, the U.S. attorney's office said.

John Wilhelm Myre, 55, of Garretson, South Dakota, was sentenced Tuesday by U.S. Magistrate Judge Candy W. Dale. He earlier pleaded guilty to negligent endangerment under the federal Clean Air Act.

Prosecutors say Myre was supervising five Dakota Southern Railway workers who were using acetylene torches to cut apart steel beams on a railroad trestle near Kamiah, Idaho, in January 2013. The beams had been painted with lead-based paint. The torches vaporized the lead, and the workers inhaled it. One man was hospitalized with acute lead poisoning, and four others had high levels of lead in their bloodstreams.

Lead poisoning can cause high blood pressure; abdominal pain; headaches; memory loss; pain, numbness and tingling in the hands and feet; and declines in mental functioning.

"This is an astonishing case of admitted negligence with tragic consequences," Tyler Amon, special agent-in-charge of the Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division in Seattle, said in a statement. "Despite learning that one worker had to be hospitalized by the process, Mr. Myre's workers continued their toxic task for cutting steel and breathing lead fumes."

The five cases of lead poisoning were completely avoidable, Amon said.

Myre's attorney, James Siebe of Moscow, said his client had no training or experience with lead paint and pleaded guilty to avoid a felony charge.

"John feels badly about it, but obviously nothing was intentional," Siebe said. "The judge must have gathered that by virtue of the fact that he wasn't given any jail."

Dale also sentenced Myre to three years of supervised release, 90 hours of community service and ordered him to complete an Occupational Safety and Health Administration class on safety standards

involving lead paint within the next six months.
Dakota Southern Railway was not prosecuted.

South Dakota groups form alliance against pipeline

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Several South Dakota groups opposed to the proposed Keystone XL pipeline have combined forces.

A coalition called No KXL Dakota includes Protect the Sacred Movement of the Ihanktonwan/Yankton, the Bridger Spiritual Camp, the Lower Brule Spiritual Camp, the Rosebud Spiritual Camp, Dakota Rural Action, and the Indigenous Environmental Network.

Dakota Rural Action spokesman Paul Seamans says he believes the pipeline will hurt the environment and his group has formed alliances with several organizations to oppose the project.

The coalition plans to visit several communities around the state and will kick off its efforts Friday with an event below the Fort Randall Dam.

The proposed TransCanada pipeline would travel through Montana and South Dakota before reaching Nebraska.

Supporters of the pipeline say it will solve infrastructure problems and create jobs.

Uranium mining company must release survey data

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A mining company must release the results of a geological survey that opponents of its proposed uranium mine in western South Dakota say is necessary to ensure that local aquifers are protected, a federal licensing board of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ruled Wednesday.

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board continued its hearings Wednesday morning in Rapid City, where three federal judges are hearing challenges to a license granted to Powertech Uranium Corp. for its proposed Dewey-Burdock uranium mine.

The intervenors to the proposed mine — members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and other concerned parties — had been pushing for data Powertech collected by drilling throughout the region to find concentrations of uranium ore, among other things. They've said enough data haven't been studied to know if the region's aquifers would be contaminated or depleted if the company were to mine.

Powertech plans to use a method known as in-situ uranium recovery, which would pump groundwater fortified with oxygen and carbon dioxide into the underground ore deposits to dissolve the uranium. The water would be pumped back to the surface, where the uranium would be extracted and sold to nuclear power plants.

Dr. Robert Moran, who testified at the request of the intervenors, said making the data available would allow the geologists to better understand how the region's groundwater could be affected if the company starts mining in the area.

Powertech attorney Christopher Pugsley said his clients didn't release the data because they don't think it's relevant to the licensing process or that it will show the information opponents hope it will. He said releasing information with a confidentiality agreement to the intervenors wouldn't change the license process going forward.

The public will not have access to the information.

Testimony from intervenors and expert witnesses was to continue Wednesday and Thursday on other contentions regarding the license, including whether enough has been done to ensure that groundwater wouldn't be contaminated. Both the NRC and Powertech say the license was approved after the NRC

determined that the region's groundwater was not threatened.

St. Alexius to partner with national nonprofit CHI

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Bismarck-based St. Alexius Medical Center is aligning itself with the Catholic Health Initiatives nonprofit.

Officials announced on Wednesday that St. Alexius will become a direct affiliate of the CHI system, which is based in Colorado and has a division based in Fargo.

The deal should close by the end of the year, pending state approval. The two organizations plan to form a regional health system of hospitals and clinics in western and central North Dakota.

Catholic Health Initiatives has several facilities in the state. St. Alexius serves residents of central and western North Dakota, eastern Montana and northern South Dakota. It is associated with the Benedictine Sisters of the Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck. That will not change, and St. Alexius will retain its local board of directors.

South Dakota students score well on ACT exam

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota students continue to score above the national average on the ACT college entrance exam.

Students in the state had an average composite score this year of 21.9, above the national average of 21.0. The state score was unchanged over the year.

The ACT tests students in the areas of English, math, reading and science. The best possible score on the exam is 36. The test is commonly used by colleges and universities as a benchmark for college readiness and entrance.

About 78 percent of South Dakota's 2014 graduating class took the exam.

Fewer North Dakota fall turkey licenses available

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The number of hunting licenses available for North Dakota's fall turkey season has dropped for the sixth year in a row.

The state Game and Fish Department is making 3,805 hunting licenses available for the fall season, 215 fewer than last year. The number is a drop of 56 percent from the 8,700 licenses made available in 2008, the last year when the number rose.

The number of available licenses has dropped off as the state's turkey population has declined, due mainly to a string of unfavorable spring weather.

"The last five, six years, we've had just the wrong weather at the wrong time," said Randy Gaskins, senior regional director for the National Wild Turkey Federation. "If you have a cool, wet spring or early summer, just when the young birds are hatching, at that point they can't take much cold and wet weather. They get hypothermia, they die."

The situation is much the same in western South Dakota, where Gaskins lives. He said that area also lost a lot of young birds to October's early blizzard that also hit a portion of southwestern North Dakota.

A turnaround in the turkey population could come quickly, however.

"A couple of good springs, the bird numbers can bounce back very fast," Gaskins said.

This year, however, "hunters are going to have to spend a little more time, a little more effort in trying to find birds," according to Stan Kohn, upland game management supervisor for the Game and Fish

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Department.

The central, northeast and western areas of North Dakota have been affected the most, Kohn said. Hunting units 21 in Hettinger and Adams counties and 53 in Divide and Williams counties will remain closed because of low turkey numbers.

The fall season in North Dakota is Oct. 11 through Jan. 4. It will include special bow hunts in Bismarck and Fargo to reduce numbers of nuisance turkeys in residential areas, along with experimental hunting at the federal Northern Great Plains Research Lab near Mandan and experimental bow hunting on state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation land south of Bismarck.

State licenses are required for all of the special hunts. The Bismarck and Fargo hunts also require a city permit. The research lab season also requires a federal permit, and the hunt on Corrections land also requires an access permit from that agency.

The deadline for hunters to apply for a state license is Sept. 3. Applications can be made online at the Game and Fish website. Paper applications will be available by Aug. 22 at Game and Fish offices, county auditors and license vendors.

Only North Dakota hunters can apply for the first license lottery. Out-of-state hunters can apply for any licenses that are available after the initial lottery.

Man with 200 bags of heroin sentenced to prison

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man caught last year with more than 200 bags of heroin has been sentenced to nearly 3 ½ years in prison on a federal drug charge.

Forty-year-old Denardo Cunningham pleaded guilty in May to possessing and intending to distribute drugs. He was recently sentenced to 41 months in prison.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says Cunningham will be on supervised release for three years following his prison term.

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. OFFICIALS: RESCUE MISSION FAILED

Obama sent special forces to Syria this summer to save Americans held by the Islamic State, but they failed to locate any — including journalist James Foley.

2. HOLDER VISITS FERGUSON, DESCRIBES OWN RUN-INS WITH POLICE

The U.S. attorney general tells community leaders of the humiliation he felt after having his car searched after he was twice pulled over in New Jersey.

3. WHOSE HAND MAY HAVE TORPEDOED GAZA TRUCE

Some Palestinian and Israeli officials say Qatar pressured Hamas to reject a lasting ceasefire to undermine Egypt's efforts in that regard.

4. ISRAELI AIR STRIKE DEALS BLOW TO HAMAS

Three senior military leaders in the militant Palestinian group are killed in a raid in southern Gaza.

5. PAKISTAN OFFICIALS HOLD TALKS WITH PROTESTERS

The government wants to find a "win-win" solution for demonstrations that are besieging parliament and demanding the prime minister's resignation over alleged election fraud.

6. BIG BANK AGREES TO BIG SETTLEMENT

Bank of America has reached a record \$17 billion deal with the government to resolve an investiga-

tion into its role in the sale of mortgage-backed securities before the 2008 financial crisis, officials say.

7. NAVY BOOTS 34 FOR CHEATING

The AP's Robert Burns reports that the sailors are being kicked out of the service for their roles in a cheating ring at a nuclear power training site.

8. SOUTH KOREANS DEFEND NOODLES FOR THEIR INSTANT GRATIFICATION

The world's largest consumers of ramen are spurning a U.S. study that links the beloved fast-food staple to some risks for heart disease.

9. EUROPE'S TOP SOCCER TEAMS SEARCH FOR TALENT AMONG U.S. KIDS

As Americans' appetite for the sport grows, international clubs seek to increase their fan base and find the next Leo Messi in places like South Florida.

10. WHERE LGBT TOURISTS ARE BEING LURED

Las Vegas is making sure the LGBT community knows it is welcome in the world's marriage mecca—even if gay marriage is still banned in Nevada.

AP News in Brief

Journalist's slaying not shifting positions in Congress on military action against extremists

WASHINGTON (AP) — For all its horror, the beheading of an American journalist in Syria appears unlikely to change lawmakers' minds about military intervention against Islamic State extremists. It's equally unclear whether the Obama administration will be asking them to back a new U.S. approach.

President Barack Obama said the United States wouldn't scale back its military posture in Iraq in response to James Foley's killing. But he offered no specifics Wednesday about what new steps he might take to protect additional captives and other Americans, and ward off what he described as the al-Qaida offshoot's genocidal ambitions.

The initial response from members of Congress was mixed, reflecting the divide of the American people. While all decried Foley's death, hawks, particularly Republicans, continued to assail the Obama administration's limited airstrikes in Iraq and its refusal to target Islamic State bases in neighboring Syria. The president's supporters voiced support for the current, cautious intervention in Iraq. No tea partiers or dovish Democrats who have cautioned against military action publicly changed position.

"The president's rhetoric was excellent, but he didn't outline steps to stop the slaughter," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., one of Obama's harshest foreign policy critics, said in a telephone interview. "The strategy should be to launch all-out air attacks in Iraq and Syria to defeat ISIL," he said, using an alternative acronym for the Sunni militants.

Interrupting his family vacation in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, Obama denounced the Islamic State as a "cancer" threatening the entire Middle East. And military planners weighed the possibility of sending a small number of additional U.S. troops to Baghdad. Still, Obama was vague about what more his administration would do, saying the U.S. will stand with others to "act against" the extremists.

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Angry over journalist's death, world powers consider new front against Islamic State

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States launched a new barrage of airstrikes Wednesday against the Islamic State extremist group that beheaded American journalist James Foley and that has seized a swath of territory across Iraq and Syria. President Barack Obama vowed relentless pursuit of the terrorists and the White House revealed that the U.S. had launched a secret rescue mission inside Syria earlier this summer that failed to rescue Foley and other Americans still being held hostage.

In brief but forceful remarks, Obama said the U.S. would "do what we must to protect our people," but he stopped short of promising to follow the Islamic State in its safe haven within Syria, where officials said Foley had been killed. Later, though, the administration revealed that several dozen special operations troops had been on the ground in Syria briefly in an effort to rescue the hostages, but did not find them.

And looking forward, the State Department refused to rule out future U.S. military operations in Syria, where Obama has long resisted intervening in a three-year civil war.

Western nations agreed to speed help to combat the militants — most notably Germany, which bucked public opposition by announcing it would arm Iraqi Kurdish fighters to battle the Islamic State. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said he was outraged by the beheading, deeming it evidence of a "caliphate of barbarism." Italy's defense minister said the country hopes to contribute machine guns, ammunition and anti-tank rockets.

The Islamic State called Foley's death a revenge killing for U.S. airstrikes against militants in Iraq, and said other hostages would be slain if the attacks continued. Undeterred, the U.S. conducted 14 additional strikes after a video of the beheading surfaced, bringing to 84 the number of airstrikes since they began on Aug. 8.

US rescue mission in Syria this summer failed to find Americans held hostage by extremists

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama sent special operations troops to Syria this summer on a secret mission to rescue American hostages, including journalist James Foley, held by Islamic State extremists, but they did not find them, officials say.

The rescue mission was authorized after intelligence agencies believed they had identified the location inside Syria where the hostages were being held, administration officials said Wednesday. But the several dozen special operations forces dropped by aircraft into Syria did not find them at that location and engaged in a firefight with Islamic State militants before departing, killing several militants. No Americans died but one sustained a minor injury when an aircraft was hit.

"The U.S. government had what we believed was sufficient intelligence, and when the opportunity presented itself, the president authorized the Department of Defense to move aggressively to recover our citizens," said Lisa Monaco, Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, in a statement. "Unfortunately, that mission was ultimately not successful because the hostages were not present."

Officials revealed the rescue operation a day after the militants released a video showing the beheading of Foley and threatened to kill a second hostage, Steven Sotloff, if U.S. airstrikes against the militants in Iraq continued.

Despite the militants' threats, the U.S. launched a new barrage of airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq Wednesday. The Obama administration did not rule out the prospect of a military operation

in Syria to bring those responsible for Foley's death to justice.

Israeli airstrike in Gaza kills 3 senior Hamas military leaders in major blow to group

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed three senior commanders of the Hamas military wing on Thursday, the group said, in what is likely to be a major blow to the organization's morale and a significant achievement for Israel's intelligence agency.

The pre-dawn strike leveled a four-story house in the southern town of Rafah, killing six people, including the three senior military commanders, identified by Hamas as Mohammed Abu Shamaleh, Raed Attar and Mohammed Barhoum.

Israel said Abu Shamaleh had been the top Hamas commander in southern Gaza, overseeing fighters there during the current war. Attar was in charge of weapons smuggling into Gaza and the construction of attack tunnels, the Israeli military said.

In 2006, Attar was involved in the capture of an Israeli soldier, Gilad Schalit, through such a tunnel, said the statement. It did not refer to Barhoum.

The Rafah attack came just a day after an apparent Israeli attempt to kill the top Hamas military leader, Mohammed Deif, in an airstrike on a house in Gaza City.

Qatar, home to Hamas boss and funder of Gaza Strip, criticized amid cease-fire talks' collapse

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The explosions rocking the Gaza Strip may seem far removed from the flashy cars and skyscrapers of ultra-rich Qatar, but efforts to end fighting between Hamas and Israel could hinge on how the tiny Gulf Arab state wields its influence over a Palestinian militant group with few friends left.

Qatar has been home to Hamas chief-in-exile Khaled Mashaal since 2012 and has carved out a role as a key financial patron for Gaza, buying influence while shoring up an economy overseen by Hamas.

That support is prompting accusations that Qatar helped scuttle a lasting truce in the monthlong Gaza war, piling on pressure as the U.S. ally finds itself increasingly isolated as larger Mideast powers marginalize Islamists following the Arab Spring.

An official from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement suggested Wednesday that Qatar torpedoed the peace talks. After signs of progress last week, Hamas negotiators returned to the table after consultations in Qatar with new conditions — prompting a similar response by Israel, he said.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to discuss the negotiations publicly, said the experience indicated the Qataris "have no interest" in seeing Egyptian-led talks succeed, and that Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood are working together to undermine Egypt.

Attorney general visits Ferguson, offers reassurance about investigation into police shooting

ST. LOUIS (AP) — To reassure the people of Ferguson, Attorney General Eric Holder reached into his own past, recalling the times he had been stopped by police officers who seemed to target him because of his race.

On a visit to the St. Louis suburb that had endured more than a week of unrest, Holder sought to build confidence in the investigation into the death of the black 18-year-old who was shot by a white officer. The trip also underscored the priority to the Obama administration of civil rights in general and the Michael Brown case in particular.

The attorney general said Wednesday that he understands why many black Americans do not trust police and that he had experienced the many of the same frustrations. He described being stopped twice on the New Jersey Turnpike and accused of speeding. Police searched his car, looking through the trunk and under the seats.

"I remember how humiliating that was and how angry I was and the impact it had on me," Holder said during a meeting with about 50 community leaders at the Florissant campus of St. Louis Community College.

Once while living in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, Holder was running to catch a movie with his cousin when a squad car rolled up and flashed its lights at the pair. The officer yelled, "Where are you going? Hold it!" Holder recalled.

The riots this time: No violence after other police killings, but factors converge in Ferguson

There was little violence after the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer last July. Peace prevailed when at least four other unarmed black males were killed by police in recent months, from New York to Los Angeles.

Then Michael Brown was gunned down in Ferguson, Missouri. And waves of rioting have convulsed the St. Louis suburb for more than 10 days.

Why Ferguson?

The response to Brown's death turned violent because of a convergence of factors, observers say, including the stark nature of the killing in broad daylight, an aggressive police response to protests, a mainly black city being run by white officials — and the cumulative effect of killing after killing after killing of unarmed black males.

"People are tired of it," said Kevin Powell, president of the BK Nation advocacy group, who organized peaceful protests after the Florida neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman was found innocent in Martin's killing.

US is intensifying airstrikes in Iraq but details on how it is done are sometimes thin

WASHINGTON (AP) — America has returned to war, of a sort, in Iraq with airstrikes that have intensified in recent days against Islamic State militants. But details about the execution of this limited campaign, which so far includes no reported U.S. ground combat, are thin.

Some questions and answers about the mission, which began Aug. 8:

Q. What U.S. forces are involved?

A. The specifics are hard to pin down in part because, as in any U.S. overseas conflict, many of the contributors work behind the scenes, sometimes in secret. We do know that the U.S. has about 750 military personnel in Iraq, not counting the 100 who have worked out of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad since before this crisis began.

None of the 750 are engaged in ground combat, but that does not mean they are not at risk.

Obama meets with business, tech leaders, weighs broader executive move on immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is considering key changes in the nation's immigration system requested by tech, industry and powerful interest groups, in a move that could blunt Republicans' election-year criticism of the president's go-it-alone approach to immigration.

Administration officials and advocates said the steps would go beyond the expected relief from deportations for some immigrants in the U.S. illegally that Obama signaled he'd adopt after immigration efforts in Congress collapsed. Following a bevy of recent White House meetings, top officials have compiled specific recommendations from business groups and other advocates whose support could undercut GOP claims that Obama is exceeding his authority to help people who have already violated immigration laws.

"The president has not made a decision regarding next steps, but he believes it's important to understand and consider the full range of perspectives on potential solutions," said White House spokesman Shawn Turner.

One of the more popular requests among business and family groups is a change in the way green cards are counted that would essentially free up some 800,000 additional visas the first year, advocates say.

The result would be threefold: It would lessen the visa bottleneck for business seeking global talent; shorten the green card line for those being sponsored by relatives, a wait that can stretch nearly 25 years; and potentially reduce the incentive for illegal immigration by creating more legal avenues for those wanting to come, as well as those already here.

Fans defiant as new American research hits South Korea where it hurts — in the noodles

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Kim Min-koo has an easy reply to new American research that hits South Korea where it hurts — in the noodles. Drunk and hungry just after dawn, he rips the lid off a bowl of his beloved fast food, wobbling on his feet but still defiant over a report that links instant noodles to health hazards.

"There's no way any study is going to stop me from eating this," says Kim, his red face beaded with

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sweat as he adds hot water to his noodles in a Seoul convenience store. His mouth waters, wooden chopsticks poised above the softening strands, his glasses fogged by steam. At last, he spears a slippery heap, lets forth a mighty, noodle-cooling blast of air and starts slurping.

"This is the best moment — the first bite," Kim, a freelance film editor who indulges about five times a week, says between gulps. "The taste, the smell, the chewiness — it's just perfect."

Instant noodles carry a broke college student aura in America, but they are an essential, even passionate, part of life for many in South Korea and across Asia. Hence the emotional heartburn caused by a Baylor Heart and Vascular Hospital study in the United States that linked instant noodles consumption by South Koreans to some risks for heart disease.

The study has provoked feelings of wounded pride, mild guilt, stubborn resistance, even nationalism among South Koreans, who eat more instant noodles per capita than anyone in the world. Many of those interviewed vowed, like Kim, not to quit. Other noodle lovers offered up techniques they swore kept them healthy: taking Omega-3, adding vegetables, using less seasoning, avoiding the soup. Some dismissed the study because the hospital involved is based in cheeseburger-gobbling America.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, August 21, the 233rd day of 2014. There are 132 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 21, 1944, the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and China opened talks at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington that helped pave the way for establishment of the United Nations. (The talks concluded on October 7.)

On this date:

In 1614, Transylvanian Countess Elizabeth Bathory, believed complicit in the killings of dozens, possibly hundreds, of young women and girls, was found dead at age 54 nearly four years after being sealed off in her castle chambers.

In 1831, Nat Turner led a violent slave rebellion in Virginia resulting in the deaths of at least 55 white people. (He was later executed.)

In 1858, the first of seven debates between Illinois senatorial contenders Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas took place.

In 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris. (The painting was recovered two years later in Italy.)

In 1940, exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky died in a Mexican hospital from wounds inflicted by an assassin the day before.

In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order making Hawaii the 50th state.

In 1963, martial law was declared in South Vietnam as police and army troops began a violent crackdown on Buddhist anti-government protesters.

In 1972, the Republican National Convention opened in Miami Beach.

In 1983, Philippine opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr., ending a self-imposed exile in the United States, was shot dead moments after stepping off a plane at Manila International Airport. The musical play "La Cage Aux Folles" opened on Broadway.

In 1984, Democratic vice-presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro appeared before reporters in Queens, New York, to field questions about her family's finances.

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In 1991, the hard-line coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed in the face of a popular uprising led by Russian Federation President Boris N. Yeltsin.

In 1993, in a serious setback for NASA, engineers lost contact with the Mars Observer spacecraft as it was about to reach the red planet on a \$980 million mission.

Ten years ago: The International Gymnastics Federation ruled that South Korean Yang Tae-young had been unfairly docked a tenth of a point in the all-around gymnastics final at the Athens Olympics, costing him the gold medal that ended up going to Paul Hamm (hahm) of the United States; however, the ruling did not change the final result in which Yang received the bronze.

Five years ago: A wildfire broke out north of Athens, Greece; in the days that followed, the blaze spread, charring 80 square miles before being extinguished. A high-level delegation of North Korean officials paid their respects to late former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung. Leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to lift a ban that prohibited sexually active gays and lesbians from serving as ministers.

One year ago: Army Pfc. Bradley Manning was sentenced at Fort Meade, Maryland, to up to 35 years in prison for spilling an unprecedented trove of government secrets. The National Security Agency declassified three secret court opinions showing how in one of its surveillance programs, it scooped up as many as 56,000 emails and other communications by Americans not connected to terrorism annually over three years. Former space shuttle astronaut C. Gordon Fullerton, 76, died in Lancaster, California. Music promoter Sid Bernstein, 95, who booked such top acts as Jimi Hendrix, Judy Garland and the Rolling Stones and brought The Beatles to Carnegie Hall in 1964, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Former football player Pete Retzlaff is 83. Actor-director Melvin Van Peebles is 82. Playwright Mart Crowley is 79. Singer Kenny Rogers is 76. Actor Clarence Williams III is 75. Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 75. Singer Harold Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 75. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 73. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier is 69. Actress Patty McCormack is 69. Pop singer-musician Carl Giammarese (jee-ah mah-REE'-see) is 67. Actress Loretta Devine is 65. NBC newsman Harry Smith is 63. Singer Glenn Hughes is 62. Country musician Nick Kane is 60. Actress Kim Cattrall is 58. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon is 55. Actress Cleo King is 52. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher John Wetteland is 48. Rock singer Serj Tankian (TAN'-kee-ahn) (System of a Down) is 47. Figure skater Josee Chouinard is 45. Actress Carrie-Anne Moss is 44. Retired MLB player Craig Counsell is 44. Rock musician Liam Howlett (Prodigy) is 43. Actress Alicia Witt is 39. Singer Kelis (kuh-LEES') is 35. TV personality Brody Jenner is 31. Singer Melissa Schuman is 30. Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain (yoo-SAYN') Bolt is 28. Actor-comedian Brooks Wheelan (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 28. Actor Cody Kasch is 27. Country singer Kacey Musgraves is 26. Actress Hayden Panettiere (pan'-uh-tee-EHR') is 25. Actor RJ Mitte is 22.

Thought for Today: "Old age is the most unexpected of all the things that happen to a man." - Leon Trotsky (1879-1940).