

Groton Daily Independent

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Hopefully, Monday will be a catch-up issue. Just haven't had time to type up the football results and there are a few other things in the burner that need to get done as well. We hope to finish the shingling project on the house today.

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



The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is back and is open!

Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Two bedroom apartment in the Rix Apartments (former city apartments) at 407 N Garfield

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

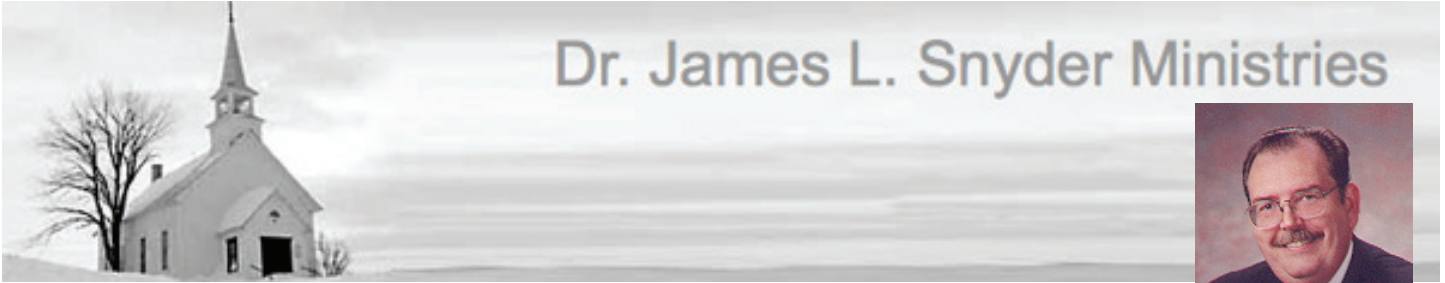
Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118

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A Severe Case of Yuckitis



My schedule recently called for me to do some travel involving airplanes. I am not a fan of airplanes, but airports are something else altogether. They seem to be like a mall. Whatever you want, you can find it in an airport. The bigger the airport, the more you can find.

I was sitting in an airport restaurant waiting for my plane and simply enjoying myself. I watched the people go by and inside I was laughing and making fun of them. I play a little game when I am all by myself. If only they knew what I was thinking about as they walked by, they would come over and give me a stern look. I have never seen a person that I cannot make fun of, including that raspy looking person in my bathroom mirror. It is the sort of game you can play when you are all by yourself with nothing else to do.

I was sipping my umpteenth cup of coffee when I happened to notice several people walking by who were sneezing. At first I did not think too much of it, but then I began to notice more and more people sneezing. Is there a sneezing epidemic going on that I have not heard of yet?

I tried not to pay attention to it and went back to my game of "Who Can I Make Fun of Now?"

Maybe it was programmed into my head at the time, but I could not help noticing every other person walking by heading for an airplane was either sneezing or sniffing or coughing. I thought to myself, "Self, I sure hope they are not on our plane?"

I finally got to my gate and waited to board the airplane and then take off. I was checking some things on my cell phone when I heard a person behind me sneeze. Not only did they sneeze, but they sneezed half a dozen times and it just about drove me crazy. I know the road to crazy for me is rather a short drive, but I hate taking that road.

It dawned on me at the time that the person behind me doing all the sneezing was also waiting to get on the same plane I was going to board in a few minutes. Why can't they check your sneezing at the gates before you come in so that you do not have to take it on board the plane? I mean, after all, they check for everything else!

Finally, my number was called and I began boarding the airplane. I noticed in front of me was the man who was going all of the sneezing. I whispered to myself, "Self, I hope he has certainly got all of the sneeze out of him."

We finally were seated and it takes me quite a while to get buckled in. Whoever designed planes designed them with the seven Disney dwarfs in mind. To get that belt around me and buckled is a great accomplishment. I would not say I am oversized, just that I am post thin, and by the time I squeezed myself into the seat and strapped myself in with the buckle it is about all I can do to breathe.

On this flight, I happen to be seated in the middle. There would be a person on my right and a person on my left. It was at that time I prayed that they would be skinny and healthy. Two gentlemen came in, one on my left, the other on my right. By the time we all got in and buckled, none of us could move

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one way or the other.

We smiled at each other and then the plane took off and we were airborne. I happened to notice at the time that nobody on the plane was sneezing, coughing, or even sniffing. I sighed a deep sigh and then it happened to me.

I am not quite sure how all of this happens, but I felt the in the bottom of my lungs a pre-sneeze condition. At that point, I knew exactly what was coming and I did not know how to deal with it.

When you sneeze on an airplane, you cannot turn to your left or to your right because people are sitting there. What is a person to do? If I look up and sneeze, it will all come down on me.

Then I remembered the people I knew when they had to sneeze, sneezed into their arm. I raised my right arm just as I was about to sneeze, and boy did I sneeze.

Whenever I sneeze, it always has to be in triplets. I sneezed three times in my arm and when I come out from that arm, it was drooping and dripping with all sorts of gunk that came from somewhere deep inside of me. What do you do with gunk like that on an airplane?

As I was trying to think about what to do, a verse of Scripture came to my mind. "How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying" (1 Corinthians 14:26).

It is hard to discipline yourself to do only those things that edify other people. That is the challenge of the Christian life.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net or website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

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Wheeting chosen as South Dakota Farmers Union Local Hero

South Dakota Farmers Union recognized five South Dakotans for giving back to their rural communities with the Rural Dakota Pride Award.

"One survives with the other," said Karla Hofhenke, South Dakota Farmers Union Executive Director, of the integral connection between those who work in South Dakota's number one industry and their rural communities. "Without thriving communities, it's difficult to encourage young people to return to their family's farm or ranch. Rural communities are key to the future of South Dakota's agriculture industry; which is why we like to recognize those individuals who help them thrive."



John Wheeting, center, was one of the local heroes of the South Dakota Farmers Union. Doug Sombke, left, from Groton, is the president of the Farmers Union.

Selected through a nomination process, the 2014 Rural Dakota Pride Award recipients include: Cindy Wilk, Huron; Jeff Kieser, Wessington Springs; Alan Vedvei, Lake Preston; Nick Nemec, Holabird; and John Wheeting, Groton.

John Wheeting, Groton

When John Wheeting looks at his family tree, there is a 4-H leader on several branches. "My dad was a 4-H leader, my grandpa was a 4-H leader and my great-grandpa was as well."

Although Wheeting was never a 4-H leader, he does follow the family tradition by giving back to the organization he credits for inspiring his career in South Dakota's agriculture industry. For the last 24 years, the District Sales Manager for Producers Hybrids has volunteered as Superintendent of the Open Lamb and Swine shows at the Brown County Fair.

"4-H and FFA exposed me to the off-farm opportunities available within the agriculture industry," Wheeting, 49, says. "The experiences I had through these organizations also provided me with communication and leadership skills that I use every day."

When his three daughters were young, Wheeting and his wife, Chris, encouraged them to become involved in 4-H as well. "I think the responsibility they learn through taking care of a livestock project is a great learning experience."

He adds that the responsibility 4-H involvement instilled in him and his children is not unique to their family - the reason he continues to volunteer even though his daughters are mostly grown. "I see kids in our community that I've worked with through 4-H livestock shows, and after they graduate from 4-H, they go off to become successful. Whether they pursue an agriculture career or not, 4-H gives them a strong foundation for success."

Wheeting also serves his community through active involvement in the Groton Area Chamber of Commerce and holding several leadership positions in St. John's Lutheran Church. Under his leadership, the church started a Christian preschool. Today, St. John's PreSchool welcomes about 35 youngsters each fall. "Like 4-H, this is a program that lays a foundation for young kids."

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Wyatt Kurtz, Rayce Harder, Stormy Bahr, Jacob Milbrandt, goalie Chance Strom. (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)

Boys Soccer team loses to Pierre

Groton lost to Pierre on Saturday, August 30, 2014 by a score of 2-1. In the first half, James Thompson scored at the 33 minute mark with an assist by Jacob Milbrandt. Late in the first half, Pierre was awarded a penalty kick in the box and tied the game 1-1. Pierre scored at the 15:00 minute mark on a corner kick in the second half.

The Groton JV boys lost to Pierre by a score of 1-0 .



Trevor Pray (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



James Thompson (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



Lane Weig (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)

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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.

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.

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!!

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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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 \$ _____.

Today in Weather History

1977: Strong winds accompanying thunderstorms moved across the southern part of Brown County during the early morning hours. A barn was destroyed three miles west of Warner. Many trees were damaged in the Stratford area. A large, empty fuel tank, southeast of Watertown was folded inward by strong winds. High wind damage was also reported in Faulk and Day Counties.

2013: Thunderstorms produces numerous reports of large hail and damaging winds in and near Sioux Falls on the evening of August 31st. Large hail broke windows and damaged many vehicles, as well as siding and roofs on the west side of Sioux Falls. One automobile dealer with a large temporary outdoor display reported four thousand vehicles were damaged. Estimated property damage was listed at four million dollars. Thunderstorm winds also damaged several businesses, including a large retail store which was also struck by lightning. The large store lost part of its roof, while the stockroom of the same store and its contents were also damaged. A canopy type tent was destroyed, and a 20 foot retaining wall was blown down. The winds caused extensive tree damage, including several trees blown down, one of which blocked a major intersection when it fell.

1915 - The temperature at Bartlesville, OK, dipped to 38 degrees to establish a state record for the month of August. (The Weather Channel)

1954 - Hurricane Carol swept across eastern New England killing sixty persons and causing 450 million dollars damage. It was the first of three hurricanes to affect New England that year. (David Ludlum)

1971 - The low of 84 degrees and high of 108 degrees at Death Valley, CA, were the coolest of the month. The average daily high was 115.7 degrees that August, and the average daily low was 93.4 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1984 - Lightning ignited several forest fires in Montana, one of which burned through 100,000 acres of timber and grassland. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Eight cities in Washington and Oregon reported record high temperatures for the date, including Eugene OR and Portland OR with afternoon highs of 102 degrees. The high of 102 degrees at Portland smashed their previous record for the date by twelve degrees. Frost was reported in South Dakota. Aberdeen SD established a record for the month of August with a morning low of 32 degrees, and Britton SD dipped to 31 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - August ended on a relatively mild and tranquil note for most of the nation. Forest fires in the northwestern U.S. scorched 180,000 acres of land during the last week of August. (The National Weather Summary)








1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front spread severe weather from Minnesota to Indiana through the course of the day and night. Thunderstorms in Minnesota produced baseball size hail near Saint Michael and Hutchinson, and drenched Moose Lake with nine inches of rain in six hours. Tucson AZ hit 100 degrees for a record 79th time in the year, surpassing a record established the previous year. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1979: Category 5 Hurricane David destroyed 70% of the Dominican Republic and took the lives of 2,000 of her citizens. The storm would go on to strike the U.S. and produce torrential rains up the entire length of the East Coast.

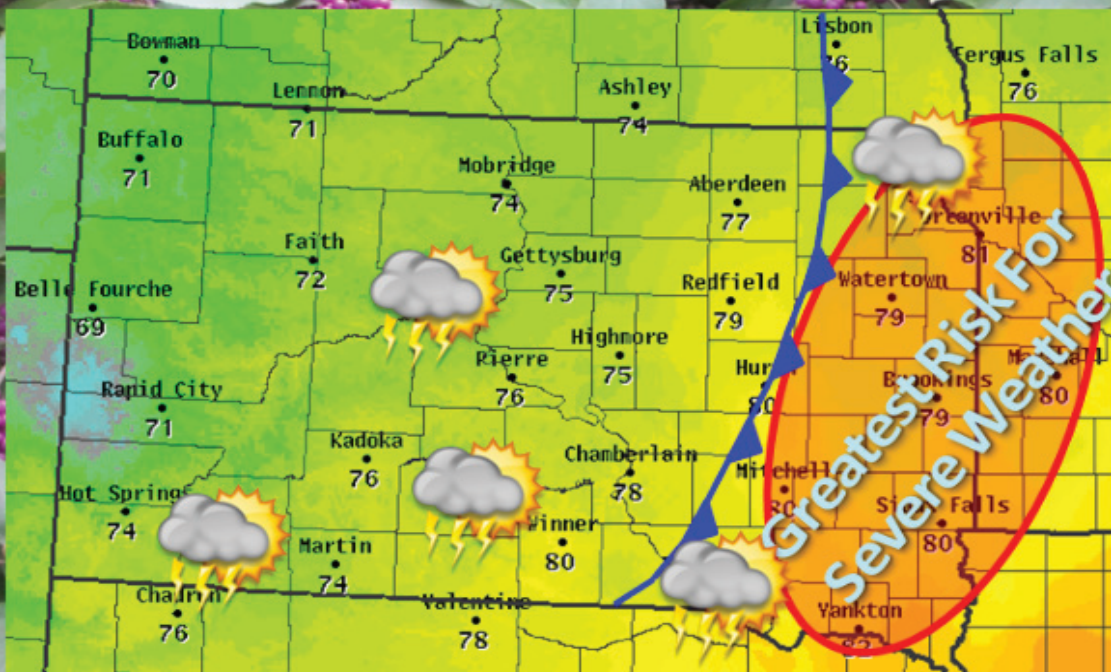
1993: A category 3 Hurricane Emily lashed the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The Hatteras weather buoy recorded a gust of 98 mph and was deluged with 7.51 inches of rain. Diamond Shoals coastal marine buoy recorded sustained winds of 103 mph with gusts to 148 mph after the eye passed.

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TODAY	TONIGHT	LABOR DAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT	WEDNESDAY
						
Chance Thunderstorms High: 76 °F	Chance Thunderstorms Low: 55 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 74 °F	Chance Thunderstorms Low: 51 °F	Sunny High: 78 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 57 °F	Sunny High: 82 °F

Scattered Thunderstorms This Afternoon Severe Storms Possible East of I29



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 8/31/2014 5:01 AM Central

A cold front will move across the region today. Storms are expected to develop along the front over eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. Some of those storms may become severe.

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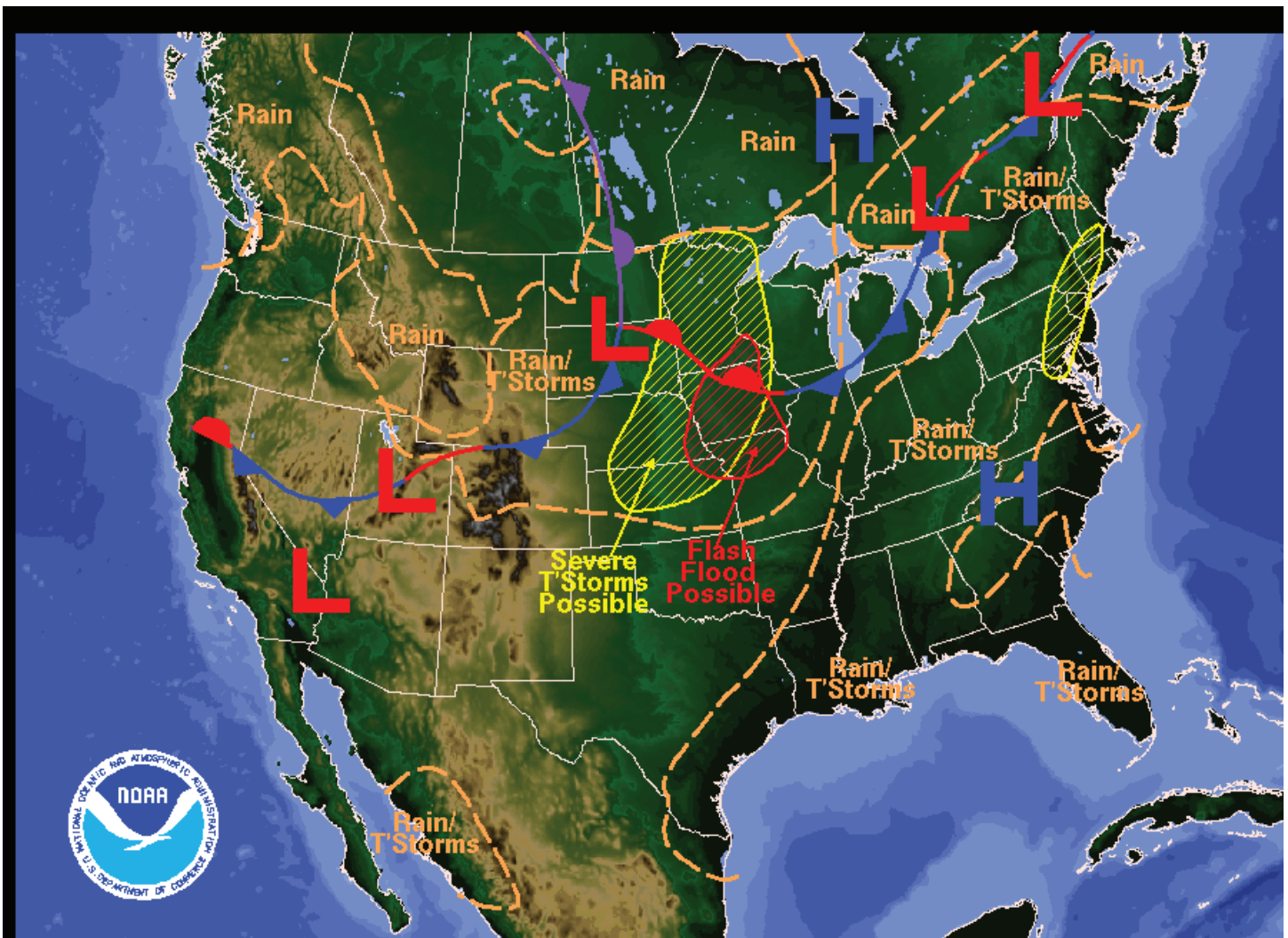
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 73.9°F
Low: 59.1°F
High Gust: 12 mph
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 98° in 1898, 1921
Record Low: 32° in 1987
Average High: 78°F
Average Low: 52°F
Average Precip in Aug.: 2.35
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.95
Average Precip to date: 16.21
Precip Year to Date: 11.93
Sunset Tonight: 8:13 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:55 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Aug 31, 2014, issued 4:39 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kocin based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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HAS ANYONE HERE SEEN GOD?

A rather well to do person decided that he would visit a church in a ghetto to see how "people on the other side of the street" lived. On the bottom of the cover of the Sunday bulletin was a statement that shocked him: "Not all who worship here are Christians. Do not leave your purse or any other personal belonging unattended."

It is tragic but true that many who profess one thing do not practice what they preach. But we who claim to be followers of Jesus are responsible for living as He lived. We are to back up our beliefs with our behavior. It is not how we want to live that matters. It is how God expects us to live that makes the difference an obligation.

When the gears of a transmission turn inside of its transmission case, it will cause the crank shaft to turn and the car will be ready to move when it is put in gear.

So it is with a Christian.

When our hearts are "turned" by the Holy Spirit to the things of God, we will be ready to serve the Lord. When this happens, others will see us "move" or live in agreement with His Word and His ways.

The life of the Christian is much more than churchgoing, Bible-reading, hymn-singing and tithe-giving. If we do all of those "good things" we will still fall short of how God intends us to live: walk blamelessly - live righteously.

The Psalmist said we are to be "blameless in your walk...and do what is righteous." Being blameless means that when others look at us they find no faults in the way we live because we walk in paths that are righteous.

Prayer: Sometimes, Lord, what You ask of us seems unreal. But, through Christ all things for God are possible. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 15:2a The one whose walk is blameless,

Mariota leads Oregon past South Dakota 62-13

ANNE M. PETERSON, AP Sports Writer

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — Marcus Mariota wore a T-shirt emblazoned with the word "Success." It was a fitting wardrobe choice after this victory.

Mariota accounted for four touchdowns in the first half of No. 3 Oregon's season-opening 62-13 win against South Dakota on Saturday night.

Mariota threw for 267 yards and three touchdowns, and then ran for one more before sitting out the final two quarters.

His 62-yard pass to Dwayne Stanford on Oregon's first series of the game gave him the Ducks' career record for touchdowns with 79 (64 pass, 14 rush and one reception), surpassing Joey Harrington.

"Marcus did what Marcus does," said running back Byron Marshall, who was Oregon's top receiver with eight catches for 138 yards and two touchdowns.

Freshman Royce Freeman, a five-star recruit out of Imperial, California, ran for 75 yards and two more scores for the Ducks, who won their 10th straight home opener.

Trevor Bouma ran for a 3-yard TD and Miles Bergner kicked a pair of field goals for the Missouri Valley's Coyotes, who went 4-8 last season. Kevin Earl completed 13 of 26 passes for 136 yards, but left in the third quarter with what coach Joe Glenn said was likely a fractured thumb.

Mariota, who opted to return to Oregon after flirting with an early departure for the NFL, threw for 3,665 yards and 31 touchdowns last season with just four interceptions. Considered among the top dual-threat quarterbacks in the country, he also rushed for 715 yards and nine scores.

With his third touchdown pass on Saturday night, he tied Darron Thomas for career passing touchdowns at Oregon with 66. He completed 14 of 20 passes.

"We scored on our first three possessions, which is always good," Mariota said. "We've had our moments, including last year, when we've started out slow. For us to come out and start fast and do what we were able to do, it sets a good foundation for the rest of the season."

The Ducks finished 11-2 last season, capped by a victory over Texas in the Alamo Bowl. Oregon's two late-season losses, to Stanford and Arizona, came after Mariota injured his left knee, effectively taking the Ducks out of the Pac-12 championship race and a bid for a national title.

Following Mariota's opening TD strike to Stanford, South Dakota drove into Oregon territory on its opening series and scored on Bergner's 47-yard field goal.

Mariota hit Marshall with a 41-yard touchdown pass and Freeman scored on a 1-yard dive to give Oregon a 21-3 lead.

South Dakota then drove as close as the Oregon 3 but settled for Bergner's 25-yard field goal.

Midway through the second quarter, Marshall's 54-yard dash for the end zone ended with a fumble on the 1-yard line for a touchback. But the Coyotes fumbled after getting the ball, and Mariota hit Marshall with an 11-yard touchdown pass.

"Huge mental mistake," Marshall said about the touchback. "I've never made a dumber play in my life. ... It happens, no one's perfect. But a mistake like that could be costly in a different game and I've got to be better than that."

Bouma, who led the Coyotes with 781 yards rushing as a redshirt freshman last season, ran for a 3-yard touchdown with 1:36 left in the first half. Mariota answered with 1-yard keeper to make it 41-13

lead at the break.

"They're really special with Mariota at the wheel. He's who I thought he was," Glenn said. "He's special and time will bear that out."

Oregon senior cornerback Ifo Ekpre-Olomu, who like Mariota decided to return for a final season at Oregon, left in the first half with what appeared to be a non-contact injury to his left foot or ankle.

Afterward, Ekpre-Olomu said he had been battling an ankle injury and left the game as a precaution.

Oregon rested many of its starters in the second half. Freshman Charles Nelson scored on a 50-yard punt return to give the Ducks a 48-13 lead in the third quarter.

The game gave Oregon some things to work on before hosting No. 8 Michigan State next weekend. The defending Big Ten champions routed Jacksonville State 45-7 on Friday night.

SD sports journalist pens book on 1969 Vikings

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls sports journalist has authored a book on the first Minnesota Vikings team to go to the Super Bowl, which happened in the last year of the old National Football League before pro football's biggest merger.

"Last Kings of the Old NFL: The 1969 Minnesota Vikings" is Pat Duncan's first book.

It chronicles the team's journey in less than three years from being without a coach, quarterback or direction to becoming the last champions of a golden era in pro football.

"Last Kings" is told through narrative and interviews with more than 30 players, coaches and others.

Duncan grew up in Sioux Falls and has been a sportswriter, columnist and copy desk editor at the Argus Leader for almost 30 years.

Saturday's Scores **The Associated Press**

PREP FOOTBALL

Harrisburg 43, Sturgis 14

St. Thomas More 27, Spearfish 6

Watertown 17, Pierre 7

Yankton 30, Mitchell 2

No. 24 Missouri defeats South Dakota St 38-18

JAKE KREINBERG, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Missouri got the win it wanted.

Still, everyone knew the Tigers have a lot of work to do yet.

"I thought we did pretty well," quarterback Maty Mauk said after the 24th-ranked Tigers defeated South Dakota State 38-18 on Saturday. "We came out fast and that showed. We scored in a minute and came down and scored after that. We just had a lot of inconsistency we have to clean up and that is stuff we can fix."

Mauk finished with 178 yards and three touchdowns and seemed at ease early, finding receiver Darius White crossing behind the Jackrabbits' defense for a 44-yard touchdown catch just 50 seconds into the game. The Tigers extended their lead to 21-10 at halftime and never trailed against South Dakota State, which fell to 0-7 against FBS teams since moving to Division I in 2004.

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The Tigers' early 7-0 lead lasted only one play thanks to a 75-yard touchdown run by South Dakota State's Zach Zenner, who finished with 103 yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries. But Mauk found White again on the third drive, this time for a 39-yard pass in the corner of the end zone behind safety Anthony Sherrils. White finished with two receptions for 83 yards and two touchdowns.

"Last go-around," said White, a senior who transferred from Texas in 2012. "I feel like I have a lot to prove to people, and I feel like I did a little bit of that today."

Missouri added another score in the first quarter on Russell Hansbrough's 10-yard run that featured a missed tackle and a bit of misdirection. Hansbrough started after backing up Henry Josey last year, finishing with 20 carries for a career-high 126 yards.

"He's got great quickness and explosiveness. Sometimes great athletes make great plays just because they're great athletes," coach Gary Pinkel said. "And that's what he did, he made a great play."

Safety Duron Singleton set up the touchdown with his first career interception for Missouri, pulling in Austin Sumner's pass at South Dakota State's 29-yard line and returning it 19 yards. The play marked the 45th consecutive game in which the Tigers forced a turnover, the longest such streak in the country.

Sumner left the game in the first quarter and did not return, giving way to Zach Lujan, who went 21 of 28 for 239 yards and an interception.

Coach John Stiegelmeier said Sumner, who holds school records in completions (633), attempts (1,089) and passing yards (7,831), caught his spikes in the turf during a scramble. He walked to the sideline gingerly before being helped to the locker room while placing no pressure on his right foot.

Stiegelmeier said Sumner is expected to miss six to eight weeks.

"I'm praying for Austin," Lujan said. "He's been a four-year starter and any time you lose a guy like that — your team captain and a four-year starter — it's a huge loss, but at the same time at any position a guy can go down and the next guy has to step in."

After Justin Syrovatka converted a 39-yard field goal with 3:58 remaining in the first half, the Jackrabbits pulled to within 21-18 on their first drive in the third quarter thanks to a 3-yard touchdown run by Zenner and a subsequent two-point conversion. A 6-foot, 220-pound senior, Zenner needs just 114 more yards to tie Western Illinois' Herb Donaldson for the Missouri Valley Football Conference's career rushing mark at 4,746.

Marcus Murphy extended Missouri's lead back to 10 on the ensuing kickoff, returning it 102 yards for a touchdown and starting a 17-0 run for the Tigers to end the game. Missouri moved to 14-0 all-time against Football Championship Subdivision teams and has won 13 consecutive season openers.

AP News in Brief

US military launches airstrikes, helps drop humanitarian aid to help beleaguered town in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aircraft from the United States, Australia, France and Britain dropped food and water to the beleaguered Iraqi town of Amirli, which has been under siege by Islamic State militants for nearly two months, the Pentagon said Saturday night. U.S. airstrikes supported the humanitarian mission.

Thousands of Shiite Turkmen have been stranded in the farming community about 105 miles north of Baghdad. The aid came at the request of the Iraqi government, Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said in a statement.

Military operations will be limited in scope and duration as needed to address the humanitarian crisis

in Amirli and protect the civilians trapped in the town, Kirby said.

Instead of fleeing in the face of the Islamic State drive across northern Iraq, the Shiite Turkmen have stayed and fortified their town of 15,000 with trenches and armed positions.

While Amirli (pronounced A'-mur-lee) fought off the initial attack in June, it has been surrounded by the militants since mid-July. Some residents have said that the Iraqi military's efforts to fly in food, water and other aid have not been enough amid oppressive heat, lack of electrical power — the town's power station was destroyed weeks ago — and shelling from the militants.

EU threatens more sanctions if Russia does not scale back Ukraine intervention

BRUSSELS (AP) — Despite tough rhetoric decrying Russia's increasing military involvement in Ukraine, European Union leaders on Sunday stopped short of imposing new sanctions against Moscow right away.

Instead, the 28-nation bloc's heads of state and government tasked their executive body to "urgently" prepare tougher economic sanctions that could be adopted within a week, according to EU summit chairman Herman Van Rompuy.

The decision on new sanctions will depend on the evolution of the situation on the ground but "everybody is fully aware that we have to act quickly," he added. The EU leaders call on Russia to "immediately withdraw all its military assets and forces from Ukraine," they said in a joint statement.

NATO said this week that at least 1,000 Russian soldiers are in Ukraine. Russia denies that. NATO also says Russia has amassed some 20,000 troops just across Ukraine's eastern border, which could rapidly carry out a full-scale invasion.

The fighting between the military and Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine has so far claimed 2,600 lives, according to U.N. figures.

Philippines says peacekeepers pull 'greatest escape' from Syrian rebels; 44 Fijians still held

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Under cover of darkness, 40 Filipino peacekeepers made a daring escape after being surrounded and under fire for seven hours by Syrian rebels in the Golan Heights, Philippine officials said Sunday, leaving 44 Fijian troops still in the hands of the al-Qaida-linked insurgents.

"We may call it the greatest escape," Philippine military chief Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang said.

The peacekeepers became trapped after Syrian rebels entered the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone between Syria and Israel this past week, seizing 44 Fijian soldiers and demanding that their Filipino colleagues surrender. The Filipinos, occupying two U.N. encampments, refused and clashed with the rebels on Saturday. The first group of 35 peacekeepers was then successfully escorted out of a U.N. encampment in Breiqa by Irish and Filipino forces on board armored vehicles.

The remaining 40 peacekeepers were besieged at the second encampment, called Rwhana, by more than 100 gunmen who rammed the camp's gates with their trucks and fired mortar rounds. The Filipinos returned fire in self-defense, Philippine military officials said.

At one point, Syrian government forces fired artillery rounds from a distance to prevent the Filipino peacekeepers from being overwhelmed, said Col. Roberto Ancan, a Philippine military official who helped monitor the tense standoff from the Philippine capital, Manila, and mobilize support for the besieged troops.

Beyond Hello Kitty: From jumping pears to goofy bears, Japan's craze for cute characters

TOKYO (AP) — Hello Kitty, whom many learned last week is a girl and not a cat, may be the queen of Japan's cute characters, but she's hardly the only one.

There are thousands, and they are ubiquitous: Long-time favorite Doraemon (who really is a cat) has a daily quiz in a national newspaper. Little monster Pikachu hosted a theme cafe in Tokyo this summer. Stress-relieving Rilakkuma ("relaxed bear") dangles from teenage girls' school bags.

Characters are not just for kids in Japan, but a part of business and social life. Some see Japan's cute-craze, known as "kawaii," as a sign of immaturity, but others say it's rooted in a harmony-centered way of life that goes back to ancient animist traditions.

Japanese used to worship many gods, and portrayed ghosts as comical characters. In what is seen as the origin of Japanese manga, or comics, a set of 12th-century scroll paintings humorously portray frogs, rabbits and other animals in human activities, from sumo wrestling to temple worshipping.

Hello Kitty and Doraemon now face hordes of newcomers, many launched by municipal governments to promote tourism and local products. Regular "character summits" choose a national favorite. The market reached 2.3 trillion yen (\$23 billion) last year, according to think tank Yano Research Institute Ltd.

First family travels to New York for wedding of personal chef Sam Kass to Alex Wagner of MSNBC

POCANTICO HILLS, N.Y. (AP) — Setting aside for a few hours the pressures of trying to calm the world's trouble spots, President Barack Obama assumed the role of spectator for something more joyous: the wedding of the first family's longtime chef and friend.

Chef Sam Kass and MSNBC host Alex Wagner tied the knot Saturday at Blue Hill at Stone Barns, a farm-to-table restaurant in Pocantico Hills, just north of New York City.

The president and his chef have a close relationship, which Obama highlighted earlier this month when he spent several hours at dinner at Kass' apartment amid the turmoil in Iraq, Ukraine and Ferguson, Missouri.

It's long been said that time is a president's most precious commodity. That Obama would spend five hours at Kass' home on one of the aide's final evenings as a bachelor was a testament to their bond.

Obama's rounds of golf are often his only other outings that last as long — and those games sometimes include Kass.

Pakistani drowns in ditch during clashes with police, first death in 2 weeks of protests

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani police on Sunday clashed with scattered pockets of anti-government protesters trying to advance on the prime minister's residence after a night of violence that saw hundreds wounded and the first death in more than two weeks of demonstrations.

The violence has raised the stakes in a political standoff, in which cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan and cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri have led twin protests demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, alleging massive voting fraud in the election that brought him into office last year in the

country's first democratic transfer of power.

Backed by parliament and many political parties, Sharif has refused to step down. Government negotiators have tried to convince Qadri and Khan to end their protests.

Senior hospital official Dr. Wasim Khawaja said Qadri supporter Naveed Razzaq drowned in a ditch after he was in a crowd that was bombarded with tear gas. Hundreds of people were wounded overnight as police battled protesters with tear gas, batons and rubber bullets near the premier's official residence and the adjacent parliament building.

The protesters started regrouping at daybreak Sunday and made repeated attempts to make their way through heavy deployment of police and barricades to reach the premier's residence. Police strengthened their lines and responded by lobbing tear gas canisters.

Nicaraguan officials: Rescuers reach 20 trapped gold miners; others still being sought

BONANZA, Nicaragua (AP) — Rescue workers and trapped miners alike frantically dug away at opposite sides of rock and mud that blocked a Nicaragua gold mine, finally succeeding in freeing at least 20 men. Efforts to reach five miners still missing continued Saturday.

Antonio Diaz said the miners tried to cheer each other up inside the dark, cold shaft, attacking the slide with their picks and shovels by the light of helmet lamps. But after 24 hours, they began feeling hungry and some started losing hope.

"The sadness of feeling yourself trapped in a hole is immense but I never lost hope," said the 32-year-old miner from a hospital bed in the town of Bonanza, near the El Comal gold and silver mine. "I kept thinking I was too young to die and above all, I thought about my two daughters."

He said the miners finally cut a hole through the blockage and started shouting, but at first there was no answer.

"Hours later, someone heard us, and when he answered us we felt life returning to our bodies," Diaz said. "God had answered our pleas to keep living."

AP PHOTOS: Police unit treats girls from Brazilian slum to a fairy-tale evening

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Dressed in long evening gowns, girls from Rio de Janeiro's Santa Marta "favela" slum have celebrated a fairy-tale evening in a debutante ball sponsored by local police.

The 15-year-old girls were escorted to the ball held in a Copacabana dancehall Friday night by members of the Pacifying Police Unit from their community. The police units have re-conquered slums ruled for decades by drug-dealing gangs.

The girls were coiffed and made up by volunteers, and their dresses were loaned by a formal wear shop.

Debutante balls have been a custom among upper-middle-class and wealthy Brazilian families. They mark a girl's transition from childhood to adulthood.

Rams cut Michael Sam, 1st openly gay player drafted in the NFL

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Not long after Michael Sam waved to an adoring crowd at Missouri's season opener, he looked down at his cell phone.

It was 3 p.m. CT, the deadline for NFL teams to pare rosters to 53 players. And the Rams coach was talking to the players who didn't make the cut.

He headed into the locker room. At some point, his phone rang with the bad news: He didn't make the cut.

Twenty others were cut by the St. Louis Rams on Saturday, all of them mere footnotes. For Sam, it meant a roadblock in his journey to become the first openly gay player to make an NFL roster.

Over and over, coach Jeff Fisher said, it was purely a football decision.

Texas abortion clinics spared imminent closure after federal judge tosses out new restrictions

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Tough new Texas abortion restrictions are on hold after a federal judge found Republican-led efforts to hold abortion clinics to hospital-level operating standards unconstitutional in a ruling that spares more than a dozen clinics from imminent closure.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's office has filed an appeal of Friday's ruling by U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel in Austin, court records show.

In his ruling, Yeakel cited other rules GOP lawmakers have recently passed in his decision to throw out requirements that clinics meet hospital operating standards.

Those prior abortion restrictions include mandatory sonograms and a 24-hour waiting period after a woman first seeks out an abortion.

"These substantial obstacles have reached a tipping point," Yeakel wrote in a 21-page opinion.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, August 31, the 243rd day of 2014. There are 122 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 31, 1954, Hurricane Carol hit the northeastern Atlantic states; Connecticut, Rhode Island and part of Massachusetts bore the brunt of the storm, which resulted in some 70 deaths.

On this date:

In 1886, an earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 7.3 devastated Charleston, South Carolina, killing at least 60 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1888, Mary Ann Nichols, apparently the first victim of "Jack the Ripper," was found slain in London's East End.

In 1934, the first Chicago Charities College All-Star Game took place at Soldier Field as a team of graduated All-American players from the previous season played the NFL champion Chicago Bears to a scoreless tie.

In 1941, the radio program "The Great Gildersleeve," a spinoff from "Fibber McGee and Molly" starring Harold Peary, debuted on NBC.

In 1962, the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago became independent of British colonial rule.

In 1972, at the Munich Summer Olympics, American swimmer Mark Spitz won his fourth and fifth gold

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medals in the 100-meter butterfly and 800-meter freestyle relay; Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut won gold medals in floor exercise and the balance beam.

In 1980, Poland's Solidarity labor movement was born with an agreement signed in Gdansk (guh-DANSK') that ended a 17-day-old strike.

In 1986, 82 people were killed when an Aeromexico jetliner and a small private plane collided over Cerritos, California. The Soviet passenger ship Admiral Nakhimov collided with a merchant vessel in the Black Sea, causing both to sink; up to 448 people reportedly died.

In 1988, 14 people were killed when a Delta Boeing 727 crashed during takeoff from Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.

In 1989, Britain's Princess Anne and her husband, Capt. Mark Phillips, announced they were separating after 15 years of marriage.

In 1994, the Irish Republican Army declared a cease-fire. Russia officially ended its military presence in the former East Germany and the Baltics after half a century.

In 1997, Prince Charles brought Princess Diana home for the last time, escorting the body of his former wife to a Britain that was shocked, grief-stricken and angered by her death in a Paris traffic accident hours earlier.

Ten years ago: At the Republican National Convention in New York, First Lady Laura Bush and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger praised President George W. Bush as a man of strength and compassion. Palestinian suicide bombers blew up two buses in Beersheba, Israel, killing 16 passengers. A woman strapped with explosives blew herself up outside a busy Moscow subway station, killing 10 people.

Five years ago: Extremely dangerous and strengthening Hurricane Jimena roared toward Mexico's resort-studded Baja California Peninsula. Walt Disney Co. announced it was acquiring comic book giant Marvel Entertainment for \$4 billion.

One year ago: Short of support at home and allies abroad, President Barack Obama stepped back from a missile strike against Syria and instead asked Congress to support a strike against President Bashar Assad's regime for suspected use of chemical weapons. British television interviewer David Frost, 74, died aboard a cruise ship bound for the Mediterranean.

Today's Birthdays: Japanese monster movie actor Katsumi Tezuka is 102. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Frank Robinson is 79. Actor Warren Berlinger is 77. Rock musician Jerry Allison (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 75. Actor Jack Thompson is 74. Violinist Itzhak Perlman is 69. Singer Van Morrison is 69. Rock musician Rudolf Schenker (The Scorpions) is 66. Actor Richard Gere is 65. Olympic gold medal track and field athlete Edwin Moses is 59. Rock singer Glenn Tilbrook (Squeeze) is 57. Rock musician Gina Schock (The Go-Go's) is 57. Singer Tony DeFranco (The DeFranco Family) is 55. Rhythm-and-blues musician Larry Waddell (Mint Condition) is 51. Actor Jaime P. Gomez is 49. Baseball pitcher Hideo Nomo is 46. Rock musician Jeff Russo (Tonic) is 45. Singer-composer Deborah Gibson is 44. Rock musician Greg Richling (Wallflowers) is 44. Actor Zack Ward is 44. Golfer Pádraig Harrington is 43. Actor Chris Tucker is 42. Actress Sara Ramirez is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamara (Trina & Tamara) is 37.

Thought for Today: "Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure. We get very little wisdom from success, you know." - William Saroyan, American author and playwright (born this date in 1908, died 1981).