

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, August 23, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 036 ♦ 1 of 22

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Saturday, Aug. 23

Birthdays: Lisa Pray • Robin Flihs • 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

Sunday, Aug. 24

Birthdays: Mitchell Koens • Bill Stolle • Clint Mortenson • Tanea Clocksene
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship
9:15am: Christian Missionary & Alliance School
10:00am: Presbyterian Worship
10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship
10:45am: Christian Missionary & Alliance Worship
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
5:00pm: Worship at Trinity Historic Church

Monday, Aug. 25

Senior Menu: Spaghetti/Meat Sauce, Broccoli or Carrots, Garlic Toast, Orange Sherbet
Birthdays: Tim Flihs • Angela Mettler
6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study
7:00pm: UMC PEO with Odland hosting

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The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is back and is open!

Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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

Golfers at Milbank Invite

Placing for Groton at the Milbank-Poet Invitational Golf Meet held Thursday were Cade Guthmiller with a 103, Landon Marzahn with a 109, Adam Herman and Sean Schuring both shot a 110 and Treyton Diegel shot a 114.

Soccer Time Changes

Tuesday, August 26th at Huron

Girls Varsity at 4pm (Girls JV at 6pm-1/2 game)

Boys Varsity at 4pm (Boys JV at 6pm)

Saturday, August 30th vs Pierre

Girls Varsity at 1pm (Girls JV at 3pm-1/2 game)

Boys Varsity at 4pm (Boys JV at 6pm or to follow V)

Boys soccer team beats Belle Fourche, 7-0

James Thompson and Wyatt Kurtz each scored twice as Groton's boys soccer team defeated Belle Fourche, 7-0, with the game being played at Belle Fourche.

Thompson scored with just 21 seconds gone in the first half while Kurtz scored with 12:40 gone, Thompson with 14:40 gone and Tyler Scott scored with 20:14 gone in the first half. Second half scoring had Lucas Sternhagen 1:21 into the second half, Martin Rygg (a foreign exchange student from Norway) 23:23 into the second half and Kurtz scored with 28:49 into the second half.

Chance Strom was the goalie with five saves. Groton took 31 shots at the goal with Thompson having six, Jacob Milbrandt five, Sternhagen four, Rayce Harder three, having two shots each were Trevor Pray, Scott, Kurtz and Clayton Kurtz, and one each were Landon Larson, Rygg, Austin Jones and Hunter Schaller. Groton had five assists with Jacob Milbrandt having two.

Belle Fourche had 13 shots.

Thanks to Julie Milbrandt for sending us the results.

No results were available from the girls game.

Baseball Foundation Meeting set for Monday

The Groton Baseball Foundation will be having a meeting on Monday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m., at the Groton Legion. Everyone is welcome to attend that is interested in the baseball program. The foundation will be finalizing the board memmbers and discussing field improvements.

You are invited to a farewell party
for

Clare Brotherton

Saturday, Aug. 23

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

United Methodist Church, Groton

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It is a great time of the year as we experience our local county fairs and achievement days. I am especially proud as I watch the students in the 4-H programs. They are now gearing up for the State Fair. I have great memories of the Spink County Achievement Days. We were proud of what we had raised and we enjoyed showing them. The SD State Fair was always a highlight and a goal for us as we worked on those projects. I learned so much during my days in both 4-H and FFA. These are such great programs and yet they are in danger of being eliminated in many places due to budget cuts and the difficulty of getting instructors. Many of those who are skilled at teaching our students these important lessons are leaving the field of education to pursue other areas of employment where they can support their families more adequately. We need to protect these and other such programs.

Other exciting things are happening now, too, as the school year begins and the fall sports programs are starting. Soon we will have the exciting football and soccer games, volleyball matches, and golf and cross country meets. Homecoming, with the parades and so many activities, will entertain us, too. I will be at many of the parades throughout District 2 but some of them fall on the same day so I will get to what I can and I hope to see you at other activities as well. Please stop by and say hello when we are in the area.

As school is starting it is sad to see that many of our schools are still trying to find teachers. Schools are dealing with this problem in the best ways that they can and have had to be very creative to solve the problem. I have been pursuing this issue and this is one of the main reasons I ran for the State Senate in 2012. We absolutely have to make progress in this area. As I have said many times we are at a crisis situation for many reasons: teachers are leaving the field of education, many teachers are retiring, teachers are going to other states where they can make higher salaries, and we just don't have many students choosing to go into education. We need to accept that we are in crisis mode and do something about it. Yet when we had a resolution in the 2014 Legislative Session to recognize this issue it was killed. At the very least we need to recognize this issue but the opposition party said no. Media all over the state were very critical of this action. Before we can fix the problem we have to recognize that there is a problem.

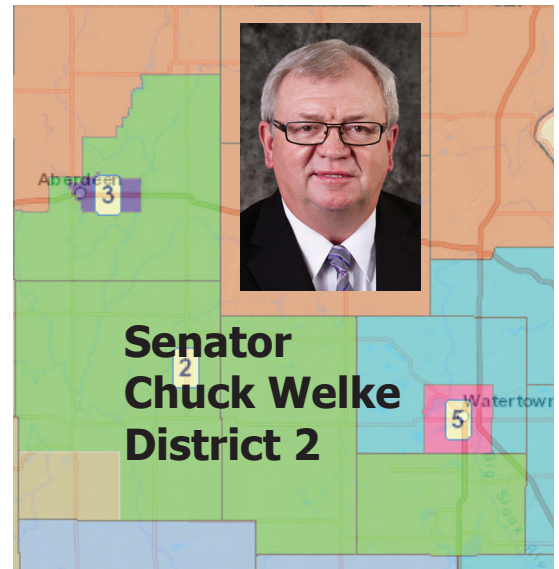
The political news in SD has been dominated by discussion of the EB-5 program and the failure of the state to adequately investigate what has been happening in this area. The EB-5 program was used to bring big projects to SD like the packing plant in Aberdeen. Yet it is apparent that some things were done very wrong and that state money was used improperly. One death has resulted and many questions have gone unanswered. Our party's leaders have been pushing for a forensic audit and have attempted to get more transparency concerning "who knew what and when". This seems reasonable yet we have been pursuing this throughout the past year to no avail. We will continue to push for answers.

We also continue to work for solutions for our roads and bridges. We will have meetings in Pierre on August 26 and 27 to put together the information that we have received at our input meetings held throughout the state. I want to thank everyone who attended those in Watertown and Aberdeen to let us know about the issues you are facing. We absolutely need to find relief for the counties and townships. The problems are huge and at our meetings we heard the message that people are willing to pay more to have better roads.

It is a privilege to serve District 2. Thank you for this opportunity.

Chuck Welke

District 2 State Senate



TIM JOHNSON



UNITED STATES
SENATOR from

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota's Role in the Creation of Labor Day

By U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD)



Labor Day traditionally marks the unofficial end of summer, as the leaves start to change and a new school year begins. Many folks enjoy gathering for picnics, going camping, and taking family outings. It is important, however, that during this long weekend we also take time to remember why we celebrate Labor Day. What you may not know about this holiday is that South Dakota played a key role in the creation of a national Labor Day.

Our story starts with James Henderson Kyle of Aberdeen. Soon after South Dakota became a state in 1889, Kyle became active in politics. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1891 and, as a known defender of workers' rights, soon became Chairman of the Senate Education and Labor Committee.

In the late 1880s, many American workers toiled under horrible working conditions with low pay. Labor Day celebrations began to occur in various cities and states around the country to highlight the workers' plight and to fight for laws to improve conditions in the workplace. These early celebrations involved parades, picnics, and, yes, speeches by politicians, events we still recognize today.

Senator Kyle's role in the creation of Labor Day comes in as states across the country began creating their own "working man's holidays." Oregon, the first state to create a Labor Day, did so in 1887, and support for a national holiday to celebrate workers only continued to grow. In 1894, Senator Kyle introduced Senate Bill 730 to designate the first Monday of each September as Labor Day. His bill, and with it, Labor Day's official federal designation, became law later that year on June 28.

Since that time many laws have been passed to improve working conditions. These laws have vastly improved workplace safety and provided for the 40 hour work week. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. The Family and Medical Leave Act and Americans with Disabilities Act of the early 1990s protected the rights of new parents, seriously ill workers, and disabled workers.

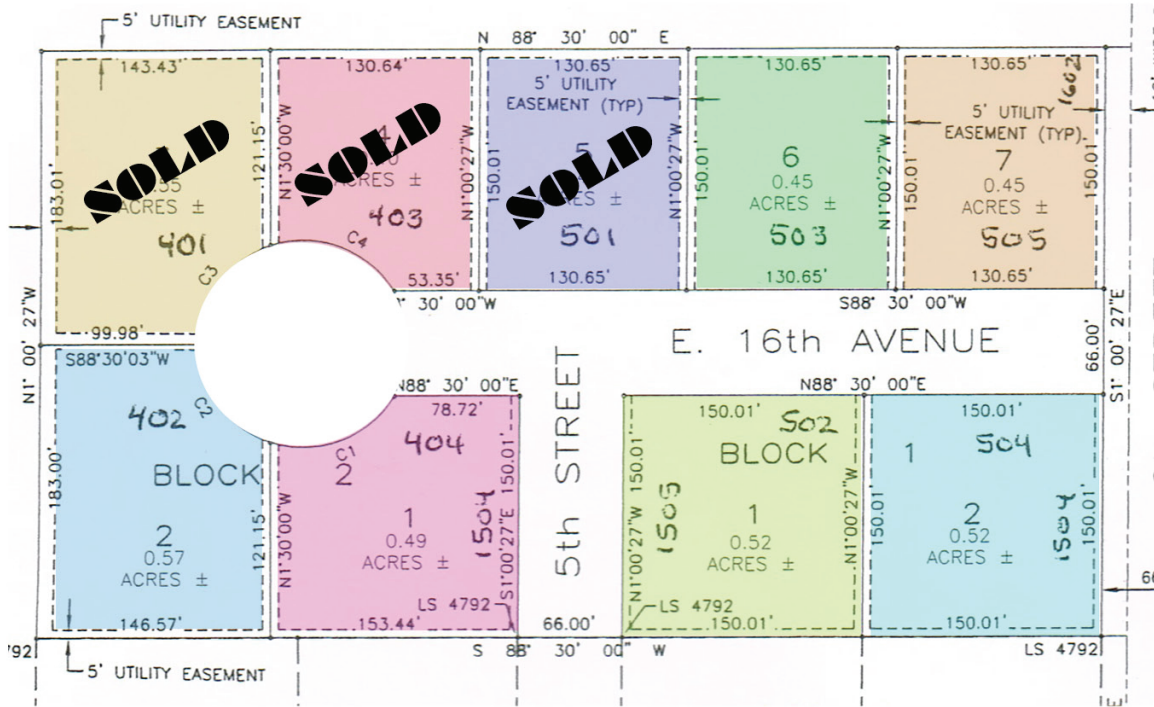
This Labor Day we will gather for picnics, BBQs, and parades much as people did 100 years ago. Labor Day reminds us of how far we have come in protecting workers and also reminds us that more needs to be done. And here in South Dakota, we can also celebrate the role that one of our own played in the creation of Labor Day.

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Achieving the Dream

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in a
family
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Publishing
Laura Ingalls Wilder's
Autobiography

South Dakota Historical Society Press

the pioneer girl project



Donors Proud to Help in Publishing Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Pioneer Girl"

PIERRE, S.D.—The South Dakota State Historical Society will be releasing Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography" in November, and donors to the project are honored to be a part of this momentous occasion.

"As long-time fans of her books, we are proud to help bring her story to life in new ways to inspire generations to come," says Bobbi Schroepel, vice-president of NorthWestern Energy in Sioux Falls, a Pioneer Level donor to the Pioneer Girl Project. "Thanks to Laura Ingalls Wilder, millions of people have come to know and understand the pioneer spirit of South Dakota."

In "Pioneer Girl," Wilder describes 16 years of the westward journey made by the Ingalls family. The book is a result of extensive research and study over four years. The goal of the project was to present Wilder's original words and provide further information to a modern audience through annotations, maps and photographs.

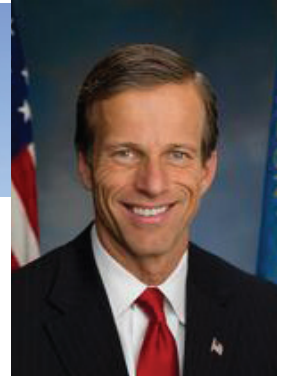
"Wilder utilized her original manuscript to write a successful children's series," said Nancy Tystad Koupal, director of the Pioneer Girl Project for the SDSHS Press at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. "With the release of 'Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography,' readers will have an opportunity to reconnect with the people and places made famous through her fiction, in addition to meeting new ones."

"Without the support of our donors, like NorthWestern Energy, the publication of Wilder's work would not be possible," said Michael Lewis, president of the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fund-raising partner of the SDSHS. "They are helping us illuminate the history of South Dakota and share the story of one of our most prominent historic figures."

"Join in as we follow the real Laura Ingalls and her family as they make their way west—and discover that truth is as remarkable as fiction," Tystad Koupal said.

More information about the Pioneer Girl Project can be found at pioneergirlproject.org or by contacting the South Dakota State Historical Society Press at (605) 773-6009 or info@sdshspress.com. To donate, please contact the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation at (605) 773-3458 or info@sdhsf.org. Donations can also be made on the foundation website at http://www.sdhsf.org/special_projects/pioneer.html. To pre-order "Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography," visit pioneergirlproject.org, email orders@sdshspress.com, or call 605-773-6009.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Another School Season

By Senator John Thune

As baseball tournaments come to a close and summer days spent by the pool dwindle, South Dakota families slowly gear up for the start of a new school year. I always enjoy this peaceful time of year in South Dakota. The song of cicadas is a reminder of the last few dog days of summer. The familiar sound of combines harvesting truckload after truckload of corn, soybeans, and other crops marks the end of another productive year and the beginning of another school season.

School supplies replace the shorts and swimsuits on store shelves, while teachers prepare their classrooms and finalize their lessons plans. This is an exciting time of year for families, even if the kids are not quite ready for summer to be over so soon.

The family calendar slowly becomes littered with Friday night football games, marching band practices, and cross country meets. Parents stay busy attending booster club meetings and school events to cheer on the local team, while kids get back in the routine of balancing homework, after school clubs, and sports practice.

While it is easy to get swept up in back-to-school activities, we must also take time to remember how fortunate we are in South Dakota to have such dedicated teachers and staff in our school systems. South Dakota's standard of excellence in the classroom is a prized tradition. We value our dedicated teachers who set up our students for a lifetime of success. Both of my parents were educators in Murdo and I saw firsthand how that dedication can impact students.

After the school supplies are purchased, the class teachers are announced, and the afterschool activities are planned, let us all strive to make this year the best school year yet in South Dakota. The future of our state lies in the success of our children.

Beef Genetics Trade Mission to Russia Cancelled

PIERRE, S.D.-Due to uncertainties in the Russian market, the beef genetics trade mission hosted by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) and South Dakota Beef Breeds Council planned for October has been cancelled.

"Unfortunately, after two successful trade missions in 2012 and 2013 led by SDDA, a return mission this fall will not happen," said Ty Eschenbaum, SDDA ag development representative. "The focus of this trade mission was beef cattle genetics; no sanctions or bans had any direct effect on this market segment. However, after evaluating the situation, the overall political climate and uncertainty makes a trip to Russia less desirable for the objectives of the mission. We will re-evaluate this trip in 2015 as we still see great opportunity in the Russian market."

South Dakota producers and private industry should expect continued opportunities for shipping live cattle, semen and embryos to Russia.

For more information on South Dakota international trade, please contact Ty Eschenbaum at 605.280.4744.

Agriculture is South Dakota's No. 1 industry, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing more than 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

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Today in Weather History

1960: Damaging winds and lightning caused damage to occur from Hand and Sanborn Counties to Marshall and Roberts Counties. A small airplane was destroyed and windows were broken by the strong winds in Miller. Some 10 to 20 farm buildings were destroyed. Also roofs, TV antenna, utility lines and trees were damaged in Kingsbury and Marshall Counties. Some heavy rainfall was also reported, including 1.65 inches 1NE of Bryant, and 1.44 inches 4NNE of Victor.

1998: Winds gusting to 65 mph in and around Milbank took the roof off a mobile home and wrapped it around a utility pole. The people inside the mobile home were uninjured. The Summit Dairy Barn had sustained major damage. The high winds also blew a shed and a large tennis court fence down. Several trees along with many large tree branches were downed all over town. Strong winds were also reported in Day and Roberts Counties. Winds of 60 mph also downed many tree branches north of Watertown.

1893: New York City was hit by a Category 2 hurricane that brought a 30-foot storm surge to the southern shore of Long Island.

1906 - Thunderstorms deluged Kansas City, MO, with six inches of rain during the early morning, including nearly three inches in thirty minutes. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1921 - Denver, CO, was drenched with 2.20 inches of rain in one hour, a record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1933 - The Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane moved over Norfolk VA and Washington D.C. A tide seven feet above normal flooded businesses in Norfolk, and damage in Maryland was estimated at seventeen million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1964: A Navy Reconnaissance flight into Hurricane Cleo suffered severe structural damage during a penetration north of Puerto Rico.

1970 - Dry thunderstorms ignited more than one hundred fires in the Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests of Washington State. Hot, dry, and windy weather spread the fires, a few of which burned out of control through the end of the month. More than 100,000 acres burned. (The Weather Channel)

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



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1987 - A cold front brought autumn-like weather to the Northern and Central Plains Region. Afternoon highs were in the 50s and 60s across parts of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska that just two days earlier were in the 90s or above 100 degrees. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain in New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced hail an inch in diameter, wind gusts to 64 mph, and 2.62 inches of rain at Tucson AZ resulting in three million dollars damage. Cool weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S. Hartford CT reported a record low of 42 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain with flash flooding in West Virginia. Pickens, WV, reported 4.80 inches of rain in 24 hours. Evening thunderstorms in Mississippi deluged Alta Woods with 4.25 inches of rain in less than an hour. Thunderstorms also produced heavy rain in southeastern Kentucky, and flooding was reported along Big Creek and along Stinking Creek. The Stinking Creek volunteer fire department reported water levels 12 to 14 feet above bankfull. Fort Worth TX hit the 100 degree mark for the first time all year. Strong winds ushering cool air into northwest Utah gusted to 70 mph, raising clouds of dust in the salt flats. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2000: Super Typhoon Bilis crossed Taiwan killing 14 people and injuring 80. The torrential rains caused mudslides, which trapped 18 people. The typhoon had sustained winds of 143 mph. The typhoon weakened somewhat over Taiwan before continuing on and hitting China. 282 buildings were destroyed in Beijing and an additional 57 people were killed.

FOR RENT

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/397-8131.

FOR SALE






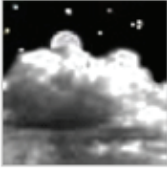

Beautiful and spacious townhouse for sale by owners. Three bedrooms, three baths, finished basement with a custom wet bar. Heated 2 car attached garage. Low monthly rural utilities and low rural taxes. Priced to sell. If interested, please call Lisa @ 605 290 2404 or Dennis @ 605 880 4821.



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	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY
						
90%	60%					30%
Heavy Rain High: 75 °F	Thunderstorms Likely Low: 62 °F	Partly Sunny High: 76 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 52 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 73 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 53 °F	Chance Thunderstorms High: 69 °F



Severe Storms and Heavy Rainfall Possible Today Through This Evening

NWS Aberdeen



weather.gov/Aberdeen

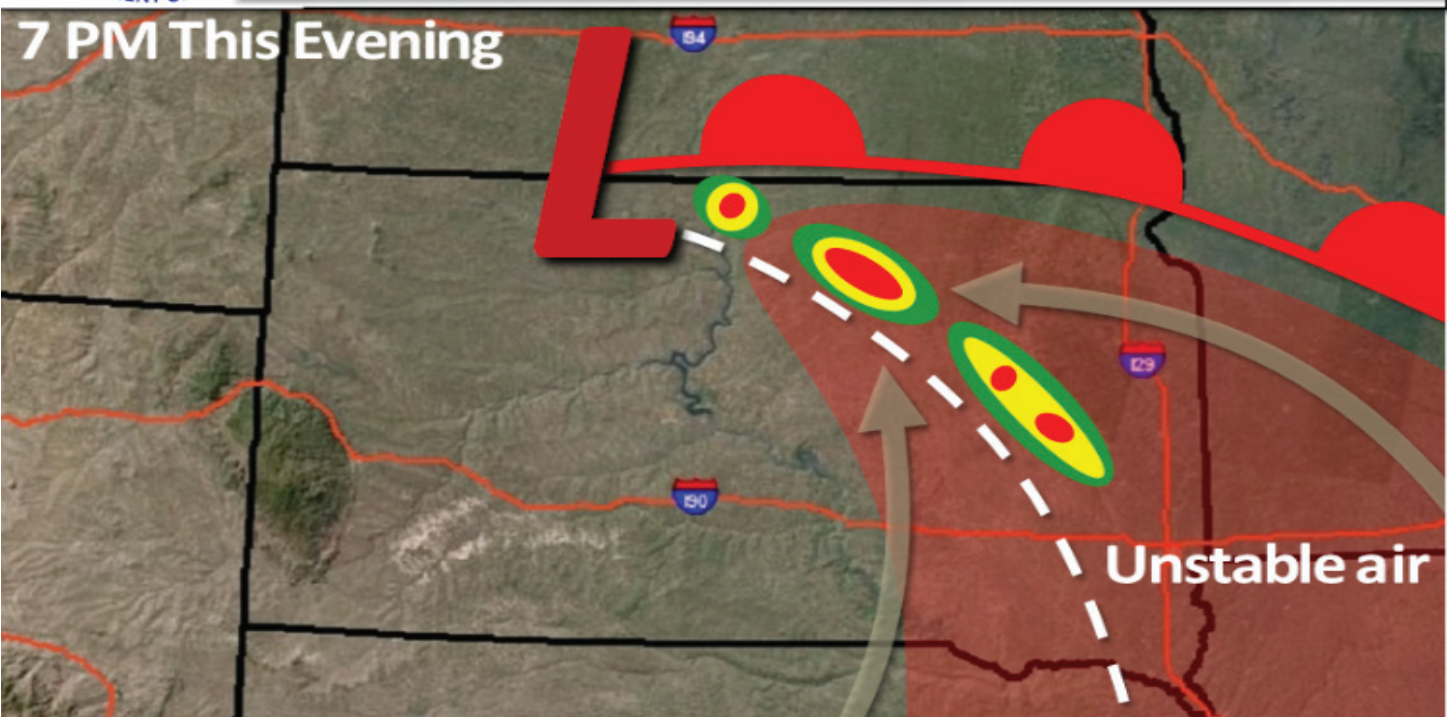


National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

7 PM This Evening



Widespread rainfall and thunderstorms are expected across the region today as a potent low pressure system moves northward across South Dakota. Heavy rain is possible in some areas with localized flooding potential. Things get interesting this afternoon and evening as unstable air works its way northward into the eastern half of the state. The picture above does not depict exactly where storms are expected to form, but it's meant basically to give a visualization that storms are possible generally anywhere across the northeast quadrant of South Dakota, within the unstable air mass. These storms have the potential to become strong to severe, with large hail and even the possibility of a few tornadoes. Keep an eye on the weather today and stay tuned to the latest forecasts, as well as any watches or warnings that may arise.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 77.7°F at 5:50 PM

Low: 61.5°F at 5:21 AM

High Gust: 12 mph 8:34 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 2003

Record Low: 39° in 1987, 1842

Average High: 81°F

Average Low: 55°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.72

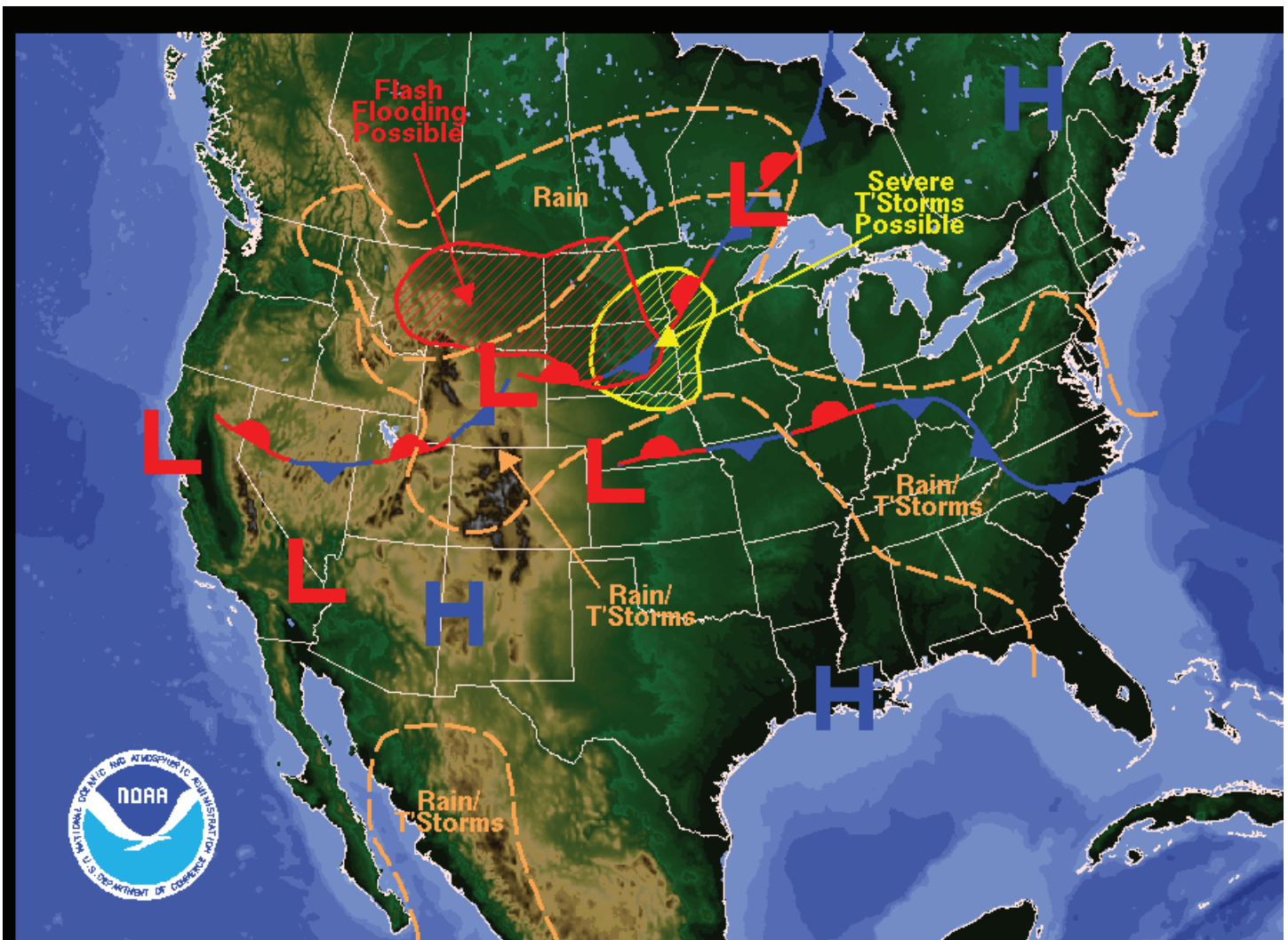
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.64

Average Precip to date: 15.58

Precip Year to Date: 11.62

Sunset Tonight: 8:28 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:45 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Aug 23, 2014, issued 4:18 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



GOD IS GOOD

Only God can be called "good." And His very name comes from His "goodness." When "good" and "goodness" are shortened, we end up with "God."

Everything that comes from God - His creation and counsel, His laws and love, His promises and provisions - must be good because the nature of God Himself is "good!"

God is not good to us if we are good, nor does He treat us bad if we are bad. Those who say, "God won't be good to you if you are bad" do not understand God nor who He is.

The Psalmist did. He wrote, "The Lord is good to all!"

We recognize God's goodness in the way He provided for our salvation. After a young Brahman interviewed a missionary, he said, "Hinduism has many things which Christianity has. But there is one thing which you have that we do not have - a Savior." We have a Savior because of God's goodness. It was His goodness that flowed from His love that He sent His Son to be our Savior. Only a "Good God" would make such a supreme sacrifice to make salvation possible which is available "to all!"

We realize God's goodness in the way He meets the needs of everyone. The food that grows in fields, on bushes and branches, vines and beneath the soil was first planted by God for everyone. The water, which God gave us for survival, falls on the "just and the unjust." Why?

Again, the Psalmist said: "His tender mercies are over all."

God is good. But one day, all will stand before Him in judgment and be asked: "Is my Son your Savior?"

Prayer: Lord, we recognize Your eternal goodness and grace and ask Your forgiveness and cleansing for our sins. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 145:9 The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Camera network expands ahead of Sturgis' 75th

CARSON WALKER, Associated Press

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — With the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally's 75th anniversary looming next year, likely drawing larger crowds than usual, authorities have installed more surveillance cameras with better resolution around the city that can also be tapped to solve crimes and accidents.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation obtained a \$283,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to help enhance and expand the system already in place, according to secretary Darin Bergquist, so it now includes about 30 cameras with more than 60 views.

While critics have raised issues about privacy, the main purpose for the cameras is traffic flow and pedestrian safety, especially for the August 2015 rally, he said.

"The better prepared we are the better off we'll be," he said.

While the DOT uses the live feed to adjust traffic lights to ease the flow of people, motorcycles and vehicles that clog the streets, two other state agencies can also access the system's 30-day archive. The Department of Public Safety used it once during this year's rally to investigate an accident, Bergquist said. And if there's a crime, the Division of Criminal Investigation can also go back through the footage to look for suspects, like investigators did after the Boston Marathon bombing.

Past rallies have been marred by motorcycle gang violence, so the cameras could prove vital, he said.

"There are people who come here to cause problems," said Brian Zeeb, assistant DCI director in Pierre.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said if there were ever a shooting involving an officer, the cameras could help show what happened.

"It's a strong aid when you're able to turn on the video and watch the crime unfold," he said.

Use of surveillance cameras is becoming widespread. A West Des Moines, Iowa, traffic engineer said nearly 50 traffic cameras located at major intersections have increased travel speeds and decreased congestion. And South Sioux City, Nebraska, installed about 90 surveillance cameras, which town leaders credit with reducing litter and crime along a Missouri River park.

Amy Miller, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska, said such extensive use of cameras, especially for minor crimes, raises privacy concerns.

"While cameras may sound like they have a legitimate public safety interest, we've seen in many communities that they don't reduce crime. The cameras move crime from one part of town to a different part of town. They do not deter people from committing a crime. They just deter people from committing a crime in a particular area," she said in an emailed statement.

But Sturgis Police Chief Jim Bush says, "It's not that we're sitting here watching it every day."

And DCI agent James Legg, who is in charge of the criminal intelligence center, said privacy was a big part of the discussion regarding the Sturgis cameras.

"We spent a lot of time talking about First Amendment and personal rights," he said. "If you're not engaged in criminal activity, we don't have to spy on you."

South Dakota ag officials cancel Russia trade trip

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A trade mission to Russia that was meant to center on beef genetics has been cancelled because of uncertainties in the Russian market.

State agriculture officials had signed up beef producers and industry representatives to make the trip,

which was planned for October.

Ty Eschenbaum with the state's Agriculture Department says officials will consider a trip in 2015.

Eschenbaum says Russian cattle breeders like the fact that cattle from the Northern Plains are raised in a climate similar to their own.

Reward offered for burglary of Rapid City casino

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police say a \$5,000 reward is being offered for information that leads to an arrest in a casino burglary last month.

Police were called to Chances Casino at 4 a.m. on July 26 for a burglary alarm. Authorities say the suspect entered the casino and took an undisclosed amount of cash from the office.

Surveillance video from the burglary can be viewed on the police website at <http://www.rcgov.org/police>.

Former EB-5 program overseer asked to speak

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The head of the legislative audit committee said Friday he wants to hear from the businessman who led South Dakota's involvement in an investment-for-green-card program.

Sen. Larry Tidemann, a Republican from Brookings, said he has drafted a letter to Joop Bollen that asks him to provide a chronology of the EB-5 program in South Dakota to the Government Operations and Audit Committee at its September 24 meeting.

Earlier this week, Democratic lawmakers said the GOAC should issue subpoenas seeking answers about 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 the struggling Northern Beef Packers plant in Aberdeen. A report from Attorney General Marty Jackley showed the same amount was improperly diverted to SDRC Inc., Benda's new employer.

SDRC, managed by businessman Bollen, administered the EB-5 visa program in the state, which allows people to seek U.S. residency if they invest at least \$500,000 in approved projects. The failed Northern Beef Packers plant in Aberdeen was funded in part through that program and was also the project through which Benda arranged the transfer.

Lawmakers at the GOAC's meeting in July rejected a motion to subpoena Bollen by member Democratic Rep. Susan Wismer. Tidemann said Friday that he considers it more common in South Dakota to personally request someone to testify first.

"And so I'm going the route where you extend a hand and ask if they're willing to come, before you jump right to sending this subpoena. If he chooses not to come, that probably tells you what would happen if you subpoenaed the individual, too," he said.

Bollen could not be reached for comment Friday.

Wismer said she was pleased with Tidemann's decision, but hopes Gov. Dennis Daugaard and former Gov. Mike Rounds would testify as well.

Tidemann said he plans to send letters to Daugaard and Rounds containing questions that Democratic lawmakers want answered. The two will not be asked in the yet-undrafted letters to speak at the GOAC meeting, only to respond in writing.

"Throughout this matter, the governor has been open and forthright about getting legislators the information they need, and he will be happy to help them answer these questions," Daugaard spokesman Tony Venhuizen said in a statement.

Tidemann will also ask Brendan Johnson, U.S. Attorney for South Dakota, to update the committee on the status of any "investigation or non-investigation," he said.

Reporter sues over Benda death reports

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A journalist is suing the South Dakota attorney general for more information about the death of former state economic development director Richard Benda.

Bob Mercer, who writes for several daily newspapers, failed to secure records through an administrative law process and has now taken the matter to circuit court, the Argus Leader newspaper reported.

Attorney General Marty Jackley has agreed to release more information about Benda's death but only under certain conditions, chiefly that Benda's family had to consent.

"Confidentiality of death records isn't absolute, and their disclosure is subject to the discretion of the custodian of the records," Mercer said in his lawsuit. "The attorney general appropriated to himself authority to create and enforce special criteria for release of the records."

Jackley said he followed the law — an assertion backed up by the administrative law judge.

"I would have been operating within my statutory authority to just flat-out deny access, and I did not do that," Jackley said. "I chose the route of openness and have been nothing but criticized for that."

Benda's October 2013 death was ruled a suicide. At the time, Jackley was preparing to file felony theft charges against him following allegations of financial misconduct at the Governor's Office of Economic Development surrounding a program that administered an investment-for-green-card program.

Independent candidate for governor Mike Myers is skeptical of the scenario under which authorities say Benda killed himself — securing a shotgun to a tree and using a stick to push the trigger, shooting himself in the abdomen. Myers held a press conference in Rapid City on Thursday in which he re-enacted the scenario. The event drew only 18 people, five of whom were journalists, the Rapid City Journal reported. Myers offered no proof of an alternate theory but said he wanted to get people to think.

"We have to find some way to give credibility to the conclusion that Richard Benda killed himself," Myers said.

Farm Rescue nonprofit nears another milestone

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Farm Rescue nonprofit in the Upper Midwest is approaching another milestone — it will help its 300th farm family in the region by the end of the year.

The volunteer-based organization headquartered in North Dakota helped its 100th farm family in 2009 and its 200th in 2012.

"Three hundred families in the Upper Midwest are able to continue supporting their communities and feeding America," founder Bill Gross said. "These families are friends, neighbors and customers. They're the rural community."

Farm Rescue plants and harvests crops for farmers in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa and eastern Montana who have experienced an illness, injury or natural disaster. It's been operating since 2006, supported by donations, business sponsors and about 1,000 volunteers.

"I appreciate the work they did for me; it helped quite a bit," said Dan Dotzenrod, who became the 200th farmer to get help after he broke his neck in a fall on his southeastern North Dakota farm. "I'm

mostly recovered — 90 to 95 percent. Still farming.”

Gross said Farm Rescue, which operates on an annual cash budget of about \$450,000, will help about 50 farmers annually for another year or two.

“We need to build more support for the organization financially to expand beyond that level,” he said. “We are moving in that direction. Then, if we expand geographically in a few years, that number might grow.”

Farm Rescue has gotten a big boost in recent years from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, which has contributed nearly \$1 million since 2008. Fargo-based RDO Equipment Co., which owns and operates more than 60 dealerships in nine states, has supplied critical equipment, according to Gross.

Keith Kreps, an RDO executive vice president, estimated the company has invested more than \$1 million in the partnership.

“Bill approached us with a way to give to the large community that we do business in, and directly affect the farmers and the industry that we make our living in,” Kreps said. “We just thought it was the perfect fit.”

AP News in Brief

Leaders say Hamas agrees in writing to support Palestinian bid at International Criminal Court

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hamas has signed a pledge to back any Palestinian bid to join the International Criminal Court, two senior officials in the group said Saturday. Such a step could expose Israel — as well as Hamas — to war crimes investigations.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has debated for months whether to join the court, a step that would transform his relations with Israel from tense to openly hostile and could also strain his ties with the United States.

The decision by Hamas to sign a document in support of a court bid removes a major obstacle, though it's not clear if Abbas now will go ahead. A hesitant Abbas has said he would not make any decision without the written backing of all Palestinian factions. Last month, he obtained such support from all factions in the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Hamas, which is not a PLO member, has said it would study the idea. Its decision to support the court option came after almost seven weeks of a deadly cross-border war with Israel and several failed cease-fire efforts.

Since the war erupted July 8, more than 2,090 Palestinians have been killed, including close to 500 children, and about 100,000 Gazans have been left homeless, according to United Nations figures and Palestinian officials. Israel lost 64 soldiers and four civilians, including a 4-year-old boy killed by a mortar shell Friday.

Russian trucks suspected of aiding rebels begin to leave Ukraine 1 day after disputed crossing

DONETSK, Russia (AP) — Trucks marked as being from a bitterly disputed Russian aid convoy to Ukraine began returning to Russia on Saturday.

An Associated Press reporter counted 67 trucks entering the border crossing in the Russian city of

Donetsk before noon Saturday. Another AP reporter on the Ukrainian side of the border said a line of trucks about 3 kilometers (2 miles) long was waiting to cross. The checkpoint on the Ukrainian side was being operated by separatist rebels, who inspected the trucks.

Around 40 of the tractor-trailer trucks seen by journalists on the Ukrainian were empty, but it could not be determined if any others were carrying cargo.

One driver who declined to give his name said the entire convoy of about 260 was expected to return Saturday to Russia. The state news agency RIA Novosti cited the Russian customs service as saying the trucks would move in six groups.

The convoy drove Friday into Ukraine bound for Luhansk, a city in eastern Ukraine hard-hit by weeks of fighting between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian rebels. The Ukrainian government and Western countries denounced the move as a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and accused Russia of using the convoy to smuggle supplies and reinforcements to rebel fighters.

Ferguson streets peaceful for another night as tensions subside after nights of violence

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Ferguson's streets were peaceful for a third night as tensions between police and protesters continued to subside after nights of violence and unrest erupted when a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black 18-year-old.

A small stream of protesters marched in the St. Louis suburb as night fell Friday, but instead of confrontations with police, several stopped to talk one-on-one with officers about the Aug. 9 shooting death of Michael Brown and tactics used by authorities during previous demonstrations.

While many residents are hopeful that tensions were waning and eager to end the disruptions to their lives caused by protests and police presence, some say they fear the community's anger could explode anew if the grand jury now considering the case doesn't return a charge against the officer, Darren Wilson.

"This officer has to be indicted. I'd hate to see what happens if he isn't. The rioting, the looting, man ...," said resident Larry Loveless, 29, as he stopped Friday at the memorial for Brown where he was killed.

St. Louis County prosecutors this week convened a grand jury to begin hearing evidence in the case, despite concerns among some in the community — including Brown's parents — that the office would not be impartial because of District Attorney Bob McCulloch's ties to law enforcement. McCulloch's father, mother and other relatives worked for St. Louis police, and his father was killed while responding to a call involving a black suspect. He has said he will not remove himself from the case.

Few details month after Iran detained reporters, though hard-liners suspected having of a role

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An Iranian-American correspondent for the Washington Post and his journalist wife have been held in custody for a month in Iran, suggesting a possible struggle between a new guard of moderates pushing for greater freedom and the old hard-line establishment.

Jason Rezaian, his wife Yeganeh Salehi and two unnamed Iranian-American photojournalists were detained a month ago this past Friday. One of the photojournalists was released shortly after being detained, and the other freed on bail Wednesday, the Post reported. However, Rezaian and his wife remain held without formal charges and have not been heard from since being detained.

The detentions have thrust Iran's record of jailing journalists into the spotlight and complicate efforts by the United States and five other world powers to reach a lasting nuclear deal with Iran. They also underscore the opposition facing moderate President Hassan Rouhani as he tries to advance election promises of easing political restrictions and reconciliation with the West.

"These detentions are a slap in the face of Rouhani and his stated policies of more tolerance and freedoms inside the country," said Hadi Ghaemi, the executive director of the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran, a New York-based group. He fears the journalists "have disappeared in the black hole of the Iranian intelligence and security apparatus" and are being detained outside the legal process.

Other journalists in Iran have been locked up since Rouhani's election last summer, according to Reporters Without Borders. The Committee to Protect Journalists ranked Iran as one of the world's biggest jailers of journalists last year, with at least 35 behind bars, some for years.

Iraq family's flight reveals depth of Sunni grief, grievances amid Islamic State group's surge

BAGHDAD (AP) — For nearly a decade Abu Omar has been fleeing Iraq's many conflicts, but they always seem to catch up to him.

In his Sunni family's ancestral home in Fallujah it was the heavy shelling — first by the Americans in 2004 and then again this past January, when the walls shook and the roof caved in over their heads. In the Baghdad neighborhood where they have twice sought refuge, it is the persistent fear of a late-night knock on the door by shadowy sectarian militias.

Abu Omar's grim odyssey is shared by countless members of Iraq's once-dominant Sunni minority, who feel maligned by the Shiite-led government in Baghdad, hounded by its security forces and increasingly threatened, once again, by the militias that terrorized them during the darkest days of sectarian bloodletting in 2006 and 2007.

Their grievances have metastasized since the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003 and handed power to the long-oppressed Shiite majority. Their anger fueled the rampage of Sunni militants across northern and western Iraq this summer, and the militant onslaught has aggravated sectarian tensions elsewhere, again driving Iraq to the brink of civil war.

After a humiliating retreat from much of the north in June, the Iraqi military managed to halt the offensive by the Islamic State extremist group on the outskirts of Baghdad. But in the mostly Sunni neighborhood of Azamiyah in the heart of the capital, Abu Omar feels he is under a different kind of siege.

Parliament Speaker says Iraq investigating attack on Sunni mosque that killed more than 60

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's parliament speaker says an investigation is underway into an attack on a Sunni mosque that killed more than 60 people and escalated sectarian tensions.

In a press conference on Saturday, Salim al-Jabouri said a committee of security officials and lawmakers will announce its findings in two days. Al-Jabouri, a Sunni, described Friday's attack northeast of Baghdad as "carnage."

It was not clear whether Shiite militiamen or the Sunni Islamic State extremist group were behind the attack, which prompted two major Sunni blocs, including al-Jabouri's, to suspend talks on forming a new Shiite-led government until the investigation is concluded.

Al-Jabouri didn't comment on the withdrawal, saying he was acting in his capacity as Parliament Speaker and not as a bloc leader.

2016 Democratic prospects make Iowa inroads despite prospect of heavy favorite Hillary Clinton

ALTOONA, Iowa (AP) — Democrats with presidential dreams are coming to Iowa with little fanfare, entourage or recognition.

They are undeterred by talk of a Hillary Rodham Clinton candidacy in 2016 or her plans to visit the leadoff caucus state next month to honor retiring Sen. Tom Harkin.

But former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia, Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and a few other Democrats have nothing to lose if Clinton runs, and lots to gain if she doesn't.

"I'm here to listen to people and think about things," Webb told The Associated Press with a grin.

Webb's answer, matched with his schedule, has the ring of someone on a political fact-finding mission.

Under cloud of myth and mystery, Myanmar divers resume search for the world's largest bell

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Divers stand on the edge of a small wooden fishing boat gazing at the murky, choppy waters below. After receiving blessings from Buddhist monks, they lower their masks and plunge one-by-one into the mighty Yangon River, clinging to garden hoses that will act as primitive breathing devices during their dizzying descent into darkness.

From the shoreline, thousands of spectators look on, some peering through borrowed binoculars, praying the men will find what other salvage crews have not: The world's largest copper bell, believed to have been lying deep beneath the riverbed for more than four centuries.

Weighing an estimated 270 tons, the mysterious bell is a symbol of pride for many in this country of 60 million that only recently emerged from a half-century of military rule and self-imposed isolation. And for the first time, search crews are largely relying on spirituality rather than science to try and find it.

Myanmar's superstitious leaders have, in years past, been part of a colorful cast of characters who believe reclaiming the treasure is important if the nation is ever to regain its position of glory as the crown jewel of Asia.

It's a story of myth and mystery: King Dhammazedī, after whom the bell was named, was said to have ordered it cast in the late 15th century, donating it soon after to the Shwedagon Pagoda, Myanmar's most sacred temple which sits on a hilltop in the old capital, Yangon.

Nazdarovie: New retro-Soviet restaurant a nod to nostalgia for ties between Havana and Moscow

HAVANA (AP) — There's no rice, beans or fried plantains at Havana's newest private restaurant. You can order a minty mojito, but it'll come mixed with vodka instead of the traditional white rum.

The waiters speak Russian, and patrons are expected to order in that language if they want to get served. But don't worry, the menus at this retro-Soviet restaurant come with translations and pronunciation guides for the non-initiated.

Nazdarovie, which is named for the popular Russian toast and opened Friday, is all about Slavic fare like bowls of blood-red borscht and stuffed Ukrainian varenyky dumplings, hand-rolled in the back by

"babushkas" who were born in the former Soviet Union but have long called Cuba home.

It's a nod to nostalgia for the island's Soviet ties during the Cold War, a time when Moscow was Havana's main source of trade and aid and hundreds of thousands of Cubans traveled to the Soviet bloc as diplomats, artists and students.

"For most of them it was the first time they ever left this island. They have nostalgia about their time there, about the flavors they experienced for the first time," said Gregory Biniowsky, a 45-year-old Canadian of Ukrainian descent who dreamed up Nazdarovie and launched it with three Cuban partners.

Interpol seeks clues from 5 countries to help solve mystery of Thailand's 'baby factory' case

BANGKOK (AP) — Interpol said it has launched a multinational investigation into what Thailand has dubbed the "Baby Factory" case: a 24-year-old Japanese businessman who has 16 surrogate babies and an alleged desire to father hundreds more.

Police raided a Bangkok condominium earlier this month and found nine babies and nine nannies living in a few unfurnished rooms filled with baby bottles, bouncy chairs, play pens and diapers. They have since identified Mitsutoki Shigeta as the father of those babies — and seven others.

"What I can tell you so far is that I've never seen a case like this," Thailand's Interpol director, police Maj. Gen. Apichart Suribunya, said Friday. "We are trying to understand what kind of person makes this many babies."

Apichart said that regional Interpol offices in Japan, Cambodia, Hong Kong and India have been asked to probe Shigeta's background, beginning last week. Police say he appears to have registered businesses or apartments in those countries and has frequently traveled there.

"We are looking into two motives. One is human trafficking and the other is exploitation of children," said police Lt. Gen. Kokiart Wongvorachart, Thailand's lead investigator in the case. He said Shigeta made 41 trips to Thailand since 2010. On many occasions he traveled to nearby Cambodia, where he brought four of his babies.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, August 23, the 235th day of 2014. There are 130 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 23, 1914, Japan declared war against Germany in World War I.

On this date:

In 1305, Scottish rebel leader Sir William Wallace was executed by the English for treason.

In 1775, Britain's King George III proclaimed the American colonies to be in a state of "open and avowed rebellion."

In 1858, "Ten Nights in a Bar-room," a play by Timothy Shay Arthur about the perils of drinking alcohol, opened in New York.

In 1913, Copenhagen's Little Mermaid statue, inspired by the Hans Christian Andersen story, was unveiled in the harbor of the Danish capital.

In 1926, silent film star Rudolph Valentino died in New York at age 31.

In 1927, amid protests, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery.

In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to a non-aggression treaty, the Molotov-Ribben-

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trop Pact, in Moscow.

In 1944, Romanian Prime Minister Ion Antonescu was dismissed by King Michael, paving the way for Romania to abandon the Axis in favor of the Allies.

In 1960, Broadway librettist Oscar Hammerstein (HAM'-ur-STYN') II, 65, died in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

In 1973, a bank robbery-turned-hostage-taking began in Stockholm, Sweden; the four hostages ended up empathizing with their captors, a psychological condition now referred to as "Stockholm Syndrome."

In 1982, Lebanon's parliament elected Christian militia leader Bashir Gemayel president. (However, Gemayel was assassinated some three weeks later.)

In 1989, in a case that inflamed racial tensions in New York, Yusuf Hawkins, a 16-year-old black youth, was shot dead after he and his friends were confronted by a group of white youths in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. (Gunman Joey Fama was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison; he will be eligible for parole in 2022.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush criticized a political commercial accusing Democratic nominee John Kerry of inflating his own Vietnam War record, and said broadcast attacks by outside groups had no place in the race for the White House. In Athens, Jeremy Wariner became the sixth consecutive American to win the Olympic title in the 400 meters, leading a U.S. sweep of the medals. The U.S. softball team won its third straight gold medal with a 5-1 victory over Australia.

Five years ago: Reality TV contestant Ryan Jenkins, suspected of killing his wife, former model Jasmine Fiore, was found hanging in a motel in Hope, British Columbia, Canada, an apparent suicide. Eric Bruntlett turned an unassisted triple play to finish Philadelphia's wild 9-7 victory over the New York Mets. Stefania Fernandez, Miss Venezuela, won the 2009 Miss Universe pageant in the Bahamas; she succeeded fellow Venezuelan Dayana Mendoza, the previous year's winner.

One year ago: A military jury convicted Maj. Nidal Hasan in the deadly 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, that claimed 13 lives; the Army psychiatrist was later sentenced to death. Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, the U.S. soldier who'd massacred 16 Afghan civilians, was sentenced at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to life in prison with no chance of parole. San Diego Mayor Bob Filner, a Democrat, agreed to resign in return for the city's help defending him against claims he'd groped, kissed and made lewd comments to women. (Filner later pleaded guilty to a felony for manhandling a woman at a fundraising event and two misdemeanor battery charges; he served three months of house arrest.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Vera Miles is 84. Actress Barbara Eden is 83. Political satirist Mark Russell is 82. Pro Football Hall of Famer Sonny Jurgensen is 80. Actor Richard Sanders is 74. Ballet dancer Patricia McBride is 72. Former Surgeon General Antonia Novello is 70. Pro Football Hall of Famer Rayfield Wright is 69. Country singer Rex Allen Jr. is 67. Singer Linda Thompson is 67. Actress Shelley Long is 65. Actor-singer Rick Springfield is 65. Country singer-musician Woody Paul (Riders in the Sky) is 65. Queen Noor of Jordan is 63. Actor-producer Mark Hudson is 63. Actor Skipp Sudduth is 58. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Mike Boddicker is 57. Rock musician Dean DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 53. Tejano singer Emilio Navaira (nah-VY'-rah) is 52. Country musician Ira Dean (Trick Pony) is 45. Actor Jay Mohr is 44. Actor Ray Park is 40. Actor Scott Caan is 38. Country singer Shelly Fairchild is 37. Figure skater Nicole Bobek is 37. Rock singer Julian Casablancas (The Strokes) is 36. NBA player Kobe Bryant is 36. Actress Joanne Froggatt is 34. Actress Annie Ilonzeh is 31. Dance musician Sky Blu is 28. Actress Kimberly Matula is 26. NBA player Jeremy Lin is 26.

Thought for Today: "I know the world is filled with troubles and many injustices. But reality is as beautiful as it is ugly. I think it is just as important to sing about beautiful mornings as it is to talk about slums. I just couldn't write anything without hope in it." - Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960).