

Groton Daily Independent

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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)



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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

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 memmbers and discussing field improvements.

Boys Now 2-1 for Season

The Groton Boys Soccer Team opened the season with a game on Tuesday, August 19 in Aberdeen against Aberdeen Central and lost 2-1 with Groton's goal by Lucas Sternhagen (a header off a free kick by Landon Larson). On Friday, August 22 the Groton team traveled to Belle Fourche to play and won by a score of 7-0. In the first half, James Thompson scored the first goal at the 19 second mark with an assist by Jacob Milbrandt. At 12:40 Tyler Scott scored the next goal (unassisted) off a corner kick taken by James Thompson. Wyatt Kurtz scored at 14:40 (assist James Thompson) and James Thomspson (assist Jacob Milbrandt) scored at 20:14 to bring the half time score to 4-0. In the second minute of the second half Lucas Sternhagen scored on a header off a free kick taken by Tyler Scott. Martin Rigg scored at 24:30 with a corner kick assist by Jacob Milbrandt. The final goal of the game was at 29:00 by Wyatt Kurtz.

The Groton Boys played again on Saturday, August 23 in Rapid City against St. Thomas More. In the first half at the 7 minute mark James Thompson scored his first goal with an assist to Jacob Milbrandt. Two minutes later, Trevor Pray placed a bullet into the upper net corner to score and at 25 minutes Wyatt Kurtz scored an unassisted goal. With 4 minutes left in the first half Luke Sternhagen scored on a header off a free kick and with 0:28 seconds left Cade Guthmiller scored on a penalty kick (Luke Sternhagen was fouled in the box). Early in the second half, James Thompson scored his second goal and eight minutes later his third (assist Rayce Harder) to earn the hat trick. Landon Larson brought the ball up the field and scored Groton's last goal 15 minutes into the second half. The Tiger won 8-1. Chance Strom was Groton's goal keeper. The Tigers are coached by Mike Becker and assisted by Craig Sternhagen.

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Top Left Photo: Tyler Scott and James Thompson.

Top Right Photo: Jacob Milbrandt

Bottom Photo: Landon Larson, James Thompson and Luke Sternhagen.

(Photos of the St. Thomas More game by Jodi Sternhagen)

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Top Left: Jacob Milbrandt and Luke Sternhagen

Top Right: James Thompson

Bottom Left: Racye Harder

Photos from the Aberdeen soccer game by Jodi Sternhagen

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Top Left: Trevor Pray

Top Right: Zach Crosby and Jacob Milbrandt.

Photos from the Belle Fourche game by Jodi Sternhagen.

Bottom Left: Chance Strom

Photo from the St. Thomas More game by Jodi Sternhagen.

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Today in Weather History

1814: A hurricane, that included a tornado, struck Washington, D.C. The hurricane extinguished fires to the Capitol and White House that were set a blazed by British Soldiers.

1885 - A severe hurricane struck South Carolina causing 1.3 million dollars damage at Charleston. (David Ludlum)

1940 - New Jersey experienced its coldest August morning of record, with lows of 32 degrees at Layton and Charlotteburg. (The Weather Channel)

1948: New Zealand's deadliest tornado killed 3 people and injured 80 at Waikato. Two hundred buildings were damaged by the F2.

1987 - Morning thunderstorms produced heavy rain in eastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa. Stanton IA reported 10.50 inches of rain. Water was reported up to the handle of automobiles west of Greenwood NE. Rainfall totals for a two day period ranged from 7 to 14 inches across southwestern Iowa. Crop damage was in the millions for both states. Subsequent flooding of streams in Iowa the last week of August caused millions of dollars damage to crops, as some streams crested ten feet above flood stage. (Storm Data)

1988 - Seven cities in California reported record high temperatures for the date, including Sacramento with an afternoon reading of 104 degrees. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in Arizona. Chino Valley was drenched with 2.50 inches of rain in just thirty minutes washing out a couple of streets in town. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms drenched Spencer, IN, with 4.10 inches of rain in three hours causing extensive street flooding. Evening thunderstorms in eastern Kansas produced up to six inches of rain around Emporia, and four inches of rain in just forty-five minutes near Parsons, and also produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Lake Melvern. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - Katrina becomes a hurricane just before landfall in south Florida between Hallandale Beach and North Miami Beach. Maximum sustained winds at the time of landfall were near 80 mph. There were eleven fatalities in South Florida, including four by falling trees. More than 1.3 million customers lost electrical services, and preliminary insured loss estimates ranged from \$600 million to \$2 billion in the state of Florida (Associated Press).

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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.

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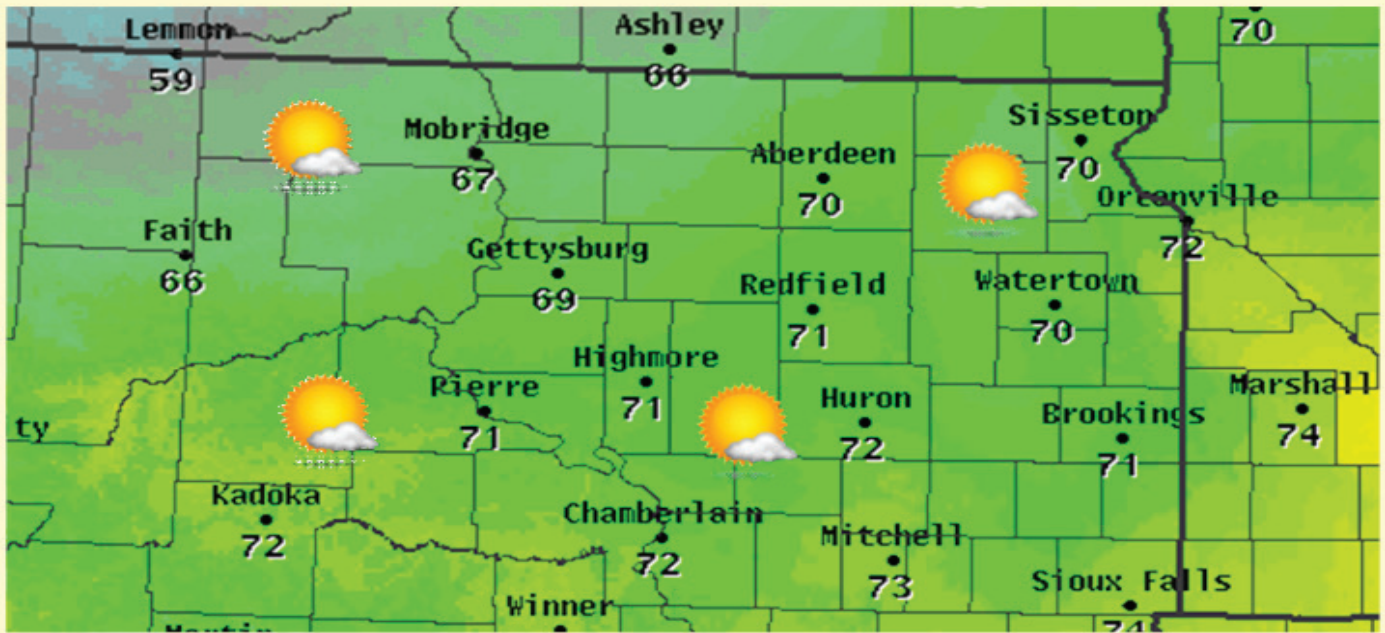
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TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY
						
Mostly Sunny High: 69 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 44 °F	Partly Sunny High: 70 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 51 °F	Partly Sunny High: 74 °F	Partly Cloudy Low: 57 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms High: 76 °F



Below Normal Temperatures Today



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD


weather.gov/Aberdeen

[National Weather Service Aberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/NWSAberdeen)

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)
Updated: 8/25/2014 5:44 AM Central

Cooler temperatures will spread across the region today with a west to northwest breeze. Highs will be well below normal for this time of year, with readings ranging from the mid 60s to low 70s across the forecast area. High pressure building into the region today will center itself over the Dakotas tonight, allowing for chilly temperatures in the 40s for northern areas by Tuesday morning.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 76.6°F at 4:56 PM

Low: 59.6°F at 11:25 PM

High Gust: 24 mph 11:30 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 101° in 1926

Record Low: 38° in 1896

Average High: 80°F

Average Low: 54°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.88

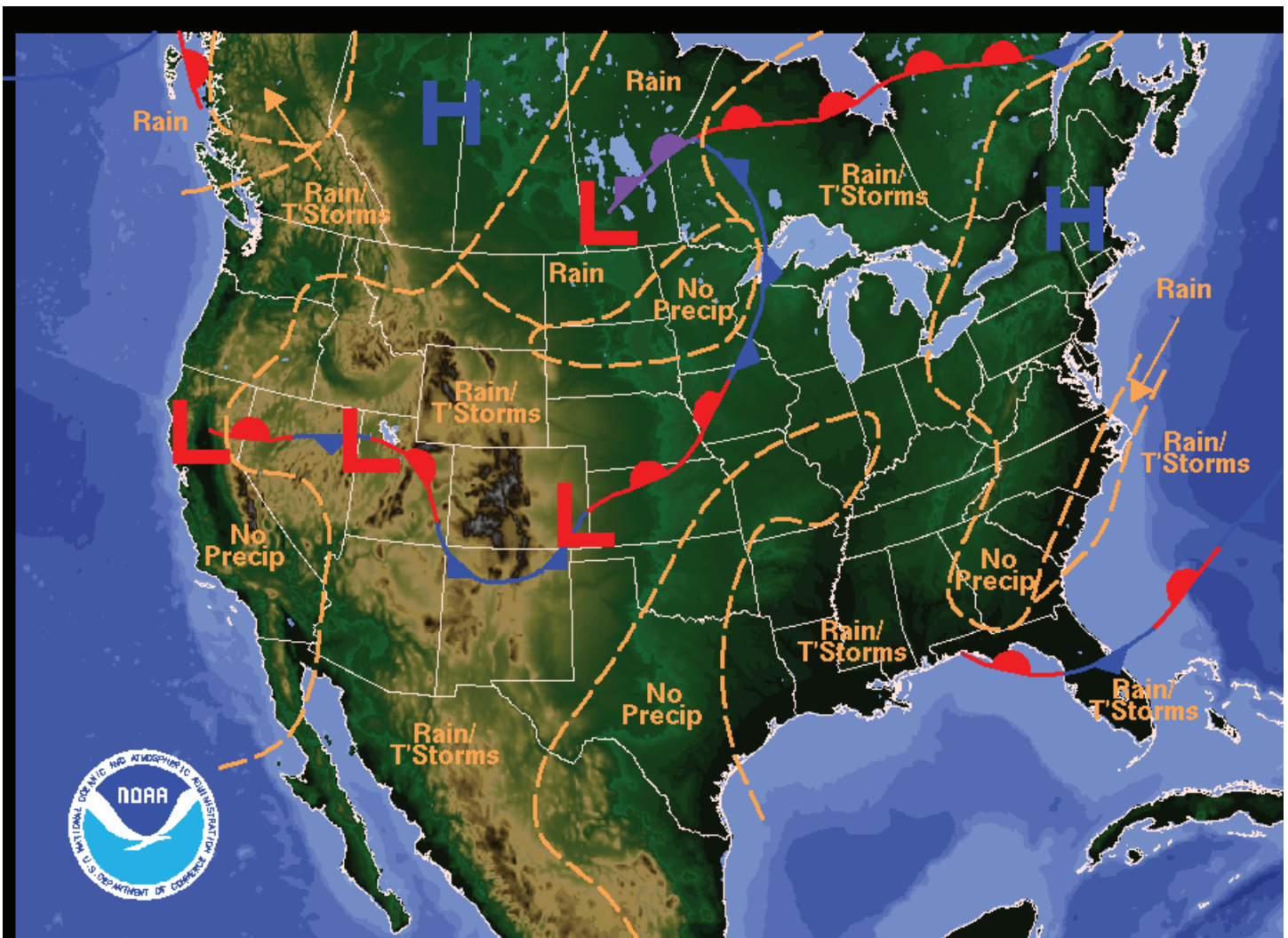
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.95

Average Precip to date: 15.74

Precip Year to Date: 11.93

Sunset Tonight: 8:24 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:48 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Aug 25, 2014, issued 3:19 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mc Reynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



DARK VALLEYS - DEATH'S SHADOW

It takes the darkness of the night to bring out the brilliance and beauty of the stars. When we face the fear of the unknown, however, we often find the grace of God. "Though I walk through," David said, "the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil because You are with me!"

We are all joyfully aware of God's presence when days are filled with sunshine and warmth. All of us, however, have at one time or another, entered into valleys that are filled with ill-defined shadows that we find frightening and foreboding. We look for a light to shine over the rim of the mountain to give us the assurance that there is hope. Yet it is because of those days of sunshine and warmth that David reminds us to remember that God is also with us when all is not well and the light that faithfully guided us fades.

There are times when our "valley" may take the form of suffering. When it does, we must not forget that Jesus also suffered and understands our times of suffering. And when we feel abandoned and alone we must not forget that those whom He spent three years training to be His disciples forsook Him. And when He was laid to rest it was in someone else's tomb.

Our Savior has walked through every "dark valley" that we will ever face. He understands our grief. Now, He is in heaven with His Father and when we go to Him in prayer with our needs, we have the assurance that He understands our needs. He was there before us.

Prayer: We are blest, Father, by Your presence and protection as we pass through life's dark valleys. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

2 tornadoes touch down in northeast South Dakota

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Weekend storms spawned two tornadoes in northeastern South Dakota, one of which caused damage.

The National Weather Service says one tornado touched down Saturday evening about 7 miles west of Cresbard, but there were no reports of damage.

A second twister Saturday night touched down about 4 miles northeast of Ipswich and damaged several buildings at a farmstead.

The weather service says the rural Ipswich tornado has a preliminary rating of EF-1 on the enhanced Fujita scale. That's the second-weakest rating, with top wind speeds of 110 mph.

Dakotas endure weekend of storms, heavy rain

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A stormy weekend in the Dakotas led to flooding, power outages and damage to homes, cars and trees

A storm that blew through Sioux Falls early Sunday uprooted trees, some of which hit vehicles and homes. Trees also took out electrical lines, knocking out power to about 5,200 people for several hours.

The National Weather Service reports that rainfall Sunday set records for the date at both recording stations in Grand Forks. The previous records had stood for more than three decades.

The heavy weekend rain resulted in the cancellation of a soccer game in Grand Forks between the University of North Dakota and South Dakota State. It also disrupted other events, including a downtown Minot festival and the postponing of an outdoor concert in Medora by Kat Perkins.

Mickelson Trail Trek deadline approaching

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The deadline to sign up for the three-day, 109-mile Mickelson Trail Trek is Sept. 1 and there are still spots available for bicyclists.

The ride over the weekend of Sept. 19-21 runs from Edgemont to Lead-Deadwood.

It began as a celebration of the completion of the rails-to-trails project and continues as a way to introduce new riders to the trail.

The \$180 registration fee includes the trail pass, shuttle service, refreshments and some meals. Riders are responsible for accommodations and mechanical support.

Wind Cave National Park preps for controlled burn

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, S.D. (AP) — Officials are preparing for a nearly 2,200-acre planned fire at Wind Cave National Park in southwest South Dakota.

The National Park Service says the burn scheduled for September will keep ponderosa pine trees from encroaching on the prairie land. Grass will carry the fire and about 50 firefighters will be on hand.

The burn area is located in the southwest corner of the park, west of Highway 385.

Smoke is expected to be heavy along the highway and visible in the surrounding region. The road may be temporarily closed for safety reasons.

The prescribed fire program began in 1972. Parts of the park are burned in a controlled setting every

year. The fire removes the buildup of dead brush that could fuel a wildfire and rejuvenates the prairie grasses.

Oglala Sioux leader Gerald One Feather dies

OGDALA, S.D. (AP) — Gerald One Feather, the legendary Oglala Sioux leader, former tribal president and tireless advocate for educational opportunities, has died. He was 76.

Longtime friend Tom Katus told The Associated Press that One Feather died Thursday at a Rapid City hospital. Katus said One Feather had a massive stroke while on dialysis in Pine Ridge before being taken to the hospital.

One Feather was born in 1938 on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, one of the poorest places in America, but rose to become a respected tribal leader in and outside of the reservation. He met with U.S. presidents, spoke on behalf of indigenous people before a United Nations group and helped Native Americans enter higher education.

"He was a visionary," Katus said. "But unlike a lot of folks who are visionaries and never accomplish anything, he was very pragmatic and accomplished a great deal."

One Feather was elected Oglala Lakota Tribal President in 1970, making him the youngest to hold that position in tribal history.

One Feather enrolled at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell in 1956. He left home with \$20 and became a linebacker on the football team to secure free room and board.

That fall, he was one of the drivers who took Democrat George McGovern around the state during his run for a U.S. House seat.

"On election eve, I drove McGovern to a television station in Sioux Falls where he made a final appeal ..." One Feather wrote a decade ago in a brief autobiography. "His door-to-door campaigning in virtually every town in South Dakota brought him through with a 'squeaker' win."

One Feather also wrote that he had three pillars in his life: spiritual, political and academic.

He spent years in tribal government before becoming president, and was heavily criticized during his tenure as tribal councilman for banning the sale of alcohol on the reservation.

"He was ridiculed by some who wanted alcohol to be legalized," One Feather's daughter, Sandra, told the Rapid City Journal. "But it's one of those things that were underlying, that people didn't talk about much publicly. You don't want to admit you're an alcoholic or that your people have that problem."

The ban remained in effect until residents voted to overturn it last August.

One Feather also was an advocate for education, helping start the Oglala Lakota College in Kyle, South Dakota, and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, based in Alexandria, Virginia.

Last year, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of Colorado-Boulder before a standing ovation of a crowd of 40,000.

One Feather also helped establish the National Tribal Chairman's Association with support from other tribal chairmen in the U.S. and Canada, as well as served as vice president of the National Congress of American Indians, the American Friends Service Committee and the South Dakota Indian Affairs Committee.

"I've worked for many presidential candidates ... (Walter) Mondale, (George) McGovern, (Michael) Dukakis, all relatively impressive people," Katus said. "None of them could touch Gerald."

Governor considering lawsuit to recover EB-5 money

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard is considering filing a lawsuit to recover \$550,000 meant to go to a beef plant involved in an investment-for-green-card program.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/1nq94Yj>) reports a private lawyer has been working for months to determine whether the state can reclaim the money.

The EB-5 visa program is under scrutiny in South Dakota because of allegations of financial misconduct at the Governor's Office of Economic Development. A state audit found that before Richard Benda left his job as head of economic development in 2010, he tacked on an extra \$550,000 to a grant to help the beef plant.

Attorney General Marty Jackley has said the same amount was improperly diverted to SDRC Inc., Benda's new employer and administrator of the EB-5 program. Benda died in October.

Man dies in two-vehicle crash in Pennington County

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A 91-year-old man is dead following a two-vehicle crash on South Dakota Highway 44 in Pennington County.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says Roman Kurylas of Rapid City died Saturday.

The Patrol says Kurylas was behind the wheel of a sports utility vehicle heading east on S.D. Highway 44 when he crossed the center line and entered the westbound lanes of traffic. Kurylas then crashed into the driver's side of a pickup truck pulling a trailer loaded with pea gravel.

Authorities say Kurylas wasn't wearing a seatbelt and died from injuries sustained in the crash.

The pickup was being driven by 44-year-old Donald Burkhard. The Rapid City man was traveling with a juvenile. Neither Burkhard nor his passenger was injured. Both were wearing seatbelts.

The Patrol is investigating the crash.

Authorities searching for missing inmate in Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement authorities in Pierre are searching for a missing inmate who failed to report to a work release job site Saturday.

The South Dakota Department of Corrections says 31-year-old Bridget Franzen is serving a 5-year sentence for possession of a controlled substance out of Pennington County.

Franzen is described as a white woman, standing 5 foot 7 inches tall and weighing about 180 pounds. She has brown hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information about Franzen's whereabouts is asked to contact law enforcement immediately.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. WHO ASKS FOR 'DAY OF SILENCE' TODAY

The father of Michael Brown, the black 18-year-old shot to death by a white police officer in Missouri, sends out a plea for peace as he lays his son to rest.

2. 6.0 CALIFORNIA QUAKE CAUSES INJURIES, POWER OUTAGES

The largest earthquake to hit the San Francisco Bay Area in 25 years sends scores of people to hos-

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pitals, sparks fires, damages historic buildings and knocks out power to thousands of homes and businesses.

3. U.S. JOURNALIST HELD BY AL-QAIDA-LINKED GROUP RELEASED

Peter Theo Curtis of Massachusetts is freed less than a week after the horrific beheading of American journalist James Foley by Islamic militants.

4. OBAMA RETURNS FROM VACATION TO NEW CRISES

The president, who spent 15 days in Martha's Vineyard, faces new challenges in Ukraine and Missouri, as well as the growing threat of Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria.

5. WHY ISRAEL'S LEADER TRIES TO LINK HAMAS, IRAQ EXTREMISTS

Israel's prime minister tries to capitalize on the gruesome video of an American journalist's beheading by the Islamic State extremist group, saying Hamas is an equally vicious foe.

6. E-CIGARETTES MAY BE LAST RESORT TO HELP SMOKERS QUIT

The American Heart Association wants tighter regulations on popular nicotine-vapor products but says they could help people stop smoking eventually.

7. HOW HOTELS ARE RAKING UP THE FEES

Guests are being charged for many services like early check-in, bed-type guarantee and even luggage storage.

8. WHAT THREATENS \$9B FLORIDA CITRUS INDUSTRY

Blame a mottled brown bug no bigger than a pencil eraser and a disease called "the yellow dragon."

9. PEDIATRICIANS: BACK TO SCHOOL BETTER WITH LATER START TIMES

The American Academy of Pediatrics says delaying classes till at least 8:30 a.m. would help curb lack of sleep for teens which is linked to poor grades, bad health and even car crashes.

10. BEYONCE DAZZLES AT THE MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS

The diva closed the show with a 20-minute performance in a night where Miley Cyrus, Katy Perry and Eminem took home trophies.

AP News in Brief

Magnitude-6.0 earthquake leaves many fumbling in dark, comes at bad time for Napa vintners

NAPA, Calif. (AP) — A powerful earthquake that struck the heart of California's wine country caught many people sound asleep, sending dressers, mirrors and pictures crashing down around them. Scores were injured as the temblor knocked out power to thousands, caused gas and water lines to rupture and sparked fires.

The magnitude 6.0-quake struck at 3:20 a.m. PDT Sunday near the city of Napa, an oasis of Victorian-era buildings nestled in the vineyard-studded hills of Northern California.

The fires also flared in a mobile home park where four homes were destroyed and two others were damaged, officials said.

By midday Sunday, the fires were out and power was starting to be restored, said Mark Ghilarducci, director of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

"While it was bad, it wasn't as bad as it could be and it was very manageable from a regional perspective," Ghilarducci said.

Sharpton seizes the moment, despite past setbacks: 'To The Rev, every day is a new day'

Stepping to the pulpit at Greater Grace Church — minutes from where a suburban St. Louis police officer shot and killed an unarmed black 18-year-old — the Rev. Al Sharpton wielded the fiery words that have marked his long, often notorious career.

"These parents are not going to cry alone," he preached to the crowd that packed the pews last Sunday in Ferguson, Missouri. "We have had enough!" But when Sharpton sat down days later with New York's mayor to discuss the response to a Staten Island man's death in a police officer's chokehold, he recalibrated his rhetoric. "We don't have to agree on everything, but we don't have to be disagreeable," Sharpton said, facing the city's police commissioner.

Plenty has been said in recent years about Sharpton's "reinvention," as he shed nearly 170 pounds, traded warmup outfits for tailored suits, took to the camera for a daily cable television show, and built relationships with the White House and New York's city hall. But to allies and critics who have watched him parachute into racially charged crises for more than three decades, recent weeks are just testament to Sharpton's unflagging ability to seize the moment, regardless of setbacks and no matter how the opening presents itself.

"He always seems to be in the right places and seems to be able to absorb and overcome some devastating blows," said the Rev. Herbert Daughtry, 84, who has known Sharpton since he was a boy preacher at Brooklyn's Washington Temple and has marched alongside him time and again. "I don't see that he's changed. The core of Rev. Sharpton is the same ... the root is the same, the substance is the same."

Sharpton returns to Ferguson on Monday to speak at the funeral for Michael Brown, following a weekend protest march in New York, cementing his place at the intersection of advocacy and controversy.

Heart group: E-cigarettes need tighter control but may be a 'last resort' to help smokers quit

The American Heart Association's first policy statement on electronic cigarettes backs them as a last resort to help smokers quit. The American Cancer Society has no formal policy but quietly took a similar stance in May.

Both groups express great concern about these popular nicotine-vapor products and urge more regulation, especially to keep them away from youth. They also stress that proven smoking cessation methods should always be tried first.

But if those fail, "it is reasonable to have a conversation" about e-cigarettes, said the Heart Association's president, Dr. Elliott Antman. The Cancer Society said e-cigarettes "may be a reasonable option" for people who could not quit after trying counseling and approved methods, such as nicotine patches.

Neither group recommends e-cigarettes for smoking cessation, and makers of the devices do not market them that way.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that vaporize nicotine. They've been sold in the U.S. since 2007 and now have millions of users worldwide and nearly \$2 billion in annual sales. They contain less toxic substances than traditional cigarettes do, but little is known about their health effects.

Hotels collecting record amounts in fees; they'll guarantee that king bed for \$30

NEW YORK (AP) — Forget bad weather, traffic jams and kids asking, "Are we there yet?" The real headache for many travelers is a quickly-growing list of hotel surcharges, even for items they never use.

Guaranteeing two queen beds or one king bed will cost you, as will checking in early or checking out late. Don't need the in-room safe? You're likely still paying. And the overpriced can of soda may be the least of your issues with the hotel minibar.

Vacationers are finding it harder to anticipate the true cost of their stay, especially because many of these charges vary from hotel to hotel, even within the same chain.

Coming out of the recession, the travel industry grew fee-happy. Car rental companies charged extra for services such as electronic toll collection devices and navigation systems. And airlines gained notoriety for adding fees for checking luggage, picking seats in advance, skipping lines at security and boarding early. Hotel surcharges predate the recession, but recently properties have been catching up to the rest of the industry.

"The airlines have done a really nice job of making hotel fees and surcharges seem reasonable," says Bjorn Hanson, a professor at New York University's hospitality school.

Obama juggling Islamic militants, Russian provocations and more upon return to capital

WASHINGTON (AP) — While in office, former President George H. W. Bush once plaintively asked, "What is it about August?"

Indeed, this sultry month usually associated with the doldrums of summer has burdened modern presidents with personal, domestic or international crises. And for President Barack Obama, who returned to Washington Sunday from a two-week Martha's Vineyard vacation, what remains of the August calendar looks perhaps more daunting than when he left.

Islamic militants personalized their fight in Iraq and Syria by executing American journalist James Foley. Russia escalated tensions in Europe by moving artillery and troops on the Ukrainian border and pushing a convoy into the former Soviet republic without Kiev's approval. And a Chinese fighter jet provocatively buzzed a Navy plane in international air space.

His arrival back in the nation's capital came with one positive note — Sunday's release of an American freelance journalist who had been held hostage by al-Qaida affiliates in Syria.

Still, Obama faces his own self-imposed end-of-summer deadline for how to sidestep Congress on changes to U.S. immigration policies. And while racial tensions in Ferguson, Missouri, over the police killing of an unarmed young black man have subsided, the St. Louis suburb remains under the White House's wary gaze. Amid all that, he'll give a speech to the American Legion in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Tuesday and raise money for Democrats in New York and Rhode Island on Friday.

American freelance journalist held in Syria for nearly 2 years by Nusra Front now free

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the U.S. mourned an American journalist executed by Islamic militants, the nation found something of a reprieve with the release of another freelance reporter who had been held

hostage for nearly two years by an al-Qaida-linked group in Syria.

Peter Theo Curtis, who wrote under the byline Theo Padnos, was freed Sunday, offering consolation to U.S. officials, a journalism community and family members deeply unnerved by the grisly video of James Foley's beheading in a desolate desert landscape.

Curtis' release appeared to have been aided by the oil-rich nation of Qatar, which said Sunday that it had "exerted relentless efforts" to win the American's freedom. Qatar is a leading supporter of the Syrian rebels fighting to oust President Bashar Assad and has been involved in mediating past hostage releases.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Curtis had been held by Jabhat al-Nusra, also known as the Nusra Front, an al-Qaida-linked militant group fighting Assad's government.

Curtis was not believed to be among the hostages held by the Islamic State group that executed Foley. Islamic State was formally disavowed by al-Qaida earlier this year after being deemed too brutal.

Israeli premier tries to link Hamas to extremist Islamic State group amid world outrage

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's prime minister is trying to capitalize on the gruesome video of an American journalist's beheading by the Islamic State extremist group, saying Hamas is an equally vicious foe as he tries to rally international support in Israel's war in the Gaza Strip. But the comparisons between Hamas and Islamic State are being met with reservations by Israel's allies and enemies alike.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu always has prided himself on his ability to attract media attention. Netanyahu, who grew up in the U.S. and speaks fluent English, often uses catchy quips, props or visual aids in public speeches or briefings to journalists.

A day after the Islamic State group, also known as ISIS, posted the video of journalist James Foley's killing, Netanyahu debuted his latest catchphrase: "Hamas is ISIS. ISIS is Hamas." He voiced the slogan at a news conference, on Twitter and even at his weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday.

As Israel's military campaign against Hamas in Gaza nears its eighth week, Netanyahu is fighting an uphill battle for international support. While the international community generally supports Israel's right to defend itself against indiscriminate rocket fire, the world has grown increasingly uncomfortable with the scenes coming out of Gaza.

Hundreds of Israeli airstrikes, along with tank and artillery fire, have killed more than 2,100 people and caused widespread destruction. U.N. and Palestinian officials say most of the dead have been civilians, including some 500 children.

Egypt's top Islamic authority, revered worldwide, says extremist group not an 'Islamic State'

CAIRO (AP) — The top Islamic authority in Egypt, revered by many Muslims worldwide, launched an Internet-based campaign Sunday challenging an extremist group in Syria and Iraq by saying it should not be called an "Islamic State."

The campaign by the Dar el-Ifta, the top authority that advises Muslims on spiritual and life issues, adds to the war of words by Muslim leaders across the world targeting the Islamic State group, which controls wide swaths of Iraq and Syria. Its violent attacks, including mass shootings, destroying Shiite shrines, targeting minorities and beheadings including American journalist James Foley, have shocked Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

The Grand Mufti of Egypt, Shawki Allam, previously said the extremists violate all Islamic principles and laws and described the group as a danger to Islam as a whole. Now, the Dar el-Ifta he oversees will suggest foreign media drop using "Islamic State" in favor of the "al-Qaida Separatists in Iraq and Syria," or the acronym "QSI," said Ibrahim Negm, an adviser to the mufti.

This is part of a campaign that "aims to correct the image of Islam that has been tarnished in the West because of these criminal acts, and to exonerate humanity from such crimes that defy natural instincts and spreads hate between people," Negm said according to Egypt's state news agency MENA. "We also want to reaffirm that all Muslims are against these practices which violate the tolerant principles of Islam."

Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi also weighed in. On Sunday, speaking to editors of Egyptian newspapers, he said the extremist group is part of a plot aiming to "undermine Islam as a belief."

Do bamboo caterpillars and grasshoppers have a future on dining room tables?

THANON NANG KLARN, Thailand (AP) — Depending solely on the rains to either yield a good rice crop or leave their fields dry and barren, farmers in this village in northeastern Thailand, the country's poorest region, led a precarious and back-breaking existence. Then they discovered bugs.

At Boontham Puthachat's home, six concrete pens seethe with crickets munching on chicken feed, pumpkins and other vegetables — treats to fatten them up before they are harvested and sold to hungry humans increasingly eager for a different type of dining experience.

"We haven't become rich, but now we have enough to better take care of our families," Boontham says proudly. "We are self-sufficient."

Boontham's family is one of 30 in this village raising mounds of the profitable crisp and crunchy critters in their backyards, satisfying a big domestic appetite for edible insects, and a slowly emerging international one in countries where most diners would rather starve than sample fried grasshoppers or omelets studded with red ant eggs.

Replicated across the country, these enterprises have spawned a multimillion-dollar industry with more than 20,000 registered farms, most of them small-scale household operations, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. Averaging an annual output of 7,500 tons in recent years, Thailand leads the world in producing insects for the dining table.

BACK TO SCHOOL: Pediatricians push for later start times for teens to curb lack of sleep

CHICAGO (AP) — Pediatricians have a new prescription for schools: later start times for teens.

Delaying the start of the school day until at least 8:30 a.m. would help curb their lack of sleep, which has been linked with poor health, bad grades, car crashes and other problems, the American Academy of Pediatrics says in a new policy.

The influential group says teens are especially at risk; for them, "chronic sleep loss has increasingly become the norm."

Studies have found that most U.S. students in middle school and high school don't get the recommended amount of sleep — 8½ to 9½ hours on school nights; and that most high school seniors get an average of less than seven hours.

More than 40 percent of the nation's public high schools start classes before 8 a.m., according to gov-

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ernment data cited in the policy. And even when the buzzer rings at 8 a.m., school bus pickup times typically mean kids have to get up before dawn if they want that ride.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Monday, August 25, the 237th day of 2014. There are 128 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On August 25, 1944, during World War II, Paris was liberated by Allied forces after four years of Nazi occupation. Romania declared war on former ally Germany.

On this date:

In 1718, hundreds of French colonists arrived in Louisiana, with some settling in present-day New Orleans.

In 1825, Uruguay declared independence from Brazil.

In 1916, the National Park Service was established within the Department of the Interior.

In 1921, the United States signed a peace treaty with Germany.

In 1943, U.S.-led Allied troops liberated New Georgia in the Solomon Islands from Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure providing pensions for former U.S. presidents and their widows.

In 1960, opening ceremonies were held for the Summer Olympics in Rome.

In 1967, George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of the American Nazi Party, was shot to death in the parking lot of a shopping center in Arlington, Virginia; former party member John Patler was later convicted of the killing.

In 1980, the Broadway musical "42nd Street" opened. (Producer David Merrick stunned the cast and audience during the curtain call by announcing that the show's director, Gower Champion, had died earlier that day.)

In 1981, the U.S. spacecraft Voyager 2 came within 63,000 miles of Saturn's cloud cover, sending back pictures of and data about the ringed planet.

In 1984, author Truman Capote was found dead in a Los Angeles mansion; he was 59.

In 1989, Voyager 2 made its closest approach to Neptune, its final planetary target.

Ten years ago: An Army investigation found that 27 people attached to an intelligence unit at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad either approved or participated in the abuse of Iraqi prisoners. David Hicks, an Australian cowboy who'd converted to Islam and allegedly fought for the Taliban in Afghanistan, went before a U.S. military commission at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base and pleaded not guilty to war crimes charges. (Hicks pleaded guilty in March 2007 to providing material support for terrorism, a deal which got him out of the U.S. base in Cuba, and he was freed by the end of that year.)

Five years ago: Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the liberal lion of the U.S. Senate, died at age 77 in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, after a battle with a brain tumor. President Barack Obama announced he wanted to keep Ben Bernanke on as Fed chairman. South Korea's first rocket, the Naro-1, blasted off into space but ended up falling back to Earth. A judge in Los Angeles sentenced Chris Brown to five years' probation and six months' community labor for beating his girlfriend Rihanna.

One year ago: Syria agreed to a U.N. investigation into an alleged chemical weapons attack outside Damascus - a deal a senior White House official dismissed as "too late to be credible," saying the United States had "very little doubt" President Bashar Assad's forces used such weapons. Tokyo beat Chula

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Vista, California, 6-4 to win the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Sixteen-year-old New Zealander Lydia Ko succeeded in defending her title at the Canadian Women's Open with a five-stroke victory over Karine Icher.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Monty Hall is 93. Actor Sean Connery is 84. Actor Page Johnson is 84. TV personality Regis Philbin is 83. Actor Tom Skerritt is 81. Jazz musician Wayne Shorter is 81. Movie director Hugh Hudson is 78. Author Frederick Forsyth is 76. Actor David Canary is 76. Movie director John Badham is 75. Filmmaker Marshall Brickman is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer Walter Williams (The O'Jays) is 72. Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal is 72. Actor Anthony Heald is 70. Rock musician Danny Smythe is 66. Rock singer-actor Gene Simmons is 65. Actor John Savage is 65. Country singer-musician Henry Paul (Outlaws; Blackhawk) is 65. Rock singer Rob Halford is 63. Rock musician Geoff Downes (Asia) is 62. Rock singer Elvis Costello is 60. Movie director Tim Burton is 56. Actor Christian LeBlanc is 56. Actress Ashley Crow is 54. Actress Ally Walker is 53. Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus is 53. Actress Joanne Whalley is 53. Rock musician Vivian Campbell (Def Leppard) is 52. Actor Blair Underwood is 50. Actor Robert Maschio is 48. Rap DJ Terminator X (Public Enemy) is 48. Alternative country singer Jeff Tweedy (Wilco) is 47. Actor David Alan Basche (BAYSH) is 46. Television chef Rachael Ray is 46. Actor Cameron Mathison is 45. Country singer Jo Dee Messina is 44. Model Claudia Schiffer is 44. Country singer Brice Long is 43. Actor Eric Millegan is 40. Actor Jonathan Togo is 37. Actor Kel Mitchell is 36. Actress Rachel Bilson is 33. Actress Blake Lively is 27. Actor Josh Flitter is 20.

Thought for Today: "Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor." - Truman Capote (1924-1984).