

Groton Daily Independent

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Friday, Aug. 29

Senior Menu: Sloppy Joe on Wheat Bun, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Crunchy Cranberry Salad

Birthdays: • Chuck Padfield • Kristi Thurston • William Zoellner • Jody Bull • Terry Leonhardt • Felicia Ethridge • Tonica Larson • Shawn McDonald
6:30am: Christian Missionary & Alliance Men's Bible Study at Dairy Queen
7:00pm: Football at Parkston

Saturday, Aug. 30

Birthdays: Nathan Atherton • Rachel Zaudtke • Ashley Gibbs • Troy Zoellner • Emma Jo Schinkel
1:00pm: Girls Soccer hosts Pierre
3:00pm: Girls JV 1/2 game
4:00pm: Boys Soccer hosts Pierre
6:00pm: Boys JV to follow varsity game
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, Aug. 31

Anniv: Jamie & Vicki Rossow
Birthdays: Allison Sippel • Katelyn Hawkins • Bruce Merkel • Virginia Meister • Jeff Hendrickson • McKensy Sheridan • Tena Lund
9:00am: Emmanuel Worship
9:00am: SEAS Mass
9:00am: St. John's Worship
9:15am: C&MA Sunday School
10:00am: Presbyterian Worship
10:00am: Bethlehem worship
10:45am: C&MA Worship
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
5:00pm: Worship at Trinity Historic Church

TITAN 

MACHINERY

Justin Hanson, Field Marketer
justin.hanson@titanmachinery.com
605-380-1120

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

High school event survey criticized by Rapid City mayor

By Dana Hess

For S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE – A statewide survey dealing with attitudes about high school tournaments had a sinister agenda according to the mayor of South Dakota's second-largest city.

Rapid City Mayor Sam Kooiker told the South Dakota High School Activities Association board of directors Thursday that its survey was an "overt effort to take all of the tournaments and put them in Sioux Falls."

The board had just finished listening to a presentation by representatives of Lawrence and Schiller, the firm that conducted the survey.

Throughout Lawrence and Schiller's analysis of the survey responses, Sioux Falls was a top response when questions were asked about the best communities for hosting high school tournaments and events.

As an example, data from student answers was broken out separately with 43 percent saying their top choice for a tournament location was Sioux Falls.

"A lot of these kids don't know what they want at that age," said Kooiker, who expressed dismay when he learned that the survey was underwritten by Sanford Health and Premier Bank, which are both headquartered in Sioux Falls.

The board took no action on the survey and its members did not respond to Kooiker's comments.

While Sioux Falls was consistently a top venue choice in the survey, a majority of respondents said that tournament sites should rotate each year.

Mark Glissendorf, senior vice president at Lawrence and Schiller, said the response rate was a surprise with more than 5,000 completed surveys. He explained that in order to be statistically valid, a survey in a state the size of South Dakota needs just 400 responses.

"I have a high degree of confidence that we understand the public opinion that's out there," Glissendorf said.

That public opinion was summed up by two separate groups of respondents, students and fans. Responses from 531 students about what was important to them generally leaned toward having the best possible experience with high marks given to good facilities and plenty of seating and parking. They emphasized tradition, memories and the thrill of travel.

For fans, the top concerns were hotel capacity and the availability of restaurants and activities between events. Their responses favored putting on events that provided a good experience for students and being warmly welcomed in the host community.

The survey presentation will be made available on the association website at www.sdhsaa.com.

Activities association starts new foundation

By Dana Hess

For S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE – High school activities will have a new fund-raising organization with the formation of the South Dakota High School Activities Association Foundation.

At its meeting Thursday, the SDHSAA board of directors appointed five men to form the foundation's first board.

Separate from the regular board, the foundation board will set its own agenda and develop its own

mission statement according to SDHSAA Executive Director Wayne Carney.

Appointed to the board were:

–Bradley Olson, an administrator at Aberdeen Surgical Associates and a former mayor of Yankton. Olson will chair the foundation board at Carney's request. Carney said Olson, a former SDHSAA board member, was chosen because of his familiarity with foundations.

–Dave Stevens, a retired financial services executive from Mitchell. Carney said Stevens was chosen for his financial expertise and background as a sports official, teacher and coach.

–Kelly Glodt, superintendent of Pierre School District. According to Carney, Glodt brings to the board his background as a school administrator and his familiarity with the Pierre Educational Foundation.

–Miles K. Beacom, president and chief executive officer of Premier Bankcard in Sioux Falls. Carney cited Beacom's work on three foundations as well as his financial background.

–Dean Wink, a rancher from Meade County. Carney said Wink's agricultural background and West River location would be valuable to the board. Wink also serves in the South Dakota Legislature.

School superintendents appointed to tournament site selection committee

By Dana Hess

For S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE – Three school superintendents have been appointed to help guide the selection of sites for high school tournaments and events.

The superintendents, all members of the South Dakota High School Activities Association's board of directors, will join five athletic directors previously appointed to the committee.

Appointed to the committee at the SDHSAA board meeting Thursday were Roger Bordeaux, superintendent at Todd County School District in Mission; Linda Whitney, superintendent at Sanborn School District in Forestburg; and Rick Weber, superintendent at Flandreau School District.

As the chairman of the SDHSAA board, Weber made the appointments.

The superintendents will join athletic directors Mark Meile of Sioux Falls, Darren Paulson of Rapid City, Gene Brownell of Aberdeen, Terry Rotert of Huron and Randy Marso of Brandon Valley.

Athletic directors serve as event coordinators for state tournaments. The five athletic directors on the site selection committee represent the five communities that host the most SDHSAA-sanctioned events.

Weber said the rationale he used for making the superintendent appointments was largely based on geography as he is in the eastern part of the state, Whitney is near the middle and Bordeaux is located in West River.

Weber had previously said he would try to balance the athletic directors from large schools with board members from smaller districts.

The site selection committee will meet twice a year with its first meeting prior to Oct. 1. The committee will make its recommendations to the board at its April meeting.

The committee's work will start with the 2018-2019 school year as tournament and event sites have already been booked up to that point.

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Notice

Sugar Babes/Sweet Sensations dance groups registration is Wednesday, Sept. 3, at the Groton Community Center from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Instructor Gwen Briscoe from Aberdeen ARCC will be offering a sixth, seventh and eighth grade dance team new this year! Call Gwen at 605/290-0410 or Kim at 605/380-7148 for more information.

Silver Skates Registration

Registration for the 2015 Carnival of Silver Skates will be on Sunday, September 7th from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM, and again on Monday, September 8th from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM at the Warming House in Groton. Be looking for your registration form coming to you via email and through the school as well. If you are going to be a participant in the Carnival, you MUST attend one of these registration dates to be measured for your costume. Thank you!!

Brotherton Thank You

I wish to send my heartfelt thank you to all of my friends for their cards, calls, and best wishes. I was delighted to visit with so many of you at my farewell party. I especially want to thank and bless my bridge playing friends for the many hours of playing cards, visiting, and enjoying each other's company. As I prepare to say "good bye" to Groton, I assure all of you that I will cherish these memories forever.

**Thank you and God bless,
Clare Brotherton**

Help Wanted

Wheatcrest Hills - New Wage Scale - is hiring for PT and FT CNA positions. We are looking for caring compassionate individuals to join our team. CNA certification training class to start September 15 and we have benefit packages available. Please stop in for application or contact Kristin at 605/448-2251. (0826.0902)

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.

Service Notice: Drucilla Hinrichs

Services for Drucilla "Dewey" Hinrichs, 86, of Claremont will be 11 a.m., Tuesday, September 2 at the United Methodist Church, Claremont. Pastor Gwen Mader will officiate. Burial will follow in Huffton Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel from 5-7 pm on Monday with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Dewey died August 27, 2014 at Wheatcrest Hills in Britton.

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING/ OPEN HOUSE**

Project P 0037(129)207; PCN 039K; BROWN COUNTY

SD37 from Aspen Avenue to US12 in Groton

Grading, Storm Sewer, Curb & Gutter, Sidewalk, Roadway Lighting, AC Surfacing

Date: September 4, 2014

Time: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. CDT

Place: Groton Community Center
109 N. 3rd Street
Groton, SD 57445

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) will hold an open house style public meeting to discuss and receive public input on the above project. The open house will be informal, with one on one discussion with SDDOT design staff.

A presentation will take place shortly after 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, SDDOT staff will be available with displays to discuss the proposed project and answer your questions. During this time, you will also have the opportunity to present written comments.

Information will be available on the acquisition of right-of-way and relocation assistance. This project is being developed in compliance with state and federal environmental regulations.

Notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that this public meeting is being held in a physically accessible place. Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting should submit a request to the department's ADA Coordinator at 605-773-3540 or 1-800-877-1113 (Telecommunication Relay Services for the Deaf). Please request the accommodations no later than **2 business days prior to the meeting** in order to ensure accommodations are available.

All persons interested in this project are invited to attend this meeting to share your views and concerns any time between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

For further information regarding this project, contact Mark Leiferman, Chief Roadway Design Engineer at (605) 773-3433.

Information presented at the Public Meeting/Open House will be posted on the SDDOT web site after the meeting at <http://sddot.com/dot/publicmeetings/default.aspx>.

Notice published twice at a cost of \$ _____.

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Today in Weather History

1983: Funnel clouds were reported just east of Lake City, and near Langford and Veblen in Marshall County. In Veblen, a pole barn was blown over and shingles torn off. A coal shed was destroyed, a semi trailer was blown over, and two grain augers were damaged due to high winds.

1993: A severe thunderstorm hit Groton with hail, damaging lightning, and 3.43 inches of rain which flooded some basements. At the high school, lightning spit a 30 foot chimney which fell through a large skylight and sections of the roof.

1962 - Hackberry, LA, was deluged with twenty-two inches of rain in 24 hours, establishing a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - A national record for the month of August was established when 2.5 inches of snow fell atop Mount Washington NH. Temperatures in New England dipped to 39 degrees at Nantucket MA, and to 25 degrees in Vermont. For many location it was the earliest freeze of record. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Some of the most powerful thunderstorms in several years developed over the piedmont of North Carolina, and marched across central sections of the state during the late afternoon and evening hours. Baseball size hail was reported around Albemarle, while thunderstorm winds downed giant trees around High Falls. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Cool air invaded the north central U.S. Ten cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Bismarck ND with a reading of 33 degrees. Deerfield, a small town in the Black Hills of South Dakota, reported a low of 23 degrees. The remnants of Tropical Storm Chris drenched eastern Pennsylvania with up to five and a half inches of rain, and produced high winds which gusted to 90 mph, severely damaging a hundred boats in Anne Arundel County MD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Evening thunderstorms produced destructive lightning in West Virginia. The lightning caused widespread damage, particularly in Doddridge County. Numerous trees were downed closing many roads. Fire companies had a difficult time tending to the many homes and trailers on fire. Anchorage AK reported a record 9.60 inches of rain for the month of August. The average annual precipitation

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

Reduced to \$569,000



403 E. 15th Ave.

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

**JOHNSON
AGENCY**

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main, Groton

Office: 605/397-2424

Home: 605/397-8565



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for Anchorage is just slightly more than fifteen inches. Three day rainfall totals in northwest Missouri ranged up to 8.20 inches at Maryville. (The National Weather Summary)

1994: Hurricane John, also known as Typhoon John, lasted 30 days as it affected both the northeast and northwest Pacific basins making it the longest lasting tropical cyclone. It formed in the northeast Pacific, reached hurricane force there, moved across the dateline and was renamed Typhoon John, and then finally recurved back across the dateline and renamed Hurricane John again.

2005 - Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Plaquemines Parish in southeastern Louisiana early on the 29th with maximum sustained winds near 125 mph, a strong category-three, and the third most-intense landfalling hurricane in U.S. history. The center of the hurricane passed just east of New Orleans, where winds gusted over 100 mph. Widespread devastation and unprecedented flooding occurred, submerging at least 80 percent of the city as levees failed. Farther east, powerful winds and a devastating storm surge of 20-30 feet raked the Mississippi coastline, including Gulfport and Biloxi, where Gulf of Mexico floodwaters spread several miles inland. Rainfall amounts of 8-10 inches were common along and to the east of the storm's path. Katrina weakened to a tropical storm as it tracked northward through Mississippi and gradually lost its identity as it moved into the Tennessee Valley on the 30th.

FRIDAY IS
FRIED CHICKEN DAY

Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Serving 5-9 p.m.

ANDOVER
BAR & GRILL

WE'VE GOT WINGS!
Every Wednesday!

120 S Main St. • 298-5252

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TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	LABOR DAY
						
20%	30%		40%	40%	20%	
Isolated Thunderstorms High: 78 °F	Chance Thunderstorms Low: 57 °F	Patchy Fog High: 78 °F	Chance Thunderstorms Low: 64 °F	Chance Thunderstorms High: 75 °F	Slight Chc Thunderstorms Low: 55 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 75 °F

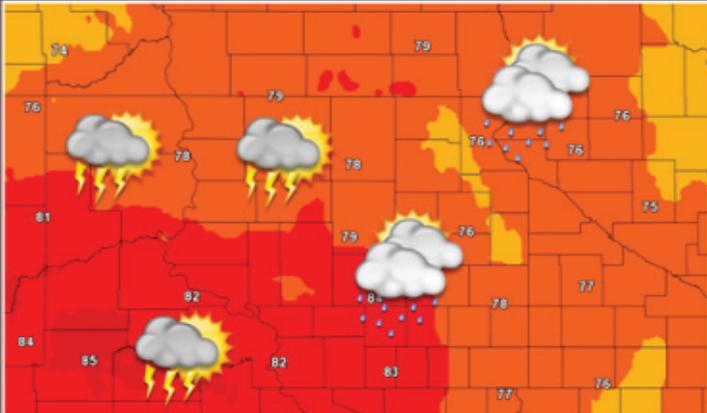


SHOWERS & CLOUDS LINGER EAST – CLEARING WEST

Weak Showers/Storms Return This Afternoon & Evening

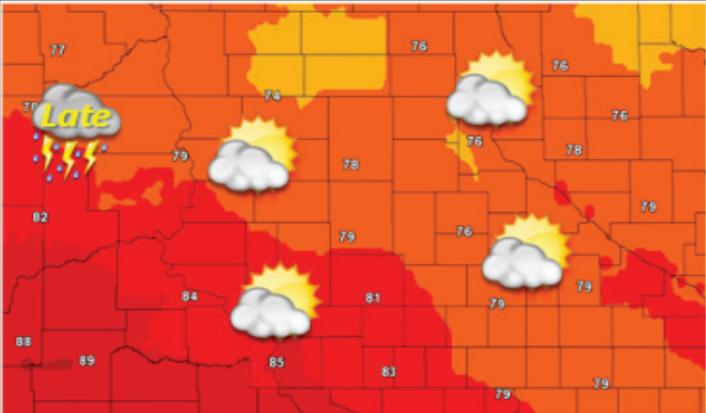


High Temperatures Today



Valid ending Friday August 29th, 2014 at 7 PM CDT
Created Friday August 29th, 2014 at 5:07 AM CDT

High Temperatures Saturday



Valid ending Saturday August 30th, 2014 at 7 PM CDT
Created Friday August 29th, 2014 at 5:08 AM CDT

20% - 30% Chance For Storms

A More Robust Weather System Saturday Night & Sunday

Strong Storms May Develop With This System

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD


weather.gov/Aberdeen

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

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)
Updated: 8/29/2014 5:22 AM Central

One weak system is slow to depart, and will be followed by another wave. This, along with plenty of moisture, will keep the atmosphere unsettled today. A more robust system will move into the region late Saturday into Sunday. This system will bring a better chance for storms, with the potential for some of these to be severe.

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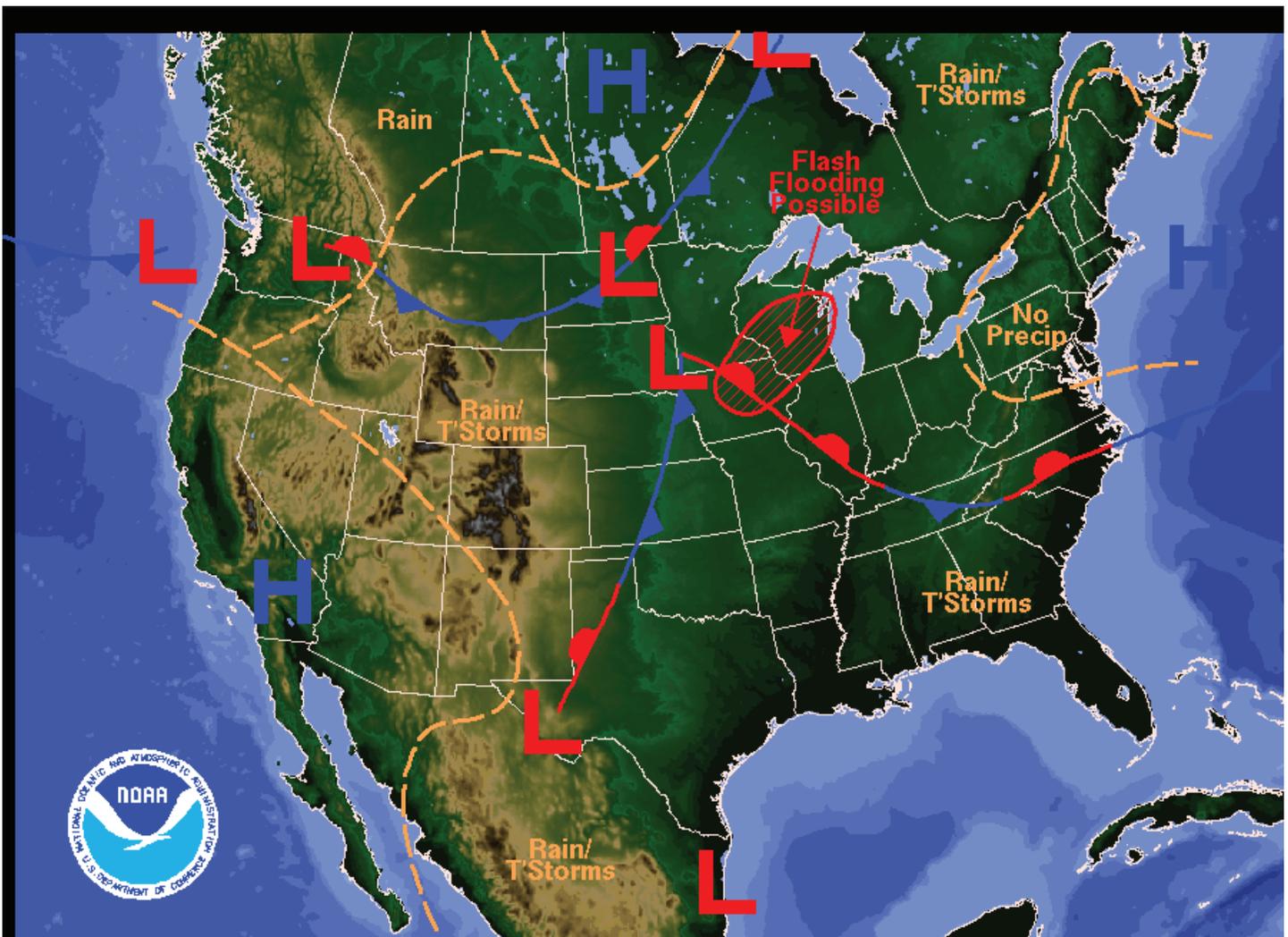
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 72.5°F at 12:27 PM
Low: 63.7°F at 1:26 AM
High Gust: 11 mph 10:17 AM
Precip: 0.28

Today's Info

Record High: 100° in 1961
Record Low: 30° in 1893
Average High: 79°F
Average Low: 53°F
Average Precip in Aug.: 2.19
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.95
Average Precip to date: 16.05
Precip Year to Date: 11.93
Sunset Tonight: 8:17 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:53 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Aug 29, 2014, issued 2:40 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mc Reynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



FENCED IN?

Years ago, one of the most popular songs was, "Don't Fence Me In!" Its catchy tune and words captured the minds of many and people sang the refrain over and over.

A psychologist became interested in its popularity and decided to conduct a research project to discover why it was so popular.

His conclusion? Everyone feels as though they are fenced in by one thing or another whether it's a job or a mortgage, unpaid credit cards or the responsibilities of life in general. Life has a way of "building walls around us."

There is the wall of fear. Life is so unpredictable and uncertain. A job or a loved one or our health can be taken from us in a moment and suddenly what was a shield of security is gone.

There is the wall of failure. Many find themselves behind this wall because of bad advice or poor planning or following the path of least resistance. But failure is not a disgrace - not doing our very best is!

There is the wall of forsaking truth. Often we do not want to admit what is so we make up what isn't and get trapped. One lie always calls for another until the wall is so far above us it blocks the light of truth.

But we find Good News in the Bible! There is God's strength to scale these walls and other walls we build ourselves or that rise up before us in life.

"With my God I can scale a wall," said the Psalmist. Whatever is before us can be put behind with God's help!

Prayer: Father, there are far too many walls in life to climb without You. Thank You for being our Ladder in life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 18:29 For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall.

News from the Associated Press

Counties to get trees grown in statehood project

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Trees growing in soil collected from all 66 counties will be delivered to sites across the state in the next two weeks, to help celebrate South Dakota's 125th anniversary of statehood this year.

The project dubbed "Grow: 66/125" was spearheaded by Plankinton teacher and artist Altman Studeny, who collected the soil from each county in June, mixed it together in 5-gallon buckets, and planted the bur oaks.

"Just as every county is uniquely itself, so is its soil," Studeny said. "But, only when all of those wonderful differences are combined can our state grow to be the type of forward-thinking environment that improves upon the dreams of the past to persevere long into the future."

The bur oak grows in each region of South Dakota and can live for centuries. A 50-foot-tall bur oak in Wessington Springs that is believed to be the state's oldest is thought to be almost 400 years old —long before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. It's a reminder that South Dakota's history began long before statehood, according to Studeny.

"The deeper one's roots, the more firmly does one stand when the gale winds blow," he said.

The trees have been on display in Pierre, along a walking path near the state Capitol. They will now be delivered to historic sites in each county, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said.

The trees could grow to full height in time for the state's bicentennial, 75 years from now.

South Dakota has been celebrating its quasiquicentennial all year, with events across the state. They will culminate with an event in Pierre on Nov. 2. President Benjamin Harrison on Nov. 2, 1889, signed the admission papers for both South Dakota and North Dakota. North Dakota became the 39th state and South Dakota the 40th.

Probation revoked for man accused in July beating

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Probation for a man charged in a brutal beating on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation has been revoked after authorities say he had contact with the victim on social media.

Ryan Thunderhawk, of Fort Yates, is charged in federal court with assault with intent to commit murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

Witnesses say the victim was knocked unconscious three separate times in the July 6 attack. The woman suffered a broken nose and several facial fractures.

Authorities say Thunderhawk violated two terms of his parole. Court documents show he admitted to sending messages to the victim on Facebook, and he was discovered with synthetic marijuana in his possession.

Thunderhawk was ordered to be held in jail. Trial is set for Oct. 28.

Thursday's Scores The Associated Press

VOLLEYBALL

Centerville def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-15, 25-9, 25-19

Chester def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-14, 25-15, 24-26, 25-23

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Colman-Egan def. Baltic, 25-17, 19-25, 25-16, 25-21
Dakota Valley def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-21, 26-24, 25-13
Douglas def. St. Thomas More, 25-21, 25-23, 25-22
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Sioux City, West, Iowa, 21-25, 25-13, 25-8, 25-21
Madison def. Flandreau, 25-16, 25-17, 25-10
Northwestern def. Leola/Frederick, 25-6, 25-17, 25-10
Scotland def. Irene-Wakonda, 15-25, 24-26, 25-15, 25-20, 15-11
Sioux Valley def. Deubrook, 25-20, 25-20, 25-9

Hanson Tournament

Semifinal

Andes Central def. Menno, 25-13, 25-13

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Howard, 2-0

Seventh Place: Howard def. Menno, 25-22, 25-18

Fifth Place: Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Andes Central, 28-26, 26-24

Third Place: Freeman Academy def. Marion, 25-18, 26-24

Championship: Hanson def. Ethan, 25-23, 25-12

Thune addresses grain shipment delays at SD forum

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Republican U.S. Sen. John Thune says he is doing everything he can to ensure that locomotives and railcars are available to move the abundant harvest that South Dakota farmers are expecting.

Thune hosted a public forum Thursday at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Thune says he's in contact with federal railroad regulators and the railroad companies operating in the state.

Farmers and some politicians believe the increased crude oil and freight shipments from North Dakota's oil country are largely the cause of shipping delays, which have created big backlogs at grain elevators and added costs for agriculture shippers.

Railroads say the brutally long winter caused issues.

Thune addressed some of President Barack Obama's domestic and foreign policies during the wide-ranging forum, saying the president's leadership is weak.

South Dakota Prep Polls

The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the first South Dakota Sportswriter's Association high school football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses and total points.

CLASS 11AAA

Rank-SchoolFPV TP

1. Sioux Falls Roosevelt (8) 40

2. Brandon Valley 27

3. Sioux Falls Lincoln 25

4. Sioux Falls O'Gorman 14

5. Sioux Falls Washington 9

Also receiving votes: Rapid City Central, Rapid City Stevens.

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CLASS 11AA

Rank-SchoolFPV	TP
1. Brookings (2)	31
2. Harrisburg (2)	28
3. Yankton (2)	27
4. Pierre (2)	26
T5. Mitchell	4
T5. Watertown	4

CLASS 11A

Rank-SchoolFPV	TP
1. West Central (7)	39
2. Dell Rapids	29
3. Madison (1)	19
4. Tea Area	17
5. Hot Springs	9

Also receiving votes: Belle Fourche, Dakota Valley, Vermillion.

CLASS 11B

Rank-SchoolFPV	TP
1. Parkston (6)	38
2. Winner (1)	26
3. St. Thomas More	25
4. Canton (1)	17
5. Aberdeen Roncalli	12

Also receiving votes: Tri-Valley.

CLASS 9AA

Rank-SchoolFPV	TP
1. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan (7)	39
2. Arlington	27
3. Gregory (1)	25
4. Deubrook Area	14
5. Clark-Willow Lake	5

Also receiving votes: Kimball-White Lake, Webster.

CLASS 9A

Rank-SchoolFPV	TP
1. Howard (5)	32
2. Wolsey-Wessington (2)	27
3. Potter County (1)	22
4. Alcester-Hudson	16
T5. Herreid-Selby Area	6
T5. Leola-Frederick	6

Also receiving votes: Hanson, Warner, Sully Buttes.

CLASS 9B

Rank-SchoolFPV TP

1. Avon (7) 39
2. Hamlin (1) 23
- T3. Harding County 21
- T3. Canistota 21
5. Faith 6

Also receiving votes: Faulkton Area, Dell Rapids St. Mary, Hitchcock-Tulare, Eureka-Bowdle, Wall.

South Dakota State-Missouri Preview Capsule

The Associated Press

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE (9-5) at No. 24 MISSOURI (12-2), 3:30 p.m. ET Saturday (ESPNU)

Line: No line.

Series Record: First meeting

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Moving on minus nine players who were in NFL camps this summer and lightly regarded in SEC once again, Missouri gets a warmup game. The defending SEC Eastern champions are picked to finish fourth. The Tigers are 13-0 against FCS competition, the last 10 under coach Gary Pinkel with an average score of 50.5-7.5. South Dakota State reached second round of FCS playoffs last year. The Jackrabbits are ranked 10th in the FCS coaches poll, picked to finish second in the Missouri Valley and playing up for the seventh straight year. They're 0-6 so far, losing 59-20 at Nebraska in 2013.

KEY MATCHUP

Missouri's unproven wide receivers against the South Dakota State secondary. The top three producers are gone, with Bud Sasser (26 catches) and Jimmie Hunt (22) the top returning targets for Maty Mauk, who was 3-1 as stand-in starter last season.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

South Dakota State: RB Zach Zenner has rushed for 2,000 yards in consecutive seasons. He's the second player in FCS to do that and needs 218 yards in senior season to become Missouri Valley career leader.

Missouri: TB Russell Hansbrough gets first starting shot after gaining 685 yards with 4 TDs as backup. DE Markus Golden had 61-2 sacks last season.

FACTS & FIGURES

Both schools tied school record for victories last year. Missouri won SEC Eastern Division and South Dakota State was second in Missouri Valley. ... South Dakota State coach John Stiegelmeier has 118 wins entering 18th season, two shy of the school career mark. ... Jackrabbits are 4-6 in openers since moving up from Division II to FCS in 2004. ... Pinkel has 102 wins, most in school history, entering 14th season.

Officials working to replace event center paneling

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Contractors at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls are going to try new techniques to install the center's metal paneling that they hope won't cause the exterior to bulge and ripple.

The city of Sioux Falls hired a design firm to look into the issue with the center's metal paneling in June. The flat horizontal metal panels are bulging where they join along the curved face of the building.

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Contractors will tear panels from two test areas and install new sheets of metal starting September 8. Officials say installing them will take up to a month.

All panels on the building will be replaced once a best method is determined.

The city borrowed \$115 million to build the facility that will host hockey, football, basketball, rodeos and concerts.

South Dakota-Oregon Capsule

The Associated Press

SOUTH DAKOTA (0-0) at No. 3 OREGON (0-0) 10:37 p.m. ET (Pac-12 Network)

Line: None.

Series Record: First Meeting

WHAT'S AT STAKE

The Ducks should have no trouble with the lower-division Coyotes of the Missouri Valley Football Conference. Oregon went 11-2 overall last season, with losses against Stanford and Arizona which cost them a shot at the Pac-12 title and a national championship bid. The Coyotes finished 4-8 overall and 3-5 in the MVFC. South Dakota is 1-6 over FBS opponents over the last five seasons.

KEY MATCHUP

Oregon's speedy offense against South Dakota's defense. Oregon averaged 565 yards total offense per game last season and had 49 touchdown drives that lasted two minutes or less last season. They'll go against a defense depleted by the loss of outside linebacker Tyler Starr, the MVFC Defensive player of the Year and South Dakota's all-time sack leader, who went to the Atlanta Falcons in this year's NFL draft.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

South Dakota: QB Kevin Earl, who started in the final eight games last season and finished with 1,920 yards passing with nine touchdowns via the pass and three rushing scores. His best game came against Northern Iowa, when he passed for 370 yards and three touchdowns in a 38-31 double overtime victory.

Oregon: QB Marcus Mariota, who opted to stay another season at Oregon, averaged nearly 282 yards passing per game and threw for 31 touchdowns with only four interceptions last season. He also rushed for 715 yards and nine scores. His 4,380 yards of total offense set a school record.

FACTS & FIGURES

The only other team from the MVFC that Oregon has faced is Missouri State in 2011, a game the Ducks won 56-7. ... The Coyotes' most recent victory against an FBS team came in 2010, when they beat Minnesota 41-38. ... South Dakota senior Josh Vander Maten started at quarterback for the first four games last season before he switched to wide receiver. For his career, he has 12 passing touchdowns, 10 rushing scored and two receiving TDs. ... The Ducks have won nine straight home openers, averaging 54.3 points per game.

Judge asked to toss statement in oil-patch slaying

MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A Montana judge will decide if a suspect's alleged confession to his involvement in the slaying of a woman jogging through her town in the Bakken oil patch should be suppressed because the defendant is mentally disabled.

District Judge Richard Simonton on Thursday scheduled an Oct. 1 hearing in Sidney in the case of

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25-year-old defendant Michael Keith Spell of Parachute, Colorado.

Spell is accused of killing 43-year-old Sherry Arnold during an attempted abduction. The high school teacher and mother of two disappeared while jogging in Sidney in January 2012. Her body was found more than two months later in North Dakota.

A second defendant, Lester Van Waters Jr., also of Parachute, has pleaded guilty to deliberate homicide by accountability in a deal with prosecutors. In a separate Thursday order, Simonton said Spell's defense team will be allowed to depose Waters in the lead-up to Spell's Nov. 17 trial.

Richland County prosecutors dropped their pursuit of the death penalty for Spell after experts testified he is mildly mental disabled.

Spell allegedly confessed to his involvement in the crime six days after Arnold disappeared, during an interrogation by FBI agents in the hours following his arrest by a SWAT team in South Dakota.

Prosecutors have said there is no reason to throw out Spell's statements because they were lawfully obtained.

But the defense says Spell was not mentally capable of waiving his rights to remain silent and have an attorney present for the FBI interview. Spell's attorneys want his statements — and any evidence obtained as a result — barred.

"Mr. Spell is young (22 years old at the time of the interrogation), intellectually disabled, and based on his two most recent IQ scores, he has the mental age of about 11," defense attorneys Al Avignone and Lisa Banick wrote. "Mr. Spell believed the FBI agents were his friends, and he was simply helping them solve the disappearance and murder of Mrs. Arnold."

The defense has not disputed that Spell was involved in the events leading up to Arnold's disappearance, but contends there's no definitive proof he killed her.

Spell told the agents he and Waters had arrived in Sidney looking for work in the Bakken oil fields along the Montana-North Dakota border, according to excerpts of Spell's interrogation cited by prosecutors. After smoking large amounts of crack cocaine, Waters said he wanted to kidnap and kill a woman.

After the first woman they hoped to target, at a public laundry, left before they could carry out their plan, Spell said the pair saw Arnold. Spell said he grabbed her and dragged her back to their vehicle, where Waters killed her, according to court documents.

Waters has implicated Spell as the killer.

Prosecutors said the FBI agents repeatedly sought to make sure Spell knew what was going on during his interrogation.

"Intellectual disability, while relevant, must be assessed in the totality of the circumstances," Deputy County Attorney T.R. Halvorson wrote. "Otherwise, we would be punishing the police simply because of the defendant's condition even though they have done nothing wrong."

An expert for the defense, Boise, Idaho-based clinical psychologist Craig Beaver, is expected to testify at the Oct. 1 hearing.

Allen's speed gives him an edge at WR for Oregon

ANNE M. PETERSON, AP Sports Writer

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — Devon Allen has quite a tale to tell about what he did over summer break.

In June, Allen won the NCAA championship in the 110-meter hurdles. Two months later, he's won a starter's job at receiver for the No. 3 Ducks.

Allen, a redshirt freshman, will start along with senior receiver Keanon Lowe when Oregon hosts South Dakota in the opener on Saturday night.

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"What I did over my summer vacation?" he laughed when posed the question in fall camp. "A lot of sports. I ran fast. I enjoyed myself. And I got to travel a little bit."

Allen's track talent ultimately helped him move up the depth chart. And that's saying a lot, because the Ducks are all about fast.

"He used his speed," Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota said. "He was able to beat his guy, his matchup, all fall camp. We're going to have to be able to use that guy. He's a special talent for us and he's going to make big plays for us."

His time of 13.16 seconds in the hurdles at the NCAA Championships set a meet record, besting Olympic gold medalist Aries Merritt's mark of 13.21 set in 2006 for Tennessee. Allen is the first freshman to win the national title in the event since San Jose State's Dedy Cooper in 1976.

He leaned in to finish two-hundredths of a second in front of USC senior Aleec Harris, then thrust his hands into the air in victory — prompting a standing ovation from the home crowd at Oregon's Hayward Field.

It was the fastest collegiate time since Renaldo Nehemiah set the NCAA record of 13.0 in 1979 while running for Maryland.

On top of that, Allen's victory in the event propelled the Ducks to the team's first national championship since 1984. Top-ranked Oregon finished with 88 points, 18 ahead of runner-up Florida.

At the time, Ducks track coach Robert Johnson was as surprised as everyone else at Allen's victory. All the Ducks needed at that point to win the team title was a point — which Allen would earn just by finishing.

"I say to myself as soon as the gun goes off, 'Just get through the hurdles. That one point will be our 24th point and I don't care what they do after that,'" Johnson said. "Then he passes me, I'm sitting at hurdle six, and he's probably in third. Then I look at the monitor and he's in second, and then he runs off that last hurdle better than most."

There were questions at receiver for the Ducks going into camp.

Josh Huff, who set an Oregon record with 1,140 yards receiving last season, graduated along with fellow receiver Daryle Hawkins. De'Anthony Thomas, who played at receiver and running back, left school a year early to go pro.

The Ducks were also hit when Bralon Addison was hurt in the spring. A timetable for Addison's return has not been set.

Allen competed with a group that included Lowe, as well as sophomores Dwayne Stanford and Chance Allen. Basketball player Jonathan Lloyd, who had an additional year of eligibility outside of hoops, was also in the mix.

In addition to Allen and Lowe, Stanford and Darren Carrington are listed as co-starters for the third receiver spot.

"It's the most depth we've had at receiver in a long time," offensive coordinator Scott Frost said. "Some of the talented guys we have are very young, so inevitably there might be a mistake or two, but they're really talented, too, so we're trying to bring them along as fast as we can."

Allen said his track experience as a true freshman helped him be ready for football. He got dinged up in fall camp last season and redshirted his first year in football.

"I know it's two different sports, but it gave me confidence to just compete," Allen said at media day. "People always think about these teams as big powerhouses. And they are just college students, just like me. It's the same way in track."

Wisconsin woman dies in crash near Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Wisconsin woman has died after crashing her motorcycle west of Rapid City earlier this month.

Sherri Wasielewski was from Hayward, Wisconsin. The 51-year-old Wasielewski was driving east on Nemo Road on Aug. 17 when she swiped a guard rail.

She was thrown from her motorcycle. She was not wearing a helmet.

Wasielewski was transported to a Rapid City hospital where she died this week.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the accident with help of the Pennington County Sheriff's Office.

Judge rules against Libertarian in ballot lawsuit

CARSON WALKER, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge ruled Thursday against the South Dakota Libertarian Party in an attempt to add its Public Utilities Commission candidate to the November general election ballot.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Piersol heard arguments and concluded Secretary of State Jason Gant followed state law last week in declaring Ryan Gaddy, of Sioux Falls, ineligible to run for the office because he didn't change his party affiliation from Republican in time to be nominated at the Libertarian convention.

"It seems to the court Secretary Gant had no alternative other than to deny the application," Piersol said.

He also deemed constitutional a state law requiring candidates to be members of the party that nominates them.

The ruling allows Gant to print ballots, which are required to be in county auditors' offices by Sept. 17, two days before absentee voting starts.

"It's unfortunate that his name won't be on the ballot," Gant said. "All he had to do was register to vote the day before and his name would have been on the ballot and South Dakotans would have had the opportunity to determine whether they wanted him as their next public utilities commissioner."

Gaddy changed his party affiliation from Republican at the Libertarian convention, but the official paperwork wasn't filed until later. That meant Gaddy was still a Republican at the time of his Libertarian nomination, a violation of state law, Gant argued.

Assistant Attorney General Richard Williams told Piersol that the law preserves party rights and is a minimal burden. Libertarian Party attorney Edward Welch argued it's unconstitutional and that not putting Gaddy on the ballot infringes on his and the party's rights.

"What happened today was a technicality loss. I still believe my First Amendment rights have been violated because I personally allied with the Libertarian platform on many levels of their planks," Gaddy said after the hearing. "There's no conflict of, 'Was I a Republican who was just marauding as a Libertarian for a day?'"

The three candidates for utilities commissioner will be incumbent Sioux Falls Republican Gary Hanson, Yankton Democrat David Allen and Constitution Party candidate Wayne Schmidt, of Mobridge.

The Libertarian lawsuit was the second this month challenging Gant's candidate approval decisions. He lost a case filed by independent governor candidate Mike Myers asking Gant to let him change his running mate.

Woman pleads guilty in Sioux Falls drug conspiracy

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman has pleaded guilty to her role in a federal drug con-

spiracy case linked to a Sioux Falls homicide.

Fifty-five-year-old Theresa Rasmussen was charged in March along with her daughter, Faith Rasmussen, and two others. She pleaded guilty Wednesday to a drug conspiracy charge and faces up to five years in prison when she is sentenced Nov. 17.

Faith Rasmussen is scheduled to plead guilty to charges on Tuesday. She was the girlfriend of Jordan LeBeau, a marijuana dealer who was killed last December in what authorities said was a botched robbery planned by other dealers in the Sioux Falls area. Two Watertown teenagers this month pleaded guilty to assault and manslaughter in LeBeau's slaying.

Authorities say the drug conspiracy involved more than 200 pounds of marijuana.

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. PUTIN URGES SEPARATISTS TO FREE UKRAINIAN SOLDIERS

The president's statement comes several hours after Ukraine accused Russia of entering its territory with tanks, artillery and troops.

2. UN: NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM SYRIA TOPS 3 MILLION

The tragic milestone means that about one of every eight Syrians is now fleeing across the border from "the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era."

3. OBAMA CAUTIONS AGAINST USING FORCE TO SOLVE CRISES

While the president's stance is in line with his aversion to military entanglements, some in the administration seem ready to take more robust actions.

4. WHICH RUSSIAN INSTITUTION ELUDES WESTERN SANCTIONS

Punishments against Moscow over Ukraine have so far avoided the \$10 billion Russian Direct Investment Fund, which has partnered with brand-name American companies.

5. WHO MAY FACE EXTRA HEALTH CHECKS IN U.S.

Students from West Africa might need to undergo additional screening when they arrive to study in America as administrators try to insulate their campuses from the worst Ebola outbreak in history.

6. MALAYSIA AIRLINES TO CUT 6,000 EMPLOYEES

The staff reduction represents about 30 percent of its current workforce of 20,000.

7. ANGELA MERKEL'S POPULARITY REMAINS SKY-HIGH

It shows the German public is prepared to endure some hardships as long as the chancellor is seen as dealing strongly with existing problems.

8. RECREATIONAL PAINTBALL ARRIVES IN AFGHANISTAN

It signals the rise of an upper and middle class looking for a diversion with the time to spare, as well as the way American culture has seeped into the country.

9. WHY USDA SEIZES MORE THAN 1,200 GIANT AFRICAN SNAILS

The slimy invaders, which are illegal in America, damage buildings, destroy crops and can cause meningitis in humans.

10. GOOGLE STEPPING UP DRONE ARMS RACE

Rival Amazon.com is also experimenting with self-flying vehicles to carry merchandise bought by customers of its online store.

Shelly Sterling talks about husband, Clippers sale

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LINDA DEUTSCH, Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Shelly Sterling was approached by former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer about buying the Los Angeles Clippers, the wife of disgraced team owner Donald Sterling did not know who Ballmer was. But in short order she convinced him that the team was worth an unprecedented \$2 billion.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Shelly Sterling offered details of how she negotiated one of the richest deals in sports after her husband's racist rant to a girlfriend became public, prompting the NBA to ban him for life and decree he give up the team.

At that point, Shelly Sterling stepped in.

"I was given the task and I did it," she said Thursday. "I just did what I had to do."

Prospective buyers started lining up when Ballmer entered the scene. She already had a bid of \$1.65 billion from David Geffen and an Egyptian princess was entering the bidding war.

Ballmer called her at 7 a.m. on a Saturday.

"He was really enthusiastic," she recalled. "He said I want to come see you immediately."

She put him off until the next day and quickly called a girlfriend to find out who this man was.

"He was a like a little child. He was so excited, so happy," she said of their meeting. "We sort of connected. I felt he would be good for the team."

She said he asked her how much others had offered and then bid \$1.9 billion. But she was not through negotiating.

"I told him: 'You won't have to build an arena or a practice field.' So he was getting a bargain. And I told him, 'We have great players, a great coach and you'll never have the chance to buy a team in Los Angeles again.'"

After her speech, she recalled "He said, 'O.K. I'll give you two (billion).' He really really wanted the team."

She said she extracted a promise that he would never move the team to Seattle, his home town. The deal closed after a bitter probate fight with her husband.

Ballmer gave Shelly Sterling the title, owner emeritus and said she would have floor tickets for all games.

In a wide ranging interview just days before her 80th birthday, the elegant, blond wife of the beleaguered businessman exuded energy and enthusiasm of a much younger woman. For a half century she had worked in Donald's shadow, renovating and decorating their properties while he built a real estate empire.

"I never liked the spotlight. I didn't like to get up and speak," she said. "But you don't know your potential until you're thrown into something."

She was thrown into the center of a publicity maelstrom with the release of explosive audio tapes of her husband denouncing his young girlfriend for bringing black men to Clippers games.

She declined discuss details about her legal battle with V. Stiviano, the woman who released the tapes.

"I think it was very unfortunate that she would have done what she did," Sterling said.

In her new role, Shelly Sterling signed up well known litigator Pierce O'Donnell. He asked her how much she wanted for the team and she handed him a piece of paper on which was written, "\$1.5 to \$2 (billion)."

Once Ballmer's offer was accepted the drama moved to probate court. Sterling had removed her husband from the family trust saying he was suffering from the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Doctors testified but he insisted he was in full control of his faculties. When she tried to approach him in court he growled, "Get away from me, you pig."

It was a painful moment in a 59-year marriage and she said he has since apologized. She blames his illness.

The marriage has had rough patches, she said, and they have been estranged since the death of their diabetic son from a drug overdose last year.

She remembered their high school romance when "he crashed my 16th birthday party," and the years they spent building a real estate empire with 160 apartment buildings in Los Angeles.

Asked if she knew her husband was unfaithful to her over the years, she said: "I can't say if I was blind to it or I didn't know to ask. I was raising my three kids and I was very involved in taking care of the buildings... There were always excuses that he was working with one girl or another. Maybe I didn't want to realize it."

She considered divorcing Donald but was told by lawyers: "It was of no benefit."

"What's the point at our age?" she said. "I still feel sorry for him. I think he's going to make it right and he'll be OK."

These days, she said, "We're on better terms. We try not to talk about the case. We have a business together so we have to talk."

Asked about his mental condition, she said, "He's been a little better, a little sweeter and softer. Losing the team he loved was very hard on him," she said. "But I'll always feel it's our team."

AP News in Brief

Russia's president Putin calls on separatists to release Ukrainian soldiers

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's President Vladimir Putin on Friday called on pro-Russian separatists to release Ukrainian soldiers who have been surrounded by the rebels in eastern Ukraine.

Putin's statement came several hours after Ukraine accused Russia of entering its territory with tanks, artillery and troops, and Western powers accused Moscow of lying about its role and dangerously escalating the conflict.

NATO said at least 1,000 Russian troops are in Ukraine and later released what it said were satellite photos of Russian self-propelled artillery units moving last week.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov dismissed the accusations of an invasion in a televised news conference on Friday, saying that Moscow "has not been presented with any facts" proving that it had happened.

For the second day, Russian markets reacted nervously to the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine with the Russian ruble diving to the all-time low of 37.10 rubles against the U.S. dollar in early morning trading.

UN: The number of refugees from Syria tops 3 million, up by 1 million from a year ago

GENEVA (AP) — The civil war in Syria has forced a record 3 million people out of the country as more than a million people fled in the past year, the U.N. refugee agency said Friday.

The tragic milestone means that about one of every eight Syrians has fled across the border, and 6.5 million others have been displaced within Syria since the conflict began in March 2011, the Geneva-based agency said. More than half of all those uprooted are children, it said.

"The Syria crisis has become the biggest humanitarian emergency of our era, yet the world is failing to meet the needs of refugees and the countries hosting them," said U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres.

Syria had a prewar population of 23 million.

The recent surge in fighting appears to be worsening the already desperate situation for Syrian refugees, the agency said, as the extremist Islamic State group expands its control of broad areas straddling the Syria-Iraq border and terrorizes rivals and civilians in both countries.

With Ebola in mind, US campuses plan to screen students arriving from West Africa

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — College students from West Africa may be subject to extra health checks when they arrive to study in the United States as administrators try to insulate their campuses from the worst Ebola outbreak in history.

With the virus continuing to kill in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, the expected arrival of thousands of students from those countries has U.S. authorities on alert but cautioning against alarm.

"I can see why there would be concern; there's no vaccine for it," said Fatima Nor, an 18-year-old freshman at the University at Buffalo, where about 25 students from Nigeria are enrolled for fall. But she said knowing that the virus is transmitted strictly through direct contact with bodily fluids of sick people, and not by sitting next to someone in class, should be enough to calm nerves.

"As long as everyone keeps their personal space, it should be OK," said Nor, of Buffalo.

While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued no specific recommendations for colleges, some state health departments, including in South Carolina and North Dakota, have spelled out for administrators what symptoms to look for and how to react.

In first for 9/11 anniversary, memorial plaza at ground zero will be open to public that night

NEW YORK (AP) — The Sept. 11 memorial plaza will be open on the night of the attacks' anniversary this year, marking the first time the general public will be able to visit ground zero on the commemoration date.

The plaza will be closed to the public during the remembrance ceremony and much of the rest of the day, but it will open from 6 p.m. to midnight for those who want to pay respects and view one of the most evocative observances — the twin beams called the Tribute in Light — from an especially "meaningful vantage point," memorial President Joe Daniels said in an email Thursday to victims' families.

A symbolic shift for a site that was inaccessible to the public for years after the attacks, the plan reflects its increasing openness as more gets rebuilt.

The memorial plaza, with its massive reflecting pools etched with the names of the dead, opened in 2011. But to control crowds amid construction elsewhere on the World Trade Center property, tickets and security screening were required until this spring. Since the ticketed, underground memorial museum opened in May, open access has been allowed during days and evenings at the plaza, which joins the streetscape of lower Manhattan even as it serves as a place of remembrance protected by police and security guards. Museum officials said that security measures would be in place for the public hours on Sept. 11 but that they couldn't disclose details.

The night hours on Sept. 11 will provide visitors a solemn setting for looking at the Tribute in Light,

which first appeared on March 11, 2002, to mark the six months that had passed since the attacks. It has become a moving, quietly powerful element of the anniversaries since.

Obama puts brakes on notion that US military force can solve Ukraine, Mideast crises

WASHINGTON (AP) — Faced with deepening crises in the Middle East and Ukraine, President Barack Obama is putting the brakes on the notion that American military power can solve either conflict.

While that stance is in keeping with Obama's long-standing aversion to military entanglements, it comes at a time when the effectiveness of his preferred options is being challenged and there are indications that some in the administration are ready to take more robust actions.

In the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Obama has relied largely on coordinated U.S. and European Union sanctions to try to shift Russian President Vladimir Putin's calculus. While the White House can claim credit for inflicting some pain on Russia's economy, Putin appears to be only getting more aggressive, with Ukrainian officials accusing Russia of sending two military columns across the border Thursday.

During a news conference at the White House, Obama warned that Russia likely will face more Western penalties because of its continued provocations. But he offered no indication that he was considering anything outside the realm of sanctions and explicitly ruled out the prospect of U.S. military intervention.

"We are not taking military action to solve the Ukrainian problem," Obama said.

Malaysia Airlines to shed 6,000 staff as part of overhaul plan after disasters

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia Airlines will cut 6,000 workers as part of a \$1.9 billion overhaul announced Friday to revive its damaged brand after being hit by double passenger jet disasters.

The staff reduction represents about 30 percent of its current workforce of 20,000. A search for a new CEO is underway but there is no move to change the airline's name, which some branding experts had said was necessary for a successful makeover.

Khazanah Nasional, the state investment company that owns 69 percent of the airline, said the overhaul includes the establishment of a new company that will take over the existing Malaysia Airlines business and its reduced staff.

The revamp and new investment in the carrier will cost about 6 billion Malaysian ringgit (\$1.9 billion). Analysts say the substantial staff cuts suggest the airline will reduce flights to Europe and China.

The twin disasters and ongoing financial woes "created a perfect storm for the restructuring to take place," said Khazanah Managing Director Azman Mokhtar. "We need to have a fresh start."

\$10 billion Russian fund with US advisers, partners complicates West's sanctions over Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Barack Obama warns of stepped-up economic punishments against Russia for its military incursions inside Ukraine, U.S. sanctions have so far avoided one prominent financial institution: the \$10 billion Russian Direct Investment Fund, which has partnered with

brand-name American companies and whose advisers include top U.S. and European private equity executives.

Despite its ties to Russian state businesses and officials, the Russian Direct Investment Fund has managed to operate unaffected by the sanctions imposed by the U.S. and EU in response to Russian President Vladimir Putin's military actions in Ukraine. The Ukrainian government said Russian troops invaded southeastern Ukraine on Thursday with two columns of tanks and military vehicles.

The fund has been working to help replace Western investors in Russia with money from Asia and the Middle East. In one recent deal, the fund and its partners paid \$700 million to a Russian petrochemical company that is partially owned by a sanctioned Russian businessman. The fund's head, Kirill Dmitriev, told the Associated Press that the company with which it did the deal, Sibur, has not been targeted by sanctions but otherwise declined to discuss fund investments.

Along with its team of Russian managers, the fund's international advisory board includes private equity executives Stephen Schwarzman of The Blackstone Group LP, Leon Black of Apollo Global Management LLC and David Bonderman of TPG Capital LP.

The fund has so far escaped the effects from sanctions because it has not been explicitly targeted. The situation illustrates the Obama administration's struggle to achieve conflicting goals — punishing Putin's circle without damaging American companies doing business in Russia.

German fears of economic impact of Ukraine crisis growing, but Merkel's support strong

BERLIN (AP) — Ordinary Germans are spooked about the future. Businesses are starting to see black clouds on the horizon. And an economy that has been the envy of Europe is showing cracks, shrinking unexpectedly last quarter amid the conflict in Ukraine.

It might seem like enough to put any leader into trouble. But Chancellor Angela Merkel's popularity remains sky-high — with nobody in sight to touch her.

It shows the German public is prepared to endure some hardships — such as a rise in energy costs if the sanctions war with Russia escalates — as long as Merkel is seen as dealing strongly with the crisis.

"She holds her line, and this gives the German electorate the impression she is doing a good job in the interests of Germany," said Nils Diederich, a political scientist at Berlin's Free University. "I don't think that there are very many governments in Europe with such a stable position as the German government at this moment."

Merkel's support stands at 65 percent according to the latest polls, and her party was also by far the most popular in Germany. While Merkel's measured approach has helped the perception that she is steering the country deftly through chaotic times, she also benefits from the fact that Germany is not in as vulnerable a position as others, especially Eastern European countries.

AP Exclusive: Shelly Sterling talks about husband, sale of the Clippers to Steve Ballmer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Shelly Sterling was approached by former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer about buying the Los Angeles Clippers, the wife of disgraced team owner Donald Sterling did not know who Ballmer was. But in short order she convinced him that the team was worth an unprecedented \$2 billion.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Shelly Sterling offered details of how she nego-

tiated one of the richest deals in sports after her husband's racist rant to a girlfriend became public, prompting the NBA to ban him for life and decree he give up the team.

At that point, Shelly Sterling stepped in.

"I was given the task and I did it," she said Thursday. "I just did what I had to do."

Prospective buyers started lining up when Ballmer entered the scene. She already had a bid of \$1.65 billion from David Geffen and an Egyptian princess was entering the bidding war.

UN panel: Global warming human-caused, dangerous

SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Global warming is here, human-caused and probably already dangerous — and it's increasingly likely that the heating trend could be irreversible, a draft of a new international science report says.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on Monday sent governments a final draft of its synthesis report, which combines three earlier, gigantic documents by the Nobel Prize-winning group. There is little in the report that wasn't in the other more-detailed versions, but the language is more stark and the report attempts to connect the different scientific disciplines studying problems caused by the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas.

The 127-page draft, obtained by The Associated Press, paints a harsh warning of what's causing global warming and what it will do to humans and the environment. It also describes what can be done about it.

"Continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems," the report says. The final report will be issued after governments and scientists go over the draft line by line in an October conference in Copenhagen.

Depending on circumstances and values, "currently observed impacts might already be considered dangerous," the report says. It mentions extreme weather and rising sea levels, such as heat waves, flooding and droughts. It even raises, as an earlier report did, the idea that climate change will worsen violent conflicts and refugee problems and could hinder efforts to grow more food. And ocean acidification, which comes from the added carbon absorbed by oceans, will harm marine life, it says.

Without changes in greenhouse gas emissions, "climate change risks are likely to be high or very high by the end of the 21st century," the report says.

In 2009, countries across the globe set a goal of limiting global warming to about another 2 degrees Fahrenheit above current levels. But the report says that it is looking more likely that the world will shoot past that point. Limiting warming to that much is possible but would require dramatic and immediate cuts in carbon dioxide pollution.

The report says if the world continues to spew greenhouse gases at its accelerating rate, it's likely that by mid-century temperatures will increase by about another 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) compared to temperatures from 1986 to 2005. And by the end of the century, that scenario will bring temperatures that are about 6.7 degrees warmer (3.7 degrees Celsius).

"The report tells us once again what we know with a greater degree of certainty: that climate change is real, it is caused by us, and it is already causing substantial damage to us and our environment," Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann wrote in an email. "If there is one take home point of this report it is this: We have to act now."

John Christy of the University of Alabama, Huntsville, is in the tiny minority of scientists who are skeptical of mainstream science's claim that global warming is a major problem. He says people will do OK:

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"Humans are clever. We shall adapt to whatever happens."

While projections show that the world will warm and climate will change, there's still a level of uncertainty about how much, and that makes the problem all about how much risk we accept, said MIT climate scientist Kerry Emanuel.

If it's soon and only a little risk, he said, that's not too bad, but when you look at the risk curve the other end of it is "very frightening."

The report used the word risk 351 times in just 127 pages.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, August 29, the 241st day of 2014. There are 124 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 29, 1944, 15,000 American troops of the 28th Infantry Division marched down the Champs Elysees (shahms ay-lee-ZAY') in Paris as the French capital continued to celebrate its liberation from the Nazis.

On this date:

In 1533, the last Incan King of Peru, Atahualpa (ah-tuh-WAHL'-puh), was executed on orders of Spanish conqueror Francisco Pizarro.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, Alexandria, Virginia, formally surrendered to British military forces, which occupied the city until September 3.

In 1864, the Democratic National Convention, which nominated Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan for president, opened in Chicago.

In 1877, the second president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Brigham Young, died in Salt Lake City, Utah, at age 76.

In 1910, Korean Emperor Sunjong abdicated as the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty went into effect.

In 1935, the film "Top Hat," starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, premiered at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

In 1958, pop superstar Michael Jackson was born in Gary, Indiana.

In 1964, Roy Orbison's single "Oh, Pretty Woman" was released on the Monument label.

In 1972, swimmer Mark Spitz of the United States won the third of his seven gold medals at the Munich Olympics, finishing first in the 200-meter freestyle.

In 1982, Academy Award-winning actress Ingrid Bergman died in London on her 67th birthday.

In 1987, Academy Award-winning actor Lee Marvin died in Tucson, Arizona, at age 63.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast near Buras, Louisiana, bringing floods that devastated New Orleans. More than 1,800 people in the region died.

Ten years ago: Tropical Storm Gaston made landfall in South Carolina at near-hurricane strength. Protesters filling 20 city blocks peacefully swarmed Manhattan's streets on the eve of the Republican National Convention to demand that President George W. Bush be turned out of office. A car bomb at the office of a U.S. security contractor in Afghanistan killed about ten people, including three Americans. Closing ceremonies were held in Athens, Greece, for the Olympic games.

Five years ago: Funeral services were held in Boston for Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who was eulogized by President Barack Obama; hours later, Kennedy's remains were buried at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington. Eight people were found beaten to death at a mobile home in Glynn County, Georgia; family member Guy Heinze Jr., who reported finding the bodies, was later convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole. Space shuttle Discovery and seven

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astronauts blazed into orbit on a flight to the international space station.

One year ago: In a sweeping new policy statement, the Justice Department said it would not stand in the way of states that wanted to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana as long as there were effective controls to keep marijuana away from kids, the black market and federal property. The NFL agreed to pay \$765 million to settle lawsuits from thousands of former players who developed dementia or other concussion-related health problems they say were caused by the on-field clashes.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty Lynn (TV: "The Andy Griffith Show") is 88. Movie director William Friedkin is 79. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is 78. Actor Elliott Gould is 76. Movie director Joel Schumacher is 75. TV personality Robin Leach is 73. Actor Ray Wise is 67. Actress Deborah Van Valkenburgh is 62. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew is 59. Dancer-choreographer Mark Morris is 58. Country musician Dan Truman (Diamond Rio) is 58. Actress Rebecca DeMornay is 55. Singer Me'Shell NdegeOcello (n-DAY'-gay-OH'-chehl-oh) is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Carl Martin (Shai) is 44. Actress Carla Gugino is 43. Rock musician Kyle Cook (Matchbox Twenty) is 39. Actor John Hensley is 37. Rock musician David Desrosiers (Simple Plan) is 34. Rapper A+ is 32. Actress Jennifer Landon is 31. Actor Jeffrey Licon is 29. Actress-singer Lea Michele (TV: "Glee") is 28. Rock singer Liam Payne (One Direction) is 21.

Thought for Today: "People are very open-minded about new things - as long as they're exactly like the old ones." - Charles F. Kettering, American inventor (1876-1958).