

Groton Daily Independent

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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 Fliehs • Angela Mettler
6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study
7:00pm: UMC PEO with Odland hosting

Tuesday, Aug. 27

- Senior Menu:** Ham, Baked Potato/S.Cream, Green Beans, Peach Cake, Whole Wheat Bread
Anniversary: Bill & Eileen Schuelke
Birthdays: Jana Duncan • Doris Craig • Carly Wheeting • Dustin LaMee
10:00am: Christian Missionary & Alliance Ladies Bible Study
10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study
12:00pm: Bridge at Olive Grove
4:00pm: Girls Soccer at Huron
5:30pm: Special City Council Meeting
6:00pm: Boys Soccer at Huron
6:15pm: Ladies Night Golf (Potluck)

Mark Malmberg, DDS
19 North 6th St.

Oakes, N.D.
701-742-3401



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

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Boys soccer team beats St. Thomas More

The Groton boys soccer team defeated St. Thomas More on Saturday in Rapid City, 8-1. James Thompson scored three goals with one on an assist by Jacob Milbrandt and one by Rayce Harder. Cade Guthmiller scored on a penalty kick while Landon Larson, Lucas Sternhagen, Trevor Pray and Wyatt Kurtz each scored one goal.

Chance Strom was the goalie with nine saves.

St. Thomas More had 23 opportunities to score and scored only once.

The girls team lost 7-3.

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)

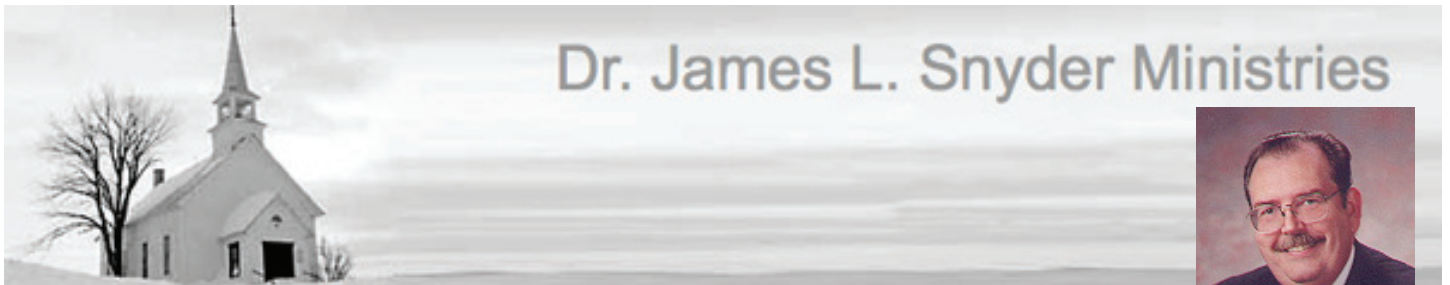
Saturday, August 30th vs Pierre

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

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

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 members and discussing field improvements.



What did the bugs do before I came?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly finally exercised our right to a vacation and planned for a whole week to spend with our son and his family. Preparing for a week vacation takes about six weeks prior to the vacation and then six weeks after the vacation to get caught up. I do not know how people take vacations all the time.

It was to be a great week of relaxing and spending time with our son and his family in the state of Ohio. Ohio is remarkable for a lot of things but when my wife and I think of Ohio we think of one thing: our grandchildren.

Someone once remarked that grandchildren was God's way of apologizing for our children. Maybe that is so, I do not know. If so, I gladly accept His apology. All I know is it is wonderful to spend time with grandchildren. The important thing about being a grandparent is discovering the skills necessary

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to adequately spoil your grandchildren within a week's time frame. Secretly, my plan is to get back at my children for their childhood in my home by spoiling my grandchildren in their home.

Revenge is sweet and wonderful.

It was about the middle of the week and my wife and I were sitting outside enjoying the cool weather. All of the grandchildren had been snuggled down into their beds for the night. It certainly is tiring to spend the day with grandchildren who have no shortage of energy and whose tongue is a well oiled machine and does not know how to be quiet.

Our ears were still tingling from the day's childish verbiage extravaganza.

We were sitting in the backyard sipping some hot coffee, enjoying the quiet evening when I heard this buzzing sound on the left side of my head. Automatically my hand swatted in that area and I went on drinking my coffee as though nothing had happened. I thought perhaps the kids were still up or maybe it was a flashback from the afternoon.

My wife looked at me as though something weird happened, but we continued enjoying the evening atmosphere with only the soothing sounds of sipping coffee.

Then I heard the buzzing sound again. This time it was on the other side of my head and as I swatted I began to realize what was happening. All of the bugs in the state of Ohio had received a memo that I was vacationing in the state. In well organized shifts they began the welcoming process. Within a short time I was swatting bugs with both hands which did not seem to change the situation at hand.

I know I am a sweet person, but this was becoming ridiculous. I would like to retain my sweetness for something other than bugs.

I am not quite sure how many bug bites I received that night, I stopped counting at 2,973,442 bites. I am not quite certain, but it was feeling more like it had exceeded 3 million bites. If I had a penny for every bug bite I would buy some very expensive bug repellent.

It seemed like they were working in shifts and it got to the point where my mind shifted into a murder scenario. Is it a crime to murder a bug who has bitten me so many times? Of course the real question is, is it really murder? Could it be considered a mercy killing?

And if it is murder, what is the penalty for murdering a bug? I was at the point that I would gladly have paid handsomely for the privilege of putting some bugs to rest.

As a spiritually minded person, I wondered if bugs go to heaven when they die? If they go to heaven, do they continue to bite? And, would it be proper for an angel to swat a bug in heaven?

The mood I was in, after being bitten so many times by these lousy bugs, I had an opposite destination in mind. Since they like fire so much and are attracted to it, I would be glad to accommodate them. I know a place that would fit the situation quite well.

After two hours of fighting these stinking bugs, my sanity, as fragile as it is, was on the brink of collapsing. Once my sanity collapses I am not responsible for what I will do or say. It was hard to find a place on my body one finger wide where a bug had not tasted the delicacy of my sweet skin.

One question I reflected on was simply, what did the bugs do before I arrived? Did they save up all their energy for when I would come and visit? This is not the kind of celebrity status I am seeking. My preference is to be anonymous to all the bugs in Ohio.

All of these insects, whatever they were, were simply bugging me to death.

When I regained some composure, I thought about what it must have been like for Jesus to come into this world. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Hebrews 9:28).

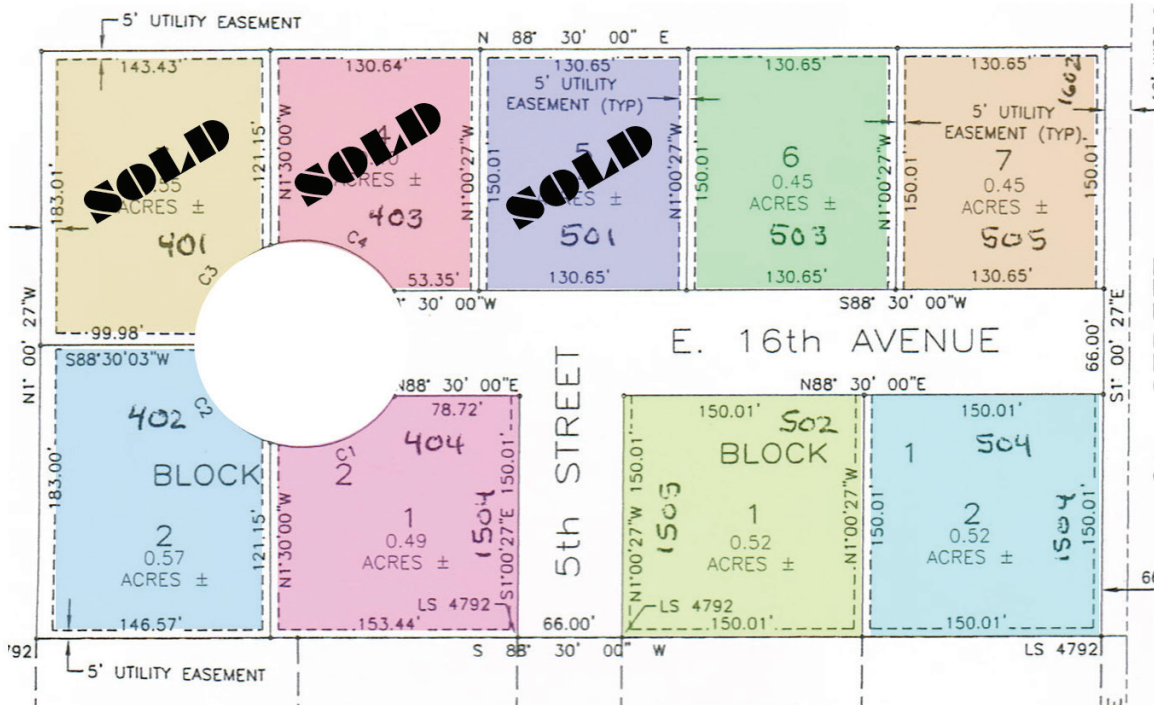
So many things in this world bug me, but I have something greater to look forward to, a place called heaven.

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Achieving the Dream

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



Olson Development - North Groton ~ 605/397-8262

KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Addressing the Barricade between Field and Market

Driving through South Dakota this week, you could see that folks are making good progress on small grains throughout the state. There's a lot of wheat and barley stubble already out there. And many farmers I've spoken with are thinking it's going to be a pretty strong soybean and corn harvest come September-October.

While we're only beginning to get in the field, grain elevators are already filling up and finding it extremely difficult to get the rail cars necessary to empty the bins. It's pushing the basis – or how much the elevator charges producers for transportation, storage, and other operational costs – higher and higher, undermining the already deflated prices. I've farmed nearly all my life. I understand how frustrating it is to see a great crop come in the hopper and know it's just not worth what it should be. We have to resolve this backlog.

This winter was tough, which compounded delays early on, and with many locomotives being pulled to North Dakota to move oil, the railroads never returned to business as usual. I have met with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), Canadian Pacific, and the new Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern (RCP&E) and have had very frank conversations about the level of service in our state. Progress is being made, but it's far from what's needed to get our commodities to market this fall.

BNSF and Canadian Pacific have been providing the Surface Transportation Board, which offers oversight of the rail industry, with the required status reports that I have been closely reviewing. More information is needed than initial reporting requirements mandated, however, so I was glad to see the Board come forward in mid-August with updated requirements.

More specifically, when the line was sold to RCP&E earlier this year, Canadian Pacific agreed to help supplement the smaller railway with locomotives and cars. While RCP&E has requested 500 cars from Canadian Pacific per week, they receive an average of just 300 to 400, far less than what is necessary to empty the elevators. As a result, the Board is requiring Canadian Pacific to lay out how they plan to get RCP&E the 500 cars per week that they need.

Additionally, Canadian Pacific will be required to report the number of locomotives moving inbound and outbound from the RCP&E system onto the Canadian Pacific system. With this information, we can make sure that when cars are available, a locomotive is there to move them down the line.

Meanwhile, BNSF will need to provide an expanded plan on their efforts to deal with the coming harvest as well as show performance for grain shuttle trains by region.

These new requirements are intended to give shippers and producers more relevant and accurate information as we approach the harvest peak while also putting down markers so railroads can be held more accountable for meeting the needs of farmers in South Dakota.

The situation is improving. Rail companies have made significant investments and have committed to even greater ones. But they're not ready for this year's harvest.

I know farmers are frustrated and I've spoken to many who are looking to build or find alternative storage options as the rail companies resolve the backlog. I understand what it's like and I'm committed to ensuring railroads follow through on the promises they've made to put more grain cars and locomotives on the tracks in South Dakota. I will continue to put pressure on BNSF and Canadian Pacific to do all they can to move our commodities to market this harvest. I know producers are relying on it.

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Today in Weather History

1960: A man was injured when a barn was blown over by an F2 tornado that touched down near Hayes, in Stanley County. Hail, up to golf ball size accompanied the storm as well as about three inches of rain, causing some damage to crops and a farm house. The sky color in a westerly direction shortly before the tornado hit was described as a distinct shade of green. Evidence suggests that the tornado may have touched down again in northeast Sully County, destroying a barn, a chicken coop, and hay stacks on two farms. Also, precipitation generally in excess of 3 inches and locally 6 to 8 inches was accompanied by severe hail, causing damage to buildings and crops. Hail damage was heaviest in Stanly County. Wind carried away an estimated 400 tons of balled hay in Haakon County. A measured rainfall amount of 5.1 inches in less than six hours occurred in Onida, causing extensive flooding of basements, streets, and cropland. Some other rain fall amounts include 5.58 inches 4 NW of Onida, 4.50 inches 23 N of Highmore, 3.05 inches 2N of Onaka, 3.42 inches in Clear Lake, 3.11 inches in Miller, 3.02 inches in Eureka, 2.55 inches 1 NW of Faulkton, 2.40 inches in Gettysburg, 2.22 inches in Blunt, 2.20 inches at Oahe Dam, and 2.16 inches in Clark.

1992: Hurricane Andrew struck southeast Florida on this date with an estimated maximum sustained surface winds of 145 mph with gusts in excess of 175 mph. Andrew cross Florida and went on to strike south central Louisiana on August 26. Andrew was rated as a category 4 on the Saffir/Simpson Hurricane Scale, thus making it the first category 4 hurricane to strike the United States since Hugo in 1989. Prior to Hugo, Camille, a category 5 hurricane in August 1969, was the last hurricane rated 4 or higher to strike the United States. Damage resulting from Andrew estimated at 20 to 25 billion billions, making it the most expensive natural disasters in United States history.

1998: A line of severe thunderstorms moved rapidly southeast across Sully, Hyde, and Hand counties during the morning hours, producing destructive winds up to 100 mph and hail up to the size of baseballs. The winds and hail damaged or destroyed a wide swath of sunflowers and corn. Four highline power poles south of Highmore on Highway 47 were snapped off. The school in Highmore had twenty screens shredded by the hail and the winds. On a farm northeast of Onida, a grain bin was blown over a distance of 200 yards.

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



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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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1906 - A cloudburst deluged Guinea, VA, with more than nine inches of rain in just forty minutes. (David Ludlum)

1968 - Lightning struck the Crawford County fairgrounds in northwest Pennsylvania killing two persons and injuring 72 others. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Autumn-like weather prevailed across the north central and northeastern U.S. Seven cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Cloud MN with a low of 37 degrees. Temperatures in Florida soared to 98 degrees at Pensacola and 99 degrees at Jacksonville. Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Southern High Plains Region, with 5.40 inches at Union NM, and 7.25 inches reported west of Anthony NM. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms in the Delaware Valley of eastern Pennsylvania produced wind gusts to 95 mph around Philadelphia, and gusts to 100 mph at Warminster. A tropical depression drenched the Cabo Rojo area of southwestern Puerto Rico with up to ten inches of rain. San Juan received 5.35 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in eastern Montana and western sections of the Dakotas. Thunderstorms in Montana produced wind gusts to 76 mph at Jordan, and golf ball size hail at Rock Springs, which collected three to four feet deep in ditches. Lewiston ID reported a record 1.50 inches of rain for the date, and a record rainfall total for August of 2.63 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: Hurricane Andrew, packing 165 mph sustained winds along its path, came ashore in southern Florida near Homestead. The storm left 15 people dead and \$26 billion in damage.

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






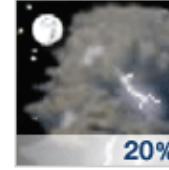

Beautiful and spacious townhouse for sale by owners. Three bedrooms, three baths, finished basement with a custom wet bar. Heated 2 car attached garage. Low monthly rural utilities and low rural taxes. Priced to sell. If interested, please call Lisa @ 605 290 2404 or Dennis @ 605 880 4821.



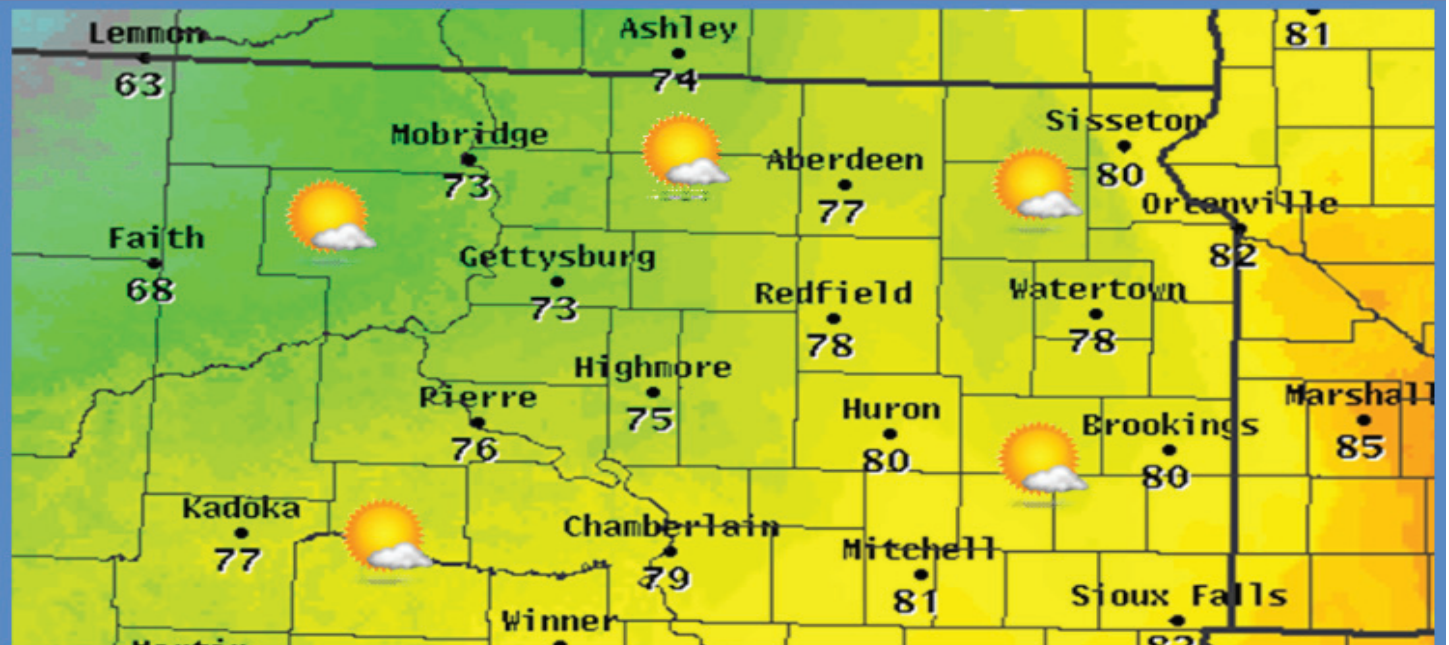
Come 'n' Get It!
Friday is Taco Bar and Soup Night
Andover Bar & Grill Serving 5-9 p.m.
120 S Main St. • 298-5252

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TODAY	TONIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT	WEDNESDAY
						
Mostly Sunny High: 77 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 51 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 71 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 47 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 70 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms Low: 55 °F	Partly Sunny High: 72 °F

Drying Out Today!



Map showing temperatures and weather icons for various locations in South Dakota:

- Lemmon: 63
- Ashley: 74
- Mobridge: 73
- Aberdeen: 77
- Sisseton: 80
- Faith: 68
- Gettysburg: 73
- Redfield: 78
- Watertown: 78
- Rierre: 76
- Highmore: 75
- Huron: 80
- Brookings: 80
- Kadoka: 77
- Chamberlain: 79
- Mitchell: 81
- Sioux Falls: 82
- Marshall: 85

Pleasant Temperatures

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen | National Weather Service Aberdeen | @NWSAberdeen | Updated: 8/24/2014 5:32 AM Central

Low pressure that caused all the rainfall yesterday has moved north of the region, with drier air working into the forecast area today. Highs will rise into the 70s for most locations with west to southwest breezes.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 75.9°F at 5:32 PM

Low: 65.7°F at 7:52 AM

High Gust: 21 mph 7:02 PM

Precip: 0.31

Today's Info

Record High: 103° in 1929

Record Low: 38° in 1934

Average High: 81°F

Average Low: 55°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.80

Precip to date in Aug.: 2.95

Average Precip to date: 15.66

Precip Year to Date: 11.93

Sunset Tonight: 8:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:47 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Aug 24, 2014, issued 4:28 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Rubin-Oster based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



PRAYER DOES WORK!

"Jeb," asked Steve, "do you ever pray?"

"Pray?" thought Jeb. "Nope. I don't pray and I don't carry a rabbit's foot. Neither one works."

David had a different opinion. "The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer."

Do you remember the prayer of Noah? God spoke to him and told him that He would destroy the world with a flood. During their conversation, God advised him to build an ark that would save him and his family. He listened to God and when the flood came, they were saved.

Moses prayed and asked God to part the waters of the Red Sea. God answered his prayer, the seas were parted and God saved His people from destruction by the enemy.

Samson prayed one last time for enough strength to accomplish one last task. God granted him that request.

Solomon prayed for God to grant him wisdom. And we see the answer to that prayer on the pages of the Bible and in the lives of the people he ruled.

Elijah was hungry. He asked God for food and God heard his prayer and gave him food for his body.

Daniel was thrown into a den filled with hungry lions. He asked God to protect him and He sealed their mouths.

Hezekiah was on his death bed when he asked God to extend his life. God responded and he lived for fifteen more years.

A thief prayed on a cross and God saved him.

Prayer: Your Word, Lord, assures us that You not only hear our prayers, but will answer them. Teach us to pray! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 6:9 The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer.

News from the Associated Press

USD law school ranked 5th for best value

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota School of Law in Vermillion has been ranked as the fifth “best value” nationwide for the fourth year in a row by preLaw magazine.

It takes into consideration passage of the state bar, in-state tuition, debt and the percent of graduates employed nine months after getting their degree.

Other regional schools in the top 20 include the University of Nebraska at No. 2, the University of Wyoming at No. 9, University of Missouri at 14th place, University of Wisconsin at No. 15 and the University of Kansas at 18th.

Residents asking judge to halt Wal-Mart process

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls residents who oppose a proposed Wal-Mart in southern Sioux Falls are asking the city to hold off on issuing a building permit for the retailer.

The Argus Leader reports attorney Joel Arends filed a motion Friday on behalf of four nearby homeowners. The residents are requesting the court temporarily stop the city from moving forward with the permitting process for the retailer.

The Sioux Falls City Council rezoned about 40 acres of land from agricultural use to commercial for the Wal-Mart supercenter.

An opposition group collected signatures to have voters decide on the rezoning. In April, residents voted to support the rezoning for the store.

The residents want to stop the process while the court considers a suit they filed on the language of the ballot measure.

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 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."

AP News in Brief

Gaza police say Israeli airstrikes collapse 7-story office building, damage commercial center

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli airstrikes leveled a seven-floor office building and severely damaged a two-story shopping center in the Gaza Strip early Sunday, signaling a new escalation in seven weeks of fighting with Hamas.

The strikes in the southern town of Rafah came just hours after Israel bombed an apartment tower in Gaza City, collapsing the 12-story building with 44 apartments. Around 30 people were wounded in the strikes, but no one was killed, Palestinian officials said.

The targeting of large buildings appears to be part of a new military tactic by Israel. Over the weekend, the army began warning Gaza residents in automated phone calls that it would target buildings harboring "terrorist infrastructure" and that they should stay away.

A senior military official confirmed that Israel has a policy of striking at buildings containing Hamas operational centers or those from which military activities are launched. The official said each strike required prior approval from military lawyers and is carried out only after the local population is warned.

However, he said, there was now a widening of locations that the military can target. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to discuss the matter with reporters.

Ukraine leader announces \$3 billion boost to defense spending to combat pro-Russian rebels

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's president has vowed to boost military spending by 40 billion hryvnia (\$3 billion) in the next three years as government forces seek to overpower pro-Russian separatists in the east.

President Petro Poroshenko made his pledge Sunday during a speech marking Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Speaking to a crowd of thousands in Kiev's Independence Square, Poroshenko says the country would increase military spending by \$3 billion by 2017. The Ukrainian defense ministry says its existing 2014 budget is \$1.5 billion.

Ukraine's military has pleaded for more resources to oust pro-Russian rebels, who still hold two major cities in the east, Donetsk and Luhansk. The United Nations estimates that the eastern fighting has claimed 2,000 lives since April.

Iceland volcano hit with 2 quakes over 5 magnitude amid aviation alert, no sign of eruption

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Two earthquakes measuring over 5 in magnitude — the biggest yet — have shaken Iceland's Bardarbunga volcano after the country issued an aviation red alert warning that an ash-emitting eruption may be imminent.

Iceland's Meteorological Office recorded earthquakes of 5.3 and 5.1 in the early hours of Sunday.

The volcano, underneath Iceland's vast Vatnajokull glacier, has been rattled by thousands of small earthquakes over the past week.

On Saturday scientists reported a small eruption under the ice, but it was not visible on the surface.

Authorities have declared a no-fly zone of 100 nautical miles by 140 nautical miles (185 kilometers by 260 kilometers) around the epicenter as a precaution.

Tensions flare, subside in Ferguson after day of peaceful protests, separate rally for officer

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Tensions briefly flared then subsided late Saturday night and early Sunday in Ferguson as nightly protests continued two weeks after a white city police officer fatally shot an unarmed black 18-year-old.

Police reported only a handful of arrests, and traffic flowed freely along the West Florissant Avenue commercial corridor near the suburban St. Louis apartment complex where Ferguson officer Darren Wilson shot Michael Brown six times in the middle of the street on Aug. 9.

But once again, peaceful daytime protests gave way to angrier shouts and more defiant marchers as night fell — including some who argued angrily with one another. But well past midnight, there were no sign of police riot gear, tear gas or armored vehicles that marked earlier street skirmishes in the first week after Brown's death.

Earlier Saturday, a diverse group of protesters — many of them children — marched peacefully alongside community activists and uniformed police as calm largely prevailed for a fourth straight day in north St. Louis County.

"I think some of the frustration is dying down because more information is coming out," said Alana Ramey, 25, a St. Louis resident who joined the afternoon march. "I think there is more action going on. People are being more organized and that is helping."

China says intercept of US spy plane was professional, urges end to close-in reconnaissance

BEIJING (AP) — China's Defense Ministry rejected U.S. accusations that a Chinese fighter jet's intercept of a U.S. Navy surveillance aircraft off the southern Chinese coast was dangerous, and blamed

Washington for mounting large-scale and frequent close-in reconnaissance operations.

Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun said the Chinese pilot conducted operations that were "professional and the Chinese jet kept a safe distance from the U.S. planes."

He called the U.S. accusations "groundless" in a statement issued Saturday night, and said that China was conducting "routine identification and verification" flights.

Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby gave a different account Friday of the Aug. 19 encounter about 135 miles (220 kilometers) east of China's Hainan Island. He said the Chinese jet made several close passes by the Navy P-8 Poseidon plane, coming within 30 feet (9 meters) of it at one point.

Kirby said that included the Chinese jet doing a "barrel roll" maneuver over the top of the Poseidon — a modified Boeing 737 — and passing across the nose of the Navy plane apparently to show that it was armed. Kirby said the Chinese jet's maneuvering posed a risk to the safety of the U.S. air crew and was "inconsistent with customary international law."

Back to White House for Obama after 2 weeks of 'vacation' on Martha's Vineyard

EDGARTOWN, Mass. (AP) — President Barack Obama's summer vacation off the Massachusetts coast is about to end.

The president was due back at the White House late Sunday after spending two weeks with his family on the island of Martha's Vineyard.

What a break it turned out to be. His attempt at rest and relaxation was largely overtaken by events involving Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, including the videotaped execution of an American journalist they had been holding hostage, and the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, following the fatal police shooting of an unarmed black man.

Obama broke from his vacation to deliver statements on Iraq, Missouri and journalist James Foley on four separate occasions, including one delivered during two days he spent back at the White House in the middle of the getaway. The unusual mid-vacation return to Washington had been scheduled before those issues came to dominate the news.

Still, in the midst of daily briefings on these matters and others, telephone consultations with nine world leaders and his other official responsibilities, Obama squeezed in nine rounds of golf on the island he has made his summer presidential retreat while shrugging off criticism about how he was spending the time away from Washington.

China's war on Muslim extremists takes aim at ordinary minority Uighurs' clothing, beards

AKSU, China (AP) — Outside a mosque in China's restive west, a government-appointed Muslim cleric was dodging a foreign reporter's question about why young men of the Uighur ethnic minority don't have beards when one such youth interrupted.

"Why don't you just tell them the truth?" he shouted to the cleric under the nervous gaze of several police officers who had been tailing the reporters all day in the oasis city of Aksu. "It's because the government doesn't allow beards."

A plainclothes Uighur policeman swiftly rebuked the young man. "Be careful what you say," he warned. The tense exchange provided a fleeting glimpse of both the extremes of China's restrictions on mi-

nority Uighurs and the resentment that simmers beneath the surface in their homeland. Such a mood pervades Xinjiang's south, a vast, mainly rural region that's become a key battleground in the ruling Communist Party's struggle to contain escalating ethnic violence that has killed at least a few hundred people over the past 18 months.

The personal matter of facial hair has taken on heavy political overtones in the Uighur heartland. Also proscribed are certain types of women's headscarves, veils and "jilbabs," loose, full-length garments worn in public. Such restrictions are not new but their enforcement has intensified this year in the wake of attacks Beijing has blamed on religious extremists.

Peace prevails as thousands march over black man's death after chokehold by white NYC officer

NEW YORK (AP) — Thousands of people expressing grief, anger and hope for a better future marched peacefully through Staten Island on Saturday to protest the chokehold death of an unarmed black man by a white police officer.

Police reported no arrests after the afternoon rally and march that drew well over 2,500 people to the streets where Eric Garner was taken to the ground on July 17 by a New York Police Department officer using a prohibited martial arts maneuver.

"This is a Birmingham, Alabama, moment!" the Rev. Herbert Daughtry announced to about 100 demonstrators at a nearby Staten Island church before the march. He asked for anyone who had been harassed, humiliated or disrespected by police to stand. Almost everyone did.

The Rev. Al Sharpton told them to remain nonviolent or go home, a warning he repeated hours later. He also repeated his call for a federal takeover of the criminal probe into the death of the 43-year-old Garner, an asthmatic father of six who was stopped for selling loose cigarettes.

In Pakistan's largest city, both poor and rich thirst for clean water in growing supply crisis

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — On the outskirts of the slums of Pakistan's biggest city, protesters burning tires and throwing stones have what sounds like a simple demand: They want water at least once a week.

But that's anything but in Karachi, where people go days without getting water from city trucks, sometimes forcing them to use groundwater contaminated with salt. A recent drought has only made the problem worse. And as the city of roughly 18 million people rapidly grows, the water shortages are only expected to get worse.

"During the last three months they haven't supplied a single drop of water in my neighborhood," protester Yasmeen Islam said. "It doesn't make us happy to come on the roads to protest but we have no choice anymore."

Karachi gets most of its water from the Indus River — about 550 million gallons per day — and another 100 million gallons from the Hub Dam that is supplied by water from neighboring Baluchistan province. But in recent years, drought has hurt the city's supply.

Misbah Fareed, a senior official with the Karachi Water and Sewerage Board that runs the city's water supplies, said that only meets about half the city's needs — 1.2 billion gallons a day.

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Secretive Southern California hot-sauce plant once labeled a nuisance offers first open house

IRWINDALE, Calif. (AP) — A Southern California hot sauce plant that came under fire for its spicy odors is throwing open its doors to the public, offering a whiff of excitement and perhaps a breath of fresh air in its relations with its neighbors.

As many as 3,000 people are expected to visit the factory that makes Sriracha hot sauce over the weekend in this eastern Los Angeles suburb. The factory is holding its first open houses to kick off the chili harvest season.

During a 20-minute walk through the 650,000-square-foot facility, visitors can watch chili grinding; sample Sriracha-flavored ice cream, popcorn and chocolate caramels; visit the new gift shop; and take photos with a cardboard cutout of David Tran, CEO of plant owner Huy Fong Foods.

Tran gave an explanation for opening the factory doors when he previously had been secretive about its trade secrets and customized machinery.

"To prove we make hot sauce, we don't make tear gas," Tran told the Pasadena Star-News (<http://bit.ly/1mzJmjV>).

USGS: 6.0 earthquake shakes Northern California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Officials say an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.0 has been reported in northern California's San Francisco Bay area.

Leslie Gordon of the U.S. Geological Survey says the tremor struck at just before 3:30 a.m. Sunday about 10 miles northwest of American Canyon, which is about six miles southwest of Napa, California, and about 50 miles west-southwest of Sacramento.

The USGS says the depth of the earthquake was just less than seven miles, and numerous small aftershocks have occurred in the Napa wine country.

There was no immediate report of damage.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, August 24, the 236th day of 2014. There are 129 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 24, 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces invaded Washington D.C., setting fire to the Capitol (which was still under construction) and the White House, as well as other public buildings.

On this date:

In A.D. 79, long-dormant Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash; an estimated 20,000 people died.

In 1572, the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre of French Protestants at the hands of Catholics began in Paris.

In 1821, the Treaty of Cordoba was signed, granting independence to Mexico from Spanish rule.

In 1912, Congress passed a measure creating the Alaska Territory. Congress approved legislation establishing Parcel Post delivery by the U.S. Post Office Department, slated to begin on January 1, 1913.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart embarked on a 19-hour flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, making her the first woman to fly solo, non-stop, from coast to coast.

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty came into force.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Communist Control Act, outlawing the Commu-

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nist Party in the United States.

In 1964, the first Roman Catholic Mass celebrated in English took place at Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis.

In 1970, an explosives-laden van left by anti-war extremists blew up outside the University of Wisconsin's Sterling Hall in Madison, killing 33-year-old researcher Robert Fassnacht.

In 1989, Baseball Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti (juh-MAH'-tee) banned Pete Rose from the game for betting on his own team, the Cincinnati Reds.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew smashed into Florida, causing \$30 billion in damage; 43 U.S. deaths were blamed on the storm.

In 2006, the International Astronomical Union declared that Pluto was no longer a planet, demoting it to the status of a "dwarf planet."

Ten years ago: An independent commission said the blame for abuses at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison lay mainly with the American soldiers who ran the jail, but said senior commanders and top-level Pentagon officials could also be faulted for failed leadership and oversight. Chechen separatists set off bombs aboard two Russian airliners that crashed after taking off from the same Moscow airport, killing 90 people. Psychiatrist Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, who famously theorized that terminally ill patients go through five stages of grief, died in Scottsdale, Arizona, at age 78.

Five years ago: All sales under the government's Cash for Clunkers program came to an end, although car dealers were given more time to submit pending claims for reimbursement. Scotland's justice minister, Kenny MacAskill, defended his much-criticized decision to free Abdel Baset al-Megrahi (AHB'-dehl BAH'-seht AH'-lee ahl-meh-GRAH'-hee), convicted of being the Lockerbie bomber, on compassionate grounds.

One year ago: Tens of thousands of people marched to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and down the National Mall, commemorating the 50th anniversary of King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech (delivered on August 28, 1963). Julie Harris, 87, one of Broadway's most honored performers, died in West Chatham, Massachusetts.

Today's Birthdays: Former Education Secretary Shirley Hufstedler is 89. Actor Kenny Baker ("Star Wars") is 80. Composer-musician Mason Williams is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marshall Thompson (The Chi-Lites) is 72. Rock musician Ken Hensley is 69. Actress Anne Archer is 67. Actor Joe Regalbuto is 65. Actor Kevin Dunn is 59. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is 59. Actor-writer Stephen Fry is 57. Actor Steve Guttenberg is 56. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Cal Ripken Jr. is 54. Actor Jared Harris is 53. Talk show host Craig Kilborn is 52. CBS News correspondent Major Garrett is 52. Rock singer John Bush is 51. Actress Marlee Matlin is 49. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Reggie Miller is 49. Broadcast journalist David Gregory ("Meet the Press") is 44. Country singer Kristyn Osborn (SHeDaisy) is 44. Actor-comedian Dave Chappelle is 41. Actor Carmine Giovinazzo is 41. Actor Alex O'Loughlin is 38. Actress Beth Riesgraf is 36. Actor Chad Michael Murray is 33. Christian rock musician Jeffrey Gilbert (Kutless) is 31. Singer Mika is 31. Actor Blake Berris (TV: "Days of Our Lives") is 30. Actor Rupert Grint ("Harry Potter" films) is 26.

Thought for Today: "Of the twenty or so civilizations known to modern Western historians, all except our own appear to be dead or moribund, and, when we diagnose each case... we invariably find that the cause of death has been either War or Class or some combination of the two." - Arnold J. Toynbee, English historian (1889-1975).