

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, September 5, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 048 ♦ 1 of 23

The JV football game with Roncalli on Monday, Sept. 8th has a new time and site. The game will be at 6pm at played at Presetation College.

The site for the JV Football game vs Red/Dol on Monday, Sept 29th is now at DOLAND!

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Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

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.

Smith Open House

An Open House Bridal Shower honoring Laura Smith (bride to be of Taylor Anderson) will be held on Saturday, September 20th from 9:00-11:00am at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church.

St. John's Luncheon

St. John's Lutheran Church is having its annual soup, sandwich, and pie luncheon (\$2.00 each) on Thursday, September 11th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. along with crafts and

5

School Breakfast: Yogurt, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken wings, mashed potatoes, veg and dip, green beans, fresh and canned fruit, breadstick.

Senior Menu: Turkey Sub Sandwich, Creamy Potato Salad, Fruited Jello, Ice Cream Sundae.

2009: Dave and Becky Hunter

Birthdays: Mary Fordham • Lauri Howard • Dan Krueger • Irene Zoellner

7:00pm: Football hosts Roncalli

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

FOR RENT

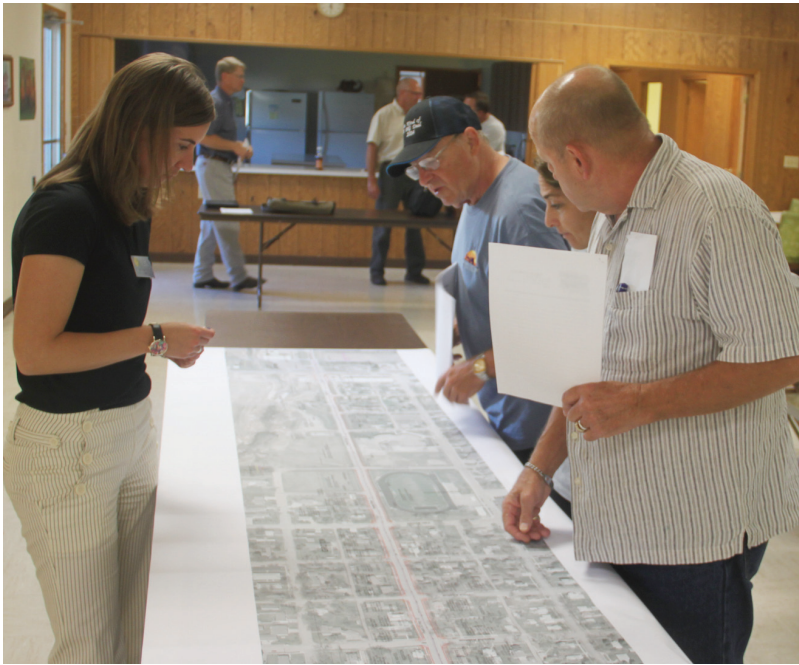
Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118

Highway 37 project to feature 1.5 miles of new sidewalk



On the right side of the table, Gordon Nelson and Kristie and Robert Gibbs look over the plans for the SD Highway 37 project. On the left is Naomi Fossen, road design engineer for the South Dakota Department of Transportation. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

South Dakota Highway 37 going through Groton has a deficiency in ADA pedestrian facilities. That is going to be corrected in 2016 when the highway will get a major make-over from Aspen Avenue to US Highway 12.

The project will include new storm sewers, new curb and gutter, asphalt surfacing, sidewalk and new roadway lighting. The estimated cost of the project is \$3.5 million with 80 percent of that coming from the federal government. Approximately 29 people attended the informational meeting held Thursday night at the Groton Community Center. Neil Schochenmaier, road design engineer supervisor, said the project is contingent on federal funding.

SD Highway 37 was constructed in 1954. The surface was redone in 1985 and the last time it was chip sealed was in 2007. According to traffic count, an average of 1,143 vehicles go through Groton per day on Highway 37.

There will also be improvements done at the intersection of SD 37 and US 12 to help with drainage and other issues. SD 37 will have 12 inches of gravel and a five-inch asphalt mat.

On the east side of SD 37 from Railroad Avenue to US 12, curb and gutter will be installed. There will also be a 5-foot boulevard with a 5-foot ADA sidewalk. On the west side of SD 37, curb and gutter and sidewalk will be installed from Railroad Avenue to Seventh Avenue. New LED lights will be installed along SD 37. The lights will be spaced out evenly; thus, not every intersection is going to have a street light.

The tentative plan calls for landowner meetings in the fall and winter of 2014, the final design will be done by winter of 2014, the Right of Way process will be done winter of 2014 into 2015, the bids will be let in February of 2016 with construction to begin in the spring of 2016.

During the construction process, half of SD 37 will be done at a time to allow for local traffic only in the other lane. General traffic will be detoured along Railroad Avenue with east bound traffic going all the way to US 12 while west bound traffic will go north along Sixth Street.

South Dakota has 82,536 miles of roadway - 7,810 miles are state highways maintained by the Department of Transportation and even though it's only 9.5% of the total mileage, the state highway system carries approximately 67% of all vehicle miles traveled.

Netters beat Deuel, 3-1

Groton's volleyball team lost the first game at Deuel, 25-21, but then came back to win the next three, 25-15, 25-9 and 26-24.

In serving, Groton was 90 of 98 with 18 ace serves. Courtney Kurtz was 32 of 33 with 10 ace serves, Sydney Thorson was 17 of 18 with three ace serves, Kasey Waage was 14 of 16 with two ace serves.

In attacks, Groton was 114 of 137 with 28 kills. Josie Doeden was 26 of 35 with eight kills, Ashley Gibbs was 23 of 25 with five kills and Audrey Wanner was 23 of 26 with seven kills.

Groton was 101 of 101 in sets with 23 assists. Courtney Kurtz was 75 of 75 with 20 assists.

Groton had nine solo blocks with Doeden having seven and Maggie Simon two.

Groton had 140 digs with Waage having 38, Kurtz 26, Gibbs 23 and Wanner 21.

Groton is now 2-0 on the season and will host Roncalli on Sept. 11.

Netters beat Ipswich in season opener

Groton defeated Ipswich in the first volleyball match of the season, 3-0. Game scores were 25-23, 25-17 and 25-19.

Groton was 61 of 71 in serving with 10 ace serves. Josie Doeden was 11 of 14 with two ace serves, Courtney Kurtz was 16 of 16 with three ace serves and Kasey Waage was 12 of 12 with two ace serves.

In sets, Groton was 69 of 72. Kurtz was 62 of 65 with 17 assists.

Groton was 57 of 72 in attacks with 19 kills. Ashley Gibbs was 11 of 15 with four kills.

Groton had five blocks with Maggie Simon with two, Doeden and Tori Bjerke each had one.

Groton had 48 digs with Waage having 28 and Audrey Wanner 12.

Monday
September 8, 2014

3rd annual
Ladies Night Out

Social 6:30 PM
Painting 7 PM

OLIVE GROVE GOLF COURSE

Featuring:

Cocktails
& Canvas

\$45

All you can
drink wine
& appetizers!

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Haley Anne Erickson

Haley Anne Erickson was born on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014, to Seth and Megan Erickson, Roseville, Minn. She weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz. and was 19 3/4" long.

Grandparents are John and Meri Erickson, Groton; and Mark and Deb Brandlee, Bristol. Great-grandparents are Emery Sippel, Groton; Clarence and Charlean Erickson, Groton; Mary Anne Bartell, Bristol; and Orville and Marge Brandlee, Bristol.

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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RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, Sept. 6, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., 511 1st Ave East. 8/24 snow blower like new, electric start 21" MTD snow blower, electric start Toro 5-140 Snow blower that need carb work, pull type 10 gallon lawn sprayer, 2 push mowers - one with a bagger, Honda riding mower with bagger and auto drive, push lawn seed spreader, 2 weed eaters - electric and gas, bicycles, garden tools, mechanics tools - some new, carpenter tools, garden tools, leather recliner, much, much more.

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!!

JOIN US FOR
a LOCAL FOOD CELEBRATION!

Sunday, Sept. 7 • 4-7 p.m.

Granary Rural Cultural Center, rural Groton, S.D.
(find driving directions at dacotahprairiemuseum.com)

We'll start with a
**GRAND COMMUNITY
POTLUCK.**

Bring **local food** to share!

Drinks, plates and silverware provided.

- Presentation on the economics of local food •
 - Conversations on opportunities and challenges for local food •
 - **AND PERHAPS SOME MUSIC!** •
- Bring an instrument to join in an informal jam session.*

Farmers market vendors:
Bring your produce!
E-mail heidi@dakotafire.net for details.

SPONSORED BY

Dakotafire

SPARKING RURAL REVIVAL
ONE STORY AT A TIME.
www.dakotafire.net

This event kicks off the

**Dakota
LOCAL
FOOD
CHALLENGE**
SEPTEMBER 6-19, 2014

THE DAKOTA LOCAL FOOD CHALLENGE is a way for people in the Dakotas to get better connected to the land and the people who produce our food by eating food produced locally for two weeks in September.

Everyone who turns in a local food log will get a fun "I WENT LOCAL" T-shirt.

Sign up and get more info:
dakotafire.net/golocal

Today in Weather History

1922: A lightning storm broke over Regina, Saskatchewan. The rain forced two brothers to take refuge under a shock of grain before it was struck by lightning, killing them both. The same bolt of lightning stunned another hired hand working in the field, but he recovered.

1925: Every weather reporting station in Alabama hit 100 degrees or more. The highest temperature occurred at Centerville: 112 establishing the all-time state heat record.

1925 - The temperature at Centerville, AL, soars to 112 degrees to establish a state record. Every reporting station in Alabama was 100 degrees or above that afternoon. (The Weather Channel)

1933 - A hurricane hit Brownsville, TX, killing forty persons and causing 12 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1950 - Hurricane Easy produced the greatest 24 hour rainfall in U.S. weather records. The hurricane deluged Yankeetown, on the upper west coast of Florida, with 38.7 inches of rain. (David Ludlum)

1975 - Strong winds reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust resulting in a 22-car chain reaction accident on Interstate 10 near Toltec AZ. Two persons were killed, and 14 others were injured. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Thunderstorms over the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast States drenched Charleston, SC, with 5.50 inches of rain, and a total of 13.50 inches in two days, flooding homes, and leaving roads and bridges under water. (The National Weather Summary) A tropical storm which formed off the South Atlantic coast was responsible for torrential rains over coastal regions of South Carolina. Between the 30th of August and the 8th of September, Charleston SC received 18.44 inches of rain. The heavy rains caused extensive flooding around the city of Charleston, seriously damaged cotton crops in the eastern part of the state, and resulted in an unusually high number of mosquitos. (Storm Data)

1988 - Five days of heavy rain commenced in west central Florida. Up to 20 inches of rain in four days resulted in extensive urban flooding, and evacuation of 1000 homes. Flooding claimed four lives, and caused more than five million dollars property damage. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced six to ten inches of rain in south central Kansas between 6 AM and Noon. Serious flooding was reported around Wichita, with water four feet deep along some roads. A cold front crossing the Northern High Plains Region produced wind gusts to 63 mph at Sheridan WY. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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| TODAY | TONIGHT | SATURDAY | SATURDAY NIGHT | SUNDAY | SUNDAY NIGHT | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mostly Sunny High: 69 °F | Mostly Clear Low: 43 °F | Sunny High: 75 °F | Mostly Clear Low: 47 °F | Sunny High: 76 °F | Mostly Clear Low: 57 °F | Mostly Sunny High: 77 °F |

Dry and Mild This Weekend

Today's Highs: 66-72F

Tonight's Lows: 43-48F

Saturday's Highs: 72-79F

Saturday Night Lows: 47-53F

Sunday's Highs: 73-83F

Sunday Night Lows: 54-59F

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen

National Weather Service Aberdeen

@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 9/5/2014 4:15 AM Central

High pressure will provide for dry and mild conditions through the weekend.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 74.9°F at 2:48 AM

Low: 56.1°F at 11:28 PM

High Gust: 24 mph at 10:50 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1945

Record Low: 32° in 1962

Average High: 77°F

Average Low: 50°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.30

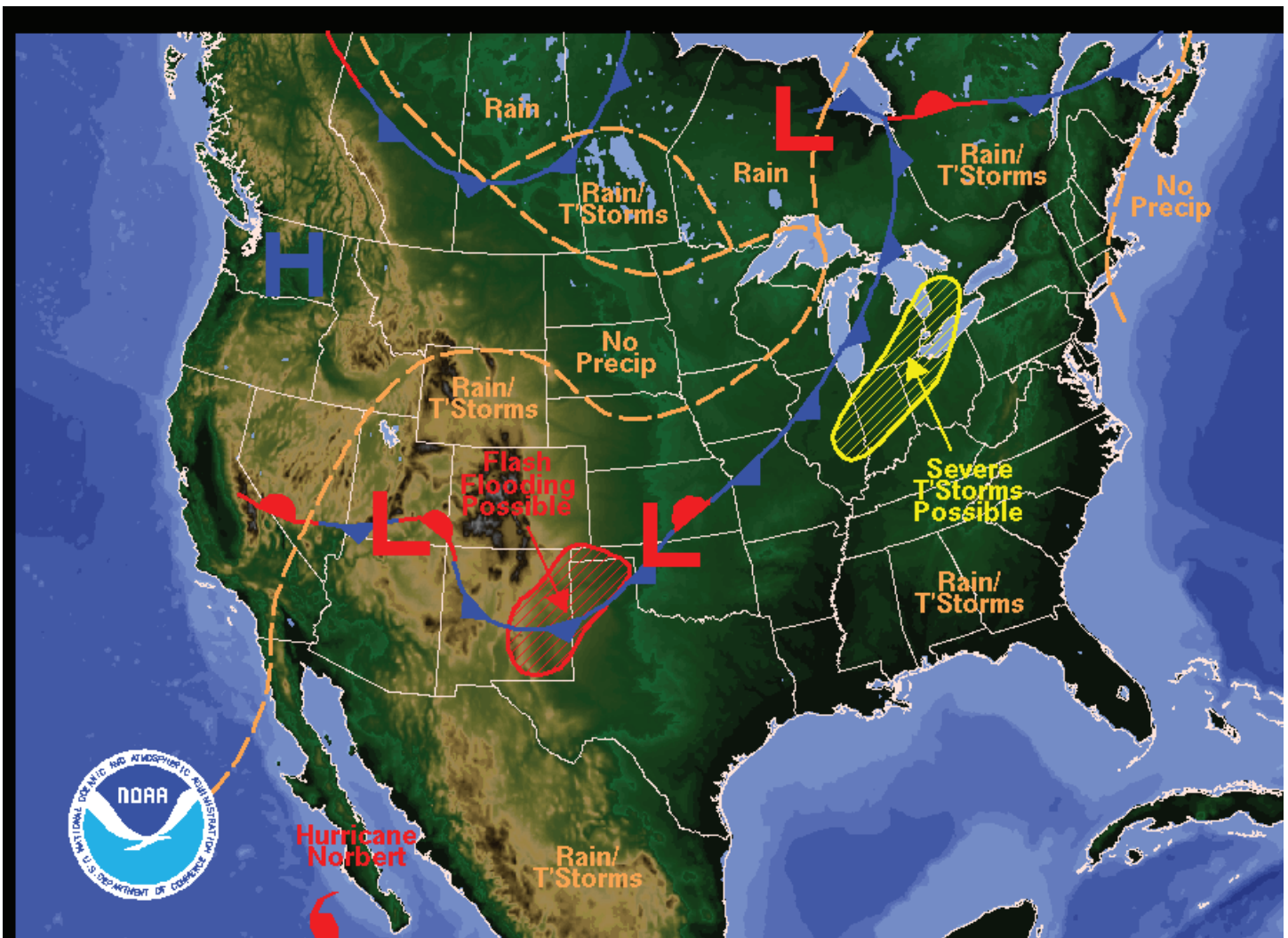
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 16.59

Precip Year to Date: 11.93

Sunset Tonight: 8:04 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:01 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Sep 05, 2014, issued 3:10 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mc Reynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



FATHERLY ADVICE

There is no shortage of advice in today's world. We find it in the exploding number of self-help books and magazines, radio and TV shows. No matter where we look or what we listen to, someone has some formula to solve our problems, enrich our lives, make us more attractive, even add years to our lives and make us wealthy.

Solomon, apart from his Proverbs, offered insight on how to live life well in some of his other writings. At the end of his life he wrote, "Of making many books there is no end...all has been heard and here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments." In these few words, he went back to the beginning of his reign when his father, David, gave him some "fatherly advice" – "So be strong, act like a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires."

There are, as mentioned earlier, many sources and recourses on how to live life. But the advice we find here is different. After reflecting on his life and reflecting on his successes and failures he summed up the essence of life: "Life, apart from God, is meaningless."

David, "a man after God's own heart," offered his son, Solomon, a man who would one day be recognized as "the wisest man who ever lived" a formula for success.

Wisdom, however, only has value if followed. As long as Solomon followed the advice of his father, David, God honored and blessed him. And, nothing has changed.

If we follow the advice of our Heavenly Father as we are presented in His Word, He will honor and bless us, too.

Prayer: To understand Your requirements, Father, is easier said than done. But with Your power, it is possible. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Ecclesiastes 1:11-14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota attorney general warns of data theft

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley is warning South Dakota residents to watch out for unauthorized credit and debit card charges following a potential data breach at Home Depot stores.

Home Depot's outgoing CEO Frank Blake hasn't confirmed that a breach happened. He said Thursday the nation's largest home-improvement chain learned of the possible nationwide data theft Tuesday.

He says Home Depot has hired security firms to help investigate and the company will activate chip-enabled checkout terminals at all of its stores by the end of the year. That technology helps makes transactions more secure.

A cybersecurity website says a "massive" batch of credit and debit cards went on sale on the black market Tuesday and likely came from Home Depot.

Jackley says all consumers should check their bank accounts and free credit report regularly.

South Dakota offers tax benefit for historic sites

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's historical society is reminding residents to apply for property tax benefits for historic sites.

The historical society says Nov. 3 is the deadline to apply for the state's eight-year tax moratorium for restoration and rehabilitation work that happened in 2014. Society director Jay Vogt says an eight-year delay is placed on property tax assessments for historic buildings that qualify.

The benefit is available for buildings listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places. The society approved 18 properties across the state for the program last year.

Vogt says the 18 projects represented over \$7.5 million in private investments in historic buildings.

Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup set for Sept. 26

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. (AP) — The state has released details on Custer State Park's 49th Annual Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival.

The roundup is the morning of Friday, Sept. 26, and the arts festival opens that afternoon and runs through Sunday, Sept. 28.

Custer State Park superintendent Matt Snyder says more than 10,000 people come to watch the park's 1,300 buffalo be rounded up into corrals.

Both events are free, but a South Dakota state park entrance license is required to enter the park on Saturday and Sunday.

Thursday's Scores The Associated Press

VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Britton-Hecla, 25-21, 25-8, 25-16

Avon def. Andes Central, 23-25, 13-25, 26-24, 25-15, 15-7

Baltic def. Garretson, 25-18, 25-11, 25-15

Bennett County def. Hot Springs, 25-21, 21-25, 25-19, 25-22

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Beresford def. Canton, 25-14, 25-18, 25-16
Brandon Valley def. Brookings, 25-14, 25-11, 25-12
Bridgewater-Emery def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-11, 25-16, 25-11
Centerville def. Canistota, 25-13, 25-21, 27-25
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Standing Rock, N.D., 25-13, 26-24, 25-12
Custer def. Red Cloud, 23-25, 25-15, 25-23, 25-13
Dakota Valley def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-13, 25-13, 26-24
Deubrook def. Groton Area, 25-21, 25-15, 25-9, 26-24
Deubrook def. Estelline, 25-23, 25-21, 25-15
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Colman-Egan, 26-28, 25-19, 25-12, 25-15
Faulkton def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-14, 25-19, 29-27
Freeman Academy def. Menno, 25-11, 25-19, 25-18
Gayville-Volin def. Alcester-Hudson, 19-25, 22-25, 25-23, 25-22, 15-9
Great Plains Lutheran def. Grant-Deuel, 25-19, 25-14, 25-22
Groton Area def. Deuel, 21-25, 25-15, 25-9, 26-24
Hamlin def. Flandreau, 25-10, 18-25, 25-16, 25-22
Harding County def. Lemmon, 25-15, 26-24, 25-9
Harrisburg def. Tea Area, 25-22, 23-25, 18-25, 25-14, 15-11
Herreid/Selby Area def. McLaughlin, 25-2, 25-11, 25-18
Highmore-Harrold def. Lower Brule, 25-7, 25-15, 25-14
Hitchcock-Tulare def. James Valley Christian, 25-20, 25-13, 19-25, 19-25, 15-12
Howard def. Freeman, 25-11, 25-21, 25-15
Huron def. Yankton, 18-25, 23-26, 25-19, 25-18, 15-11
Ipswich def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-3, 25-7, 25-12
Kimball/White Lake def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-22, 25-18, 20-25, 25-15
Lake Preston def. DeSmet, 25-20, 21-25, 25-21, 25-27, 15-8
Lusk, Wyo. def. Edgemont, 25-11, 25-17, 28-26
Lyman def. Gregory, 16-25, 17-25, 25-23, 25-19, 15-7
Marion def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-11, 25-13, 25-10
Miller def. Sully Buttes, 25-12, 25-22, 25-14
Mitchell Christian def. Iroquois, 25-21, 22-25, 25-15, 25-22
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-9, 25-14, 25-8
New Underwood def. White River, 25-23, 11-25, 25-23, 21-25, 15-11
Northwestern def. Langford, 25-12, 25-6, 25-8
Parker def. McCook Central/Montrose, 25-11, 25-19, 19-25, 25-11
Parkston def. Hanson, 23-25, 15-25, 25-18, 25-22, 16-14
Pierre def. Mitchell, 20-25, 25-20, 21-25, 25-19, 15-5
Pine Ridge def. St. Francis Indian, 25-10, 25-18, 25-16
Potter County def. Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D., 25-14, 25-13, 25-19
Rapid City Christian def. Wall, 25-23, 25-15, 25-21
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Ethan, 25-22, 25-20, 25-19
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-18, 25-7, 25-11
Sioux Falls Washington def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-21, 25-20, 25-23
Sioux Valley def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-12, 25-22, 26-24

Sisseton def. Webster, 25-21, 14-25, 25-20, 25-19
South Sioux City, Neb. def. Vermillion, 25-21, 22-25, 25-14, 25-13
Spearfish def. Hill City, 25-6, 25-12, 25-8
St. Thomas More def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-23, 25-16, 25-17
Sturgis def. Douglas, 25-10, 23-25, 25-19, 25-15
Summit def. Rosholt, 25-9, 25-10, 25-18
Timber Lake def. Bison, 25-22, 25-19, 25-17
Todd County def. Marty Indian, 25-4, 25-13, 25-13
Tri-Valley def. Lennox, 25-16, 25-18, 25-21
Wagner def. Chamberlain, 25-14, 25-8, 25-16
Watertown def. Brandon Valley, 25-14, 25-16, 25-23
Waubay def. Florence/Henry, 25-14, 27-25, 23-25, 25-12
Wessington Springs def. Platte-Geddes, 25-22, 25-12, 26-24
West Lyon, Inwood, Iowa def. West Central, 25-15, 25-21, 25-14
Wilmot def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-11, 25-20, 23-25, 25-14
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Milbank vs. Redfield/Doland, ppd. to Sep 13.

32 states ask Supreme Court to settle gay marriage

BOSTON (AP) — Thirty-two states that either allow gay marriage or have banned it asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday to settle the issue once and for all.

Fifteen states that allow gay marriage, led by Massachusetts, filed a brief asking the justices to take up three cases from Virginia, Utah and Oklahoma and overturn bans. And 17 other states, led by Colorado, that have banned the practice asked the court to hear cases from Utah and Oklahoma to clear up a “morass” of lawsuits, but didn’t urge the court to rule one way or another.

The filing came as a three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled that same-sex marriage bans in Wisconsin and Indiana are unconstitutional. The unanimous decision Thursday criticized the justifications both states gave, several times singling out the argument that marriage between a man and a woman is tradition. There are, the court noted, good and bad traditions.

The experience of Massachusetts — the first state to legalize gay marriage — shows that allowing same-sex couples to wed has only benefited families and strengthened the institution of marriage, said Attorney General Martha Coakley.

“Laws that bar same-sex couples from marrying are discriminatory and unconstitutional,” she said. “The time has come for this critical issue to be resolved.”

Massachusetts was joined by California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington.

Colorado’s brief argued that the definition of marriage faces legal challenges only the Supreme Court can resolve, and that without a Supreme Court decision, states defending bans could be liable for huge legal bills from future lawsuits if they are overturned. It was written by Daniel D. Domenico, the state’s solicitor general, and Michael Lee Francisco, assistant solicitor general.

Colorado was joined by Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

These are the cases addressed in the briefs:

— In Virginia, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in July that the state's voter-approved ban is unconstitutional. The state has appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which hasn't said whether it will accept the case. But the high court granted a request on Aug. 20 from a county clerk to delay implementation of the ruling, which would have allowed same-sex couples to marry beginning the next day.

— In Oklahoma, an appeals court tossed the state's ban in July but put its ruling on hold pending an appeal, meaning same-sex couples can't marry in Oklahoma for now. Attorneys representing the Tulsa County court clerk — who refused to issue a marriage license for a lesbian couple there — asked the Supreme Court this month to hear the case.

— In Utah, the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver ruled this summer that Utah must allow gay couples to marry, though it put the ruling on hold pending an appeal. The state has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the state's ban.

Keystone XL operator to seek PUC's recertification

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The operator of the long-delayed Keystone XL crude oil pipeline said Thursday it will ask South Dakota's utility regulators to recertify the portion of the project that runs through the state before the end of the month.

The president of Keystone Projects for TransCanada Corp., Corey Goulet, said the state's Public Utilities Commission must re-certify that the conditions for construction of that portion of the nearly 1,200-mile pipeline have not changed since the permits were issued four years ago.

Goulet said the company will submit the petition Sept. 15.

"What we are doing is providing a petition that shows that if anything, the conditions are better than they were previously," Goulet said, adding that the construction conditions have improved in part because of nearly 60 stipulations that the federal government imposed on the project since it was first approved by the commission. The three commissioners will determine the process to recertify the pipeline.

The proposed project would transport oil from Canadian tar sands through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day to refineries along the Gulf Coast.

Advocates say it will create thousands of jobs and aid energy independence, but environmentalists warn of possible spills and say transporting oil will eventually contribute to global warming.

The State Department said in a Jan. 31 report that building the pipeline would not significantly boost carbon emissions because the oil was likely to find its way to market by other means. It added that transporting it by rail or truck would cause greater environmental problems than if the Keystone XL pipeline were built.

The project has become a major flashpoint alongside the larger debate over carbon emissions, drilling policies and tax breaks for energy companies.

"I think the average person in America and South Dakota supports this project," Goulet said. "There is a minority of people that kind of fundamentally oppose this project because it's associated with energy from hydrocarbons."

Goulet said the project would generate \$20 million in taxes per year for the counties through which the pipeline would run, as well as 4,200 jobs in the state and about \$200 million in wages associated

with those jobs.

The Obama administration said in April it was putting off its decision on whether to approve the pipeline indefinitely. A decision now isn't expected until after the November elections.

Goulet said TransCanada could be ready to begin construction in the last quarter of 2015 should the project receive presidential approval at the beginning of next year.

State retirement system assets see record high

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Retirement System's assets have grown to a record high of more than \$10.6 billion after earning 18.9 percent on investments in the past fiscal year, officials said Thursday.

The system's assets peaked at about \$8.2 billion in 2007 and then plummeted during the recession. Those assets then rose to the new high by June 30, up more than \$1.7 billion for the most recent fiscal year, according to Tammy Otten, South Dakota's assistant state investment officer.

Otten presented the fiscal year's returns at the retirement system's quarterly meeting in Pierre on Thursday.

The gains marked the second year of solid growth for the system, which saw a 19 percent net increase in fiscal year 2013 that brought in close to \$1.5 billion.

The system paid out \$236 million in benefits to employees in Fiscal Year 2014, Otten said.

Otten said it would be difficult to repeat the system's success in the near future with the markets.

"But the good news is ... we had a very good return. We had very good return relative to our benchmark, and we had a very good return relative to our peers," she said.

The system's investments outpaced the predicted benchmark of a 17.5 percent increase set by the South Dakota Investment Council.

The Board of Trustees has consistently touted the state's retirement system as one of the best in the nation.

This year, the state's market returns ranked in the top 4th percentile of all public retirement funds, according to documents released at Thursday's meeting. It ranked in the top 8th percentile of public funds with assets greater than \$1 billion.

Members of the retirement system include all state public employees, ranging from teachers to the governor's staff.

The system's good financial health means pension payments should increase on July 1, 2015, by 3.1 percent, the maximum amount allowed by state law.

Although the system has seen substantial growth in recent years, Matt Clark, the state investment officer, said the state needs to prepare for financial downturns in the future that could undercut the system's wealth drastically.

James Hansen, a retired administrator from Pierre who represents retirees as trustee, said it would be more prudent to take precautionary measures instead of waiting for disaster to strike.

"We ought to do it now rather than when it happens," he said.

Others said the system is well-funded and shouldn't be changed just yet. No immediate action was taken Thursday.

The board will take up the subject again in December, but said it was likely they wouldn't approach the Legislature on the matter in the upcoming session.

Pair arrested for human trafficking in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Minnesota man and woman have been arrested after police say the pair forced a 33-year-old Minneapolis woman to prostitute herself in Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls police spokesman Sam Clemens tells the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/Yfokl7>) police began monitoring a local hotel after a work reported suspicious activity. Police say they arrested three men who exited a hotel room on drug and hiring sexual activity charges. They also found the Minneapolis woman in the hotel room. She told police she was forced into prostitution by a 31-year-old Minneapolis man and a 26-year-old woman from St. Peter, Minnesota.

The woman gave the names and descriptions of the suspects. Officers later stopped their vehicle and arrested the man and woman on charges of human trafficking and pimping.

SD woman dies after driving car in front of train

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — A western South Dakota woman is dead after her vehicle and a train collided. The South Dakota Highway Patrol says 52-year-old Monica Westin drove in front of an oncoming train at a railroad crossing in Box Elder. The train struck Westin's 2003 Oldsmobile Alero in the driver's side rear door, dragged the vehicle for a short distance and then pushed it into a field.

Authorities say the Box Elder woman was thrown from the vehicle during the crash. Westin was wearing a seatbelt. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

The Patrol says the incident is under investigation.

Inmate hangs himself in SD state prison

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota inmate sentenced to death for killing a woman as part of what he said was a plot to assassinate the president committed suicide, the state Department of Corrections said Thursday morning.

James McVay, 44, was found hanging in his cell at 6:50 a.m. in the South Dakota State Penitentiary, corrections officials said. McVay is the second South Dakota inmate in the last 11 years to commit suicide while awaiting capital punishment.

McVay was formally sentenced to death in May after pleading guilty, but mentally ill, to murder in the 2011 stabbing of 75-year-old Maybelle Schein. McVay said he killed Schein and stole her car as part of his plan to drive to Washington and kill the president. He was later arrested in Madison, Wisconsin.

Corrections Department Secretary Denny Kaemingk said McVay used a sheet to hang himself. Penitentiary staff found McVay during scheduled rounds and attempted CPR, but he was pronounced dead before he could be taken to a hospital.

The Division of Criminal Investigation is investigating McVay's death. Kaemingk said surveillance video of the area will be reviewed as part of the probe. The Minnehaha County Coroner's Office will conduct an autopsy.

McVay was not on suicide watch, but was housed at a mental health section in the penitentiary.

Death-row inmate Robert Leroy Anderson was found hanged in his cell in March 2003. Anderson was awaiting lethal injection for the disappearances and deaths of Piper Streyle, 28, of rural Canistota and Larisa Dumansky, 29, of Sioux Falls.

Authorities at trial said McVay walked away from a minimum-security prison and was mixing cough syrup and alcohol when he killed Schein. Prosecutors said she was stabbed nine times and bled to death within 16 seconds of the final blow.

Dr. Michael Farnsworth testified for the defense that McVay suffered from delusional disorder and would often experience substance-induced psychosis. McVay told Farnsworth that when he took dextromethorphan-based cough syrup, he would hear the "voice of God" speaking to him.

Farnsworth also testified that McVay was not insane and understood right from wrong.

The Minnehaha County Public Defender's Office, which represented McVay at trial, in a statement said McVay had a documented history of serious mental health issues and hoped his and Schein's deaths could bring awareness to "the epidemic of mental illness."

Minnehaha County State's Attorney Aaron McGowan said his office has notified Schein's relatives of the incident, adding, "He made it very clear to us that he had very little respect for human life, including his own."

Retirement system holding off on gay marriage talk

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Officials with the South Dakota Retirement System say they're holding off on discussing the effects of last year's Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage.

Rob Wylie is the executive director of the retirement system's board of trustees. Wylie says for now the board won't discuss the potential effects of last year's Supreme Court decision that struck down part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

Wylie says it could be premature to discuss the matter while there are court cases pending on South Dakota's ban on same-sex marriage.

The system's board of trustees is meeting Thursday in Pierre for its quarterly meeting.

Mitchell police investigating woman's death

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Mitchell police are investigating the death of a woman who was found dead in her apartment.

Police say the death of 49-year-old Janie Sue McDougal is considered suspicious after an autopsy.

McDougal was found dead in her apartment Monday morning.

Detective Lt. Don Everson says there were no obvious signs of foul play. Police declined to release further details.

SD man accused of pointing gun at delivery workers

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is accused of pointing a handgun at two people delivering a newspaper to his home.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says 72-year-old Allan Dean Hansen allegedly walked outside his home and pointed a .357 revolver at the workers on Wednesday morning.

He was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault after the delivery workers called police.

Clemens says Hansen admitted to pointing his gun at the workers because there had been a lot of criminal activity in the area and he wanted to figure out who they were.

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. SHELLING MOVES CLOSER TO UKRAINIAN PORT

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Russian-backed rebels press their offensive in the strategically key city of Mariupol just hours ahead of talks in Belarus that are widely hoped to bring a cease-fire.

2. ALLIANCE TURNS ATTENTION TO UKRAINE CRISIS

NATO outlines plans for stationing a rapid response force in Eastern Europe to serve as a deterrent to Moscow and ease Russia's neighbors' fears.

3. WHERE U.S. MISSIONARY WILL BE TREATED FOR EBOLA

Dr. Rick Sacra had been receiving care in Liberia. But the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha is home to a special isolation unit that's believed to be the largest in the U.S.

4. TRAILBLAZING COMIC DIES AT 81

Fashion and acting were Joan Rivers' early dreams — but it was comedy that paid the bills and ultimately made her a star.

5. FEDS LAUNCH PROBE OF POLICE IN FERGUSON

The Missouri department — under scrutiny since the shooting of an unarmed black 18-year-old by a white officer — says it welcomes the U.S. attorney general's investigation.

6. EX-VIRGINIA GOVERNOR, WIFE CONVICTED IN CORRUPTION CASE

Jurors decide that Bob and Maureen McDonnell performed favors for a wealthy businessman in exchange for more than \$165,000 in gifts and loans.

7. SUPREME COURT ASKED FOR FINAL WORD ON GAY MARRIAGE

Thirty-two states exhort the U.S. high court to settle the issue once and for all.

8. WHAT'S NOT SO POPULAR

Jeans, as more people are sporting yoga pants and leggings instead of the iconic blues.

9. HE'S GOT FRIENDS

Country star Garth Brooks returns to full-time touring with a performance before enthusiastic fans in suburban Chicago.

10. WHO OPENED NFL SEASON WITH A WIN

Russell Wilson, Marshawn Lynch and Percy Harvin lead Seattle past Green Bay 36-16 as the Seahawks begin their Super Bowl title defense with a victory.

AP News in Brief

NATO leaders to unveil outlines of rapid response force aimed at deterring Russian aggression

NEWPORT, Wales (AP) — NATO leaders will back plans Friday for positioning more troops and military equipment in Eastern Europe, establishing a rapid response force aimed at easing anxiety among member states near Russia's border and deterring the Kremlin against replicating its provocations in Ukraine elsewhere in the region.

The announcement will come against the backdrop of peace talks involving Russia and Ukraine in Minsk, Belarus. The talks are aimed at achieving a cease-fire to bring an end to the months of fighting between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists.

While Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko voiced "careful optimism" about the talks, Western leaders remain skeptical. The U.S. and Europe have warned that they stand ready to levy more economic sanctions on Russia, a step a top White House official said could occur within days.

As leaders began their meeting in southern Wales, British Prime Minister David Cameron said his nation is willing to contribute 3,500 personnel to the rapid response force. He said its headquarters could

be in Poland, with forward units in the easternmost NATO member countries and equipment stockpiled there in advance.

"We must be able to act more swiftly," Cameron said. "I hope that today we can agree a multinational spearhead force deployable anywhere in the world in just two to five days."

Shelling moves closer to Ukrainian port hours before peace talks

MARIUPOL, Ukraine (AP) — Shelling resounded on the outskirts of a Ukrainian port city Friday as Russian-backed rebels pressed their offensive in the strategically key southeast just hours ahead of talks that are widely hoped to bring a cease-fire.

Associated Press reporters heard heavy shelling on Friday morning north and east of Mariupol. The strategic city of about 500,000 lies along the Sea of Azov, between Russia to the east and the Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula to the west.

The sound of incoming and outgoing shelling from different directions appeared to indicate that rebels have partially surrounded the area and are probing its defenses. The onslaught could be intended to raise the pressure on the Ukrainian government ahead of peace talks in Minsk, Belarus, which are expected to lead to a cease-fire.

Seizure of Mariupol would give the rebels a strong foothold and raise the threat of the rebels carving a land corridor between Russia and Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that Russia annexed in March. If that happens, Ukraine would lose another chunk of sea coast and access to rich hydrocarbon resources the Sea of Azov is believed to hold.

The rebel offensive follows two weeks of rebel gains that turned the tide of the war against Ukrainian forces, who until recently had appeared close to crushing the five-month rebellion in the east.

US doctor infected with Ebola while working in Liberia to get treatment at Nebraska hospital

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A doctor who became infected with Ebola while working in Liberia — the third American aid worker sickened with the virus — is expected to arrive Friday at a Nebraska hospital for treatment.

Officials at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha have said Dr. Rick Sacra, 51, will begin treatment in the hospital's 10-bed special isolation unit, the largest of four such units in the U.S.

Sacra, who's from the Boston area, opted to head to Liberia after hearing that two other missionaries were sick. He served with the North Carolina-based charity SIM. Sacra wasn't involved in the treatment of Ebola patients but delivered babies, so it's unclear how he got infected with the virus that has killed about 1,900 people.

Dr. Phil Smith, medical director of the Omaha unit, said doctors there will focus on providing Sacra with basic care, including keeping him hydrated and keeping his vital signs stable. Smith said a team of 35 doctors, nurses and other medical staffers will attend to Sacra.

The team is discussing experimental treatments, including using blood serum from a patient who has recovered from Ebola, Smith said.

Alarmed by regional threat, Lebanon's Christians take up arms

QAA, Lebanon (AP) — Every day around sunset, dozens of residents of this small Lebanese Christian

village on the border carry their automatic rifles and deploy on surrounding hills, taking up positions and laying ambushes in case Muslim extremists from neighboring Syria attack.

"We all know that if they come, they will slit our throats for no reason," said one villager as he drove through the streets of Qaa, an assault rifle resting next to him.

For months, Lebanese Christians have watched with dread as other Christians flee Islamic extremists in Syria and Iraq, fearing their turn will come next. Fears multiplied after militants from Syria overran a border town last month, clashing with security forces for days and killing and kidnapping Lebanese soldiers and policemen.

Now, for the first time since the Lebanese civil war ended in 1990, Lebanese Christians are rearming and setting up self-defense units to protect themselves, an indication of the growing anxiety over the expanding reach of radical Islamic groups.

Across the Middle East, Christian communities as old as the religion itself feel their very survival is now at stake, threatened by militants of the Islamic State group rampaging across Iraq and Syria.

Can we talk about how Joan Rivers blazed a trail for female comics and taboo topics onstage?

LOS ANGELES (AP) — On "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1967, Joan Rivers joked about society's double-standard for women.

"A girl, you're 30 years old, you're not married, you're an old maid," she said. "A man, he's 90 years old, he's not married, he's a catch."

At the time, it was rare to see a female comic onstage, and even rarer for an entertainer to talk frankly about being a woman. A few years later, on "The Carol Burnett Show," Rivers boasted about wearing a pushup bra, laughed about the lack of sex in long marriages and blatantly said men like second wives better.

Rivers, who died Thursday at 81, was a trailblazer for all comics, but especially for women.

David Letterman called her "a real pioneer for other women looking for careers in stand-up comedy" in his monologue Thursday. "And talk about guts — she would come out here and sit in this chair and say some things that were unbelievable... The force of her comedy was overpowering."

Another US appeals court rules against gay marriage bans; states urge Supreme Court to act

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A stinging rejection of same-sex marriage bans in Wisconsin and Indiana, issued by a unanimous and unequivocal U.S. appeals court, has brought hope to those fighting the laws that the Supreme Court will feel pressure to rule soon in their favor.

The ruling from the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago came Thursday, the same day 32 states asked the Supreme Court to settle the issue once and for all.

Fifteen states that allow gay marriage, led by Massachusetts, filed a brief asking the justices to take up three cases from Virginia, Utah and Oklahoma and overturn bans. And 17 other states, led by Colorado, that have banned the practice asked the court to hear cases from Utah and Oklahoma to clear up a "morass" of lawsuits, but didn't urge the court to rule one way or another.

Celebrations Thursday over the latest legal victory for gay couples seeking to get married were tempered knowing that the bigger — and final — battle rests with the high court.

Same-sex marriage is legal in 19 states and the District of Columbia. Bans that have been overturned

in some other states continue to make their way through the courts. Since last year, the vast majority of federal rulings have declared same-sex marriages bans unconstitutional.

34 coal miners trapped alive inside collapsed coal mine in Bosnia

ZENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Thirty-four miners were trapped Friday deep inside a coal mine that collapsed in central Bosnia, officials said. They confirmed the miners were alive and had air for now.

The union leader at the Zenica coal mine, Mehmed Oruc, said two tunnels in the mine collapsed Thursday evening following a gas explosion triggered by a minor earthquake that had hit the area near the town of Zenica.

Oruc said the miners are more than 500 meters (1,600 feet) underground, but are alive and have enough air. He added that rescuers are hopeful the miners will be brought out soon.

He said 22 other miners managed to leave the pit after the tunnels collapsed, although two were injured.

Oruc said rescuers are working around the clock to reach the trapped miners and have another 20 meters (65 feet) to dig through.

Justice Department announces broad investigation into Ferguson police department

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department launched a broad investigation Thursday into the police department in Ferguson, Missouri, following the shooting last month of an unarmed black 18-year-old by a white police officer.

The investigation, which is separate from an existing federal probe into the Aug. 9 shooting of Michel Brown, will look for patterns of discrimination within the predominantly white department and focus on how officers use force, search and arrest suspects, and treat inmates at the city jail. The police department said it welcomed the investigation.

In announcing the action, Attorney General Eric Holder, who visited the St. Louis suburb two weeks ago, said he heard repeated concerns from community members about general police practices and a lack of diversity on the police force. That experience influenced the decision to seek a wide-ranging probe into the department, he said.

"I heard from them directly about the deep mistrust that has taken hold between law enforcement officials and members of the community," Holder said, adding that other evidence that's emerged so far — including data about traffic stops — appeared to validate community concerns.

The inquiry is part of a broader Justice Department effort to investigate troubled police departments and, when pervasive problems are found, direct changes to be made. The department says it has investigated 20 police departments for a variety of systemic misconduct in the past five years, more than twice the number of cases opened in the previous five years.

Shoppers' love affair with yoga pants trumps jeans

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans' obsession with jeans is beginning to wear thin.

Jeans long have been a go-to staple in closets across the country. After all, not many pieces of cloth-

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ing are so comfortable they can be worn daily, yet versatile enough to be dressed up or down.

But sales of the iconic blues fell 6 percent during the past year after decades of almost steady growth. Why? People more often are sporting yoga pants and leggings instead of traditional denim.

The shift is partly due to a lack of new designs since brightly colored skinny jeans were a hit a couple years back. It's also a reflection of changing views about what's appropriate attire for work, school and other places that used to call for more formalwear.

"Yoga pants have replaced jeans in my wardrobe," said Anita Ramaswamy, a Scottsdale, Arizona high-school senior who is buying more leggings and yoga pants than jeans. "You can make it as sexy as skinny jeans and it's more comfortable."

What was learned from Seattle's dominant in 36-16 win over Green Bay to begin 2014

SEATTLE (AP) — The ceremony was brief, lasting less than 10 minutes. The Seattle Seahawks celebrated the accomplishment of winning their first Super Bowl title last season, unveiling the championship banner and giving their fans one more opportunity to savor the feat.

Then it was over, and the process of trying to repeat started in impressive fashion with a 36-16 romp over Green Bay on Thursday night.

Marshawn Lynch ran for 110 yards and two touchdowns, Percy Harvin had 100 combined yards rushing and receiving, and the Seahawks dominated Aaron Rodgers and the Packers.

Their effort against the Green Bay — a popular pick to contend in the NFC — will only reinforce the belief Seattle is still the favorite in the conference.

"We got a lot of playmakers just looking to get the ball," Harvin said. "Every time we get a chance, we're definitely looking to make the most of it."

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, September 5, the 248th day of 2014. There are 117 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 5, 1914, the First Battle of the Marne, resulting in a French-British victory over Germany, began during World War I.

On this date:

In 1774, the first Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia.

In 1793, the Reign of Terror began during the French Revolution as the National Convention instituted harsh measures to repress counter-revolutionary activities.

In 1836, Sam Houston was elected president of the Republic of Texas.

In 1864, voters in Louisiana approved a new state constitution abolishing slavery.

In 1913, fire devastated Hot Springs, Arkansas, destroying some 60 blocks.

In 1939, four days after war had broken out in Europe, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation declaring U.S. neutrality in the conflict.

In 1957, the novel "On the Road," by Jack Kerouac, was first published by Viking Press.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed legislation making aircraft hijackings a federal crime.

In 1972, the Palestinian group Black September attacked the Israeli Olympic delegation at the Munich

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Games; 11 Israelis, five guerrillas and a police officer were killed in the resulting siege.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford escaped an attempt on his life by Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a disciple of Charles Manson, in Sacramento, California.

In 1984, the space shuttle Discovery ended its inaugural flight as it landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1997, breaking the royal reticence over the death of Princess Diana, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II delivered a televised address in which she called her former daughter-in-law "a remarkable person." Mother Teresa died in Calcutta, India, at age 87; conductor Sir Georg Solti (johrj SHOL'-tee) died in France at age 84.

Ten years ago: Hurricane Frances struck Florida's central-eastern coast with heavy rain, submerging entire roadways and tearing off rooftops before entering the Gulf of Mexico. Grief-stricken Russians began burying victims of a terror attack on a school in Beslan that left more than 330 people dead.

Five years ago: Top finance officials from rich and developing countries agreed during a meeting in London to curb hefty bankers' bonuses and maintain stimulus measures such as extra government spending and low interest rates to boost the global economy.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, in St. Petersburg for a G-20 summit, pressed fellow world leaders to support a U.S. strike on Syria; however, he encountered opposition from Russia, China and even the European Union, who said it was too soon for military action.

Today's Birthdays: Former Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul A. Volcker is 87. Comedian-actor Bob Newhart is 85. Actress-singer Carol Lawrence is 82. Actor William Devane is 75. Actor George Lazenby is 75. Actress Raquel Welch is 74. Movie director Werner Herzog is 72. Singer Al Stewart is 69. Actor-director Dennis Dugan is 68. College Football Hall of Famer Jerry LeVias is 68. Singer Loudon Wainwright III is 68. "Cathy" cartoonist Cathy Guisewite (GYZ'-wyt) is 64. Actor Michael Keaton is 63. Country musician Jamie Oldaker (The Tractors) is 63. Actress Debbie Turner-Larson (Film: Marta in "The Sound of Music") is 58. Actress Kristian Alfonso is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Terry Ellis is 51. Rock musician Brad Wilk is 46. TV personality Dweezil Zappa is 45. Actress Rose McGowan is 41. Actress Carice Van Houten (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 38. Actor Andrew Ducote is 28. Actress Kat Graham is 28. Olympic gold medal figure skater Kim Yu-na is 24. Actor Skandar Keynes is 23.

Thought for Today: "Those who foresee the future and recognize it as tragic are often seized by a madness which forces them to commit the very acts which makes it certain that what they dread shall happen." - Dame Rebecca West, Irish author and journalist (1892-1983).