

Groton Daily Independent

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

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School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Walking taco, refried beans, fresh and canned fruit.

Senior Menu: Beef Stroganoff, Noodles, Mixed Vegetables, Cake w/Strawberries, Whole Wheat Bread.

Anniv: Clint & Audrey Jacobson

Birthday: Amanda Koens

10:00am: Golf at Redfield-Doland

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

6:00pm: Men's League Golf and Banquet

7:00pm: ELC Church Council

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all"

NOW OPEN

Harris
Auto Body ABDN

**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **CLOSED**

Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is 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.

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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

Groton Area ranks 158th in the nation

Groton Area ranked 158th in the United States in Newsweek Magazine's Top 500 highest performing schools in the nation. Groton had a score of 89.67 in college readiness, 88.69 percent of its graduates are college bound, 88.55 percent of the seniors graduate from high school and the poverty rate is 12.89 percent. According to High School/Middle School Principal Anna Schwan, she said that there is an extensive list of questions that they have to answer. The announcement was made at the Groton Area School Board meeting Monday night.

Rosholt was listed at 223rd place with a college readiness score of 85.42, 70.05 percent of its seniors are college bound, 73.84 percent graduate and the poverty rate is 30.14.

Brookings High School was rated 348th. They had a college readiness score of 77.24, 53.24 percent are college bound, the graduation rate is 25.64 and the poverty rate is 15.98.

Irene-Wakonda ranked 446th with a college readiness score of 70.83. The graduation rate is 93.20 and 70.44 percent are college bound. The poverty rate is 39 percent.

Scotland High School ranks 474th with a college readiness score of 69, 36.17 percent are college bound, 96.73 percent graduate from high school and the poverty rate is 30.86 percent.

The top rated school in the United States was Thomas Jefferson High School in Virginia. Their college readiness score was 99.93 percent, 99.22 percent are college bound, their graduation rate is 78.48 percent and their poverty rate is 2.05 percent.

School Enrollment figures are stationary

School enrollment figures are up from the spring projections and are the same as last year. There are 596 enrolled in Groton Area School, up from the 585 spring projections. The enrollment numbers are steady from last year. There are 17 students who have exempted from public education. The open enrollment summary shows 58 students who have open enrolled into Groton Area and 84 who have open enrolled out of the district.

The breakdown is as follows:

Aberdeen: 34 in, 27 out.

Britton-Hecla: 2 in, none out.

Doland: 1 in, none out.

Langford: 8 in, 11 out.

Northwestern: 12 in, 1 out.

Warner: 1 in, none out.

Waubay: none in, 1 out.

Webster: none in, 44 out.

Groton on the verge of losing state aide

The evaluation for the Groton Area School district is rapidly creating a financial issue. Business Manager Mike Weber said the district is on its way to no longer receiving state aid. Funds will be issued by a per student basis and at \$4,800 a student, Groton Area will be able to raise more than \$4,800 per student on its property taxes; thus, lose its state aid. In addition, the \$50,000 that Groton receives on such things as fines, may be taken away and redistributed per student, which means Groton may also lose those funds. Plus, there is consideration of setting a base on funds derived from utility companies,

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oil companies, etc., and anything over that base will be redistributed on a per student basis. Sioux Falls and Rapid City schools would benefit greatly from these changes. Board member Kelly Kjelden said, "This will be bad for our district. If this gets life, every teacher, every staff member, every person needs to contract their legislature.

Prom date to remain unchanged

The prom date will not be changed. After the agenda was published in the Groton Daily Independent, it was brought to Superintendent Schwan's attention that on the weekend of April 25, the national Robotics Competition will be held in California. The team has to qualify for the nationals, but they have qualified in the past and the prom date has been an issue. The date of April 18 is also the same day as the ACT testing in Groton, but is only in the morning.

Children's Theater set for the week of March 22

Elementary Principal Dan Dalchow reported that the Children's Theater contact has been received and the gym has been reserved for the week of March 22. Ryan Tracy has again agreed to house the directors at his place of lodging on Main Street.

Other bits of information

Merle Harder said that he was a substitute bus driver and there was one girl he did not know and she did not talk and he had no idea where she was suppose to go. He said there should be a list or the daycare provider should make sure that everyone is dropped off.

There was a large list of changes to the school policies which was given first reading.

The government class is considering options for a community service project. One area under consideration is the gravel area between the concession stand and the bleachers. They want to spruce up that area.

Superintendent Joe Schwan talked about the teacher salary enhancement fund that the state is considering. There is the possibility of \$40 million set aside for teacher pay raises per year. The conversation is still in play for options.

There were 50 new desks ordered, but 16 were damaged. In fact, they received the drawers for a desk, but no desk.

The school has been having technology issues with the high school and elementary school. Both principals have reported frustrated teachers with technology problems.

The Homecoming theme is Decades with coronation set for 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 22 and the parade on Friday of that week.

High/Middle School Principal Anna Schwan reported that Detective Tom Tarnowski from the Aber-

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deen Police Department will speak to the students on September 17 about the dangers of social media and how students need to protect themselves. There will be two groups, grades six through eight and grades nine through 12.

Ten students were acknowledged for public school exemption. Two will be in the first grade, three in the third grade, one in each the fourth, sixth and eighth grade and two for fifth grade.

There was a request to pick up a student six miles east of Bristol. Currently, they are bringing the student into Bristol. "I don't like to tell families no on something like this, but to add 15 minutes to the route would be stretch," Superintendent Schwan said. "If the bus route had extra time, I would be for it." Right now the first pickup is 6:50 a.m. and it arrives in Groton at 8:10 a.m. No action was taken.

The time for the September 22 school board meeting was changed to 6 p.m. due to homecoming coronation at 7:30 p.m.

Julie Erdmann was given a \$300 raise as her education was raised from BS+15 to BS+30.

Justin Hanson was approved as a voluntary boys basketball coach. Currently, there is no assistant coach, but Hanson is not able to have the time to be in the paid position.

Three students were approved for open enrollment into the Groton District. One is a sixth grade and one is a first grade, both from Aberdeen, and one is from Warner in the fifth grade.

There was a list of 15 staff work assignments - these changes are because of the adjusted work load based on student's needs and numbers. Those who had changes with no changes in pay were Ryan Dix, Barb Wacholz, Gail Kyar, Rose Long, Glenna Remington, John Lowary and Jill Krueger. Those with adjustments were Jill Krueger for a reduction of \$896.88, Darcy Leshner with an increase of \$476.88, Becky Lewandowski with an increase of \$476.88, Kami Lipp with an increase of \$80.94, Lena Cox with an increase of \$809.38, Randy Hjermstad with a decrease of \$404.69, Lois Krueger with a decrease of \$809.38, and Linda McInerney with a decrease of \$2,023.44.

City Council approves 5th Ave. West project for next year

Ryan and Diane Kurtz, Brenda and Tony Madsen and Steve O'Neill, all who live along Fifth Avenue West, came before the council Monday evening as the city council had a special meeting to give second reading to the 2015 Appropriation Ordinance. They expressed their concern about dropping the street project for next year. The council, at the last meeting, had decided to save \$300,000 next year to build up a kitty to do the rest of the West Side project.

Diane Kurtz asked what was the determining factor in starting from the south end instead of the north end. At the time, Finance Officer Anita Lowary said, Gary Heitmann was driving the transit but when it got stuck in the middle of Second Ave. West. He was on the council and that was the tipping point of where to start on the West Side Project.

Diane also asked Lowary that she had asked two years ago of the projected plan for the West Side Project. At the time, Lowary said, the council had decided to start from the south and work their way north with Fifth Avenue expected to be completed in 2015. "There's a whole new council now," she said. Councilman Mary Flihs said that she is not opposed to the street project - she is opposed to going further in debt to do it.

"It doesn't please me to have our road to be the last one done," Diane said. "We were promised to get it done by next year."

Brenda Madsen said the dust from the road is horrible. "We can't open the windows and even with them closed, we have dust everywhere in the house," she said. "For 17 years, that road has been banded and banded and banded."

O'Neill asked, "What happened to the budget that it can't be done?"

Lowary explained that the council had decided to do \$1.4 million this year, and that left \$1.4 million left. "The council did not want to bond the city to do it all," she said. The city gets about \$500,000 in sales tax and \$500,000 in property tax. That left all of the utility rates to pick up the operating part of the government. "It meant really stretching the budget," she said. "We knew we would have to go the bank if we were going to do the whole project."

Ryan Kurtz asked when the council was going to do Fifth Ave. West. It was projected to be done in three or four years with the city setting aside \$300,000 a year.

Diane then asked how the Olson Development got its roads done. Lowary said, that the ordinance states that the roads have to meet certain criteria before city will accept them. "In the past, it was gravel with a chip seal. Then came the water. Roy saw what was happening and he took it upon himself to do it right. Now the standards are higher.

After everyone expressed their concerns, the council decided to take the \$300,000 that was set aside and to spend it next year on the street project instead. That would put \$265,000 into streets and \$35,000 for engineering fees. That would do Fifth Avenue from Broadway to Garfield Street and if the bids come in good, the council would also consider doing the first block west of Broadway on Fourth Avenue West. "I like this idea," said Councilman Michelle Muilenberg. Councilman Burt Glover added, "We're floating forward and not digging a bigger hole." Muilenberg added, "We balanced the budget and still got things done for our residents."

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Webster Area Invitational Cross-Country

Groton Area sent 15 runners to the Webster Area Invitational Cross Country Meet held Monday. Hannah Fischbach was the high finisher in the junior varsity girls race with a 20th placing, Micah Poor placed 23rd in the junior varsity boys race, Hannah Lewandowski placed 30th in the girls varsity race and Luke Smith was the only boy running in the varsity race with a place of 46th.

JV Boys 3000 Meter Run: 23, Micah Poor, 14:58.40; 37, Mitchell Koens, 16:04.28; 42, Dyan Graf, 16:21.43; 52, Noah Poor, 17:42.01; 59th, Spencer Jacobs, 23:50.00.

JV Girls 3000 Meter Run: 20, Hannah Fischbach, 16:37.25; 21, Emily Thompson, 16:39.24; 35, Jenifer Fjeldstad, 17:51.41; 40, AnneMarie Smith, 18:13.41; 58, Gabby Kramer, 20:55.71; 62, Caroline Graf, 24:13.12.

Boys Varsity 5000 Meter Run: 46, Luke Smith, 21:45.32.

Girls Varsity 4000 Meter Run: 30, Hannah Lewandowski, 18:27.18; 60, Erin Smith, 21:32.87; 63, Kaitlin O'Neill, 22:20.71.

Conde National Bowling League

Team Standings: Colts 3, Braves 2, Pirates 2, Cubs 2, Mets 2, Giants 1.

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 245, Bryce Dargatz 203, Cliff Kuckelburg 188.

Men's High Series: Cliff Kuckelburg 541, Lance Frohling 528, Butch Farmen 496.

Women's High Games: Val Kuckelburg 223, Breanna Kuckelburg 192, 190 and 190; Joyce Walter 186.

Women's High Series: Breanna Kuckelburg 572, Val Kuckelburg 559, Joyce Walter 438.

Groton Coffee Cup Bowling League

Team Standings: Farm Girls 3, Jungle Lanes 3, Ken's 2, Ten Pins 2, Golden Girls 1, JVT 1.

High Games: Vickie Kramp 169, Vicki Walter 164, Arlowyn Spencer 154.

High Series: Vickie Kramp 467, Vicki Walter 426, Alice Severson 426, Mary Jane Jark 408.

Groton girls beat Tea in soccer

Emily Locke, McKenzie Menzia and Harliegh Winther each scored one goal as Groton defeated Tea in high school girls soccer action, 3-1. Winther and Locke each had one assist. Devan Howard was the goalie with 11 saves.

Thune Introduces STB Reform Bill to Improve Rail Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator John Thune (R-South Dakota), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, yesterday introduced legislation, the STB Reauthorization Act of 2014 (S. 2777), along with Commerce Committee Chairman John D. Rockefeller IV (D-West Virginia) to increase efficiency of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) by changing internal processes and increasing timeliness of STB decisions to improve U.S. rail service.

“While the Surface Transportation Board has made good faith efforts to address concerns of freight shippers and railroads, the current inefficiencies in the STB’s operations are symptomatic of the need for common-sense reform,” said Thune. “The modest bill that Chairman Rockefeller and I are introducing addresses many of the key inefficiencies and time delays I hear about from shippers by reforming the case review process. With additional reforms, the STB can better assist shippers and railroads alike, helping to ensure rail service problems are addressed in a balanced and timely manner.”

Thune and Rockefeller’s bill would allow board members to work together in a more streamlined approach, while also making it easier for railroads and shippers to discuss important issues with multiple board members at once. Their bill would expand the STB board membership from three to five members, eliminate the holdover limitation, and allow for limited board meetings without initial public meeting notice, but with later public disclosure. The bill would also allow the board to initiate some investigations, not just respond to complaints, and would require the STB to establish a database of complaints and prepare quarterly reports on them.

Thune and Rockefeller’s bill would also change the case review process by requiring the board to establish timelines for stand-alone rate cases and a report on rate case methodology. The bill would also require a proceeding on the impact of contract bundling on shippers and would codify an arbitration process for certain rate disputes and carrier complaints.

The STB reform bill would expand on the work Thune has done with the STB since the beginning of the year to hold railroads accountable for the backlog of grain orders in South Dakota. Thune has worked with the STB, as well as senior leadership of Canadian Pacific Railway and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, to address service issues that South Dakota shippers have raised. From letters, to meetings, to hearings, Thune continues to reiterate how South Dakota’s shippers are impacted by the shortage of rail cars and delivery delays.

Thune serves on both the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee which has jurisdiction over our nation’s freight and passenger railroads, as well as the Senate Agriculture Committee. In addition, Thune previously served as State Railroad Director under former Governor George S. Mickelson from 1991-1993. For a complete outline of Thune’s work to reduce the rail service backlog, visit his website.

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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.

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 a bake sale. Supplemental funds have been applied for from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds and grass in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1, 2014 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors

Betty Geist

Township Clerk

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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**NOTICE OF HEARING ON SOUTH DAKOTA
VALUE ADDED FINANCE AUTHORITY
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BOND
LIVESTOCK NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT BOND PROGRAM**

The South Dakota Value Added Finance Authority (Authority) will hold a Public hearing on the 25th day of September, 2014 at the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, 523 E. Capitol Avenue, Foss Building, First Floor, Matthews Training Center, Pierre, South Dakota 57501 at 8:00 a.m. CST. The hearing is on the proposal for the Authority to issue an Agricultural Development Revenue Bond, for the Project identified below, in the maximum principal amount indicated. The proceeds of the Bond shall be loaned to the Borrower named below (who will be the owner and operator of the Project) for the purpose of financing a portion of the cost of the Project described below.

Livestock Nutrient Management Bond Project Number: 6-0028. Project: To assist in the construction of a livestock nutrient management system for a swine facility. Maximum Principal: \$195,000.00. Owner/Operator: Jeff Howard and Lisa Howard, 40829 131st Street, Groton, Brown County, South Dakota. Location: From Groton, 3 miles north on SD Hwy 37, 3 miles east on County Road 13, 1 mile north on 409th Avenue, 1/2 mile east on 129th Street.

The Bond, when issued, will be a limited obligation of the Authority and will not constitute a general obligation or indebtedness of the State of South Dakota or any political subdivision thereof, and shall not be payable in any amount by taxation, but the Bond will be payable solely and only from amount received from the Borrower, named above under a Loan Agreement between the Authority and the Borrower, the obligation of which will be sufficient to pay the principal of, interest and redemption premium, if any, on the Bond as and when it shall become due.

At the time and place fixed for the hearing, all individuals who appear will be given an opportunity to express their views for or against the proposal to issue the Bond for the purpose of financing the Project, and all written comments previously filed with the South Dakota Value Added Finance Authority, 523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501, will be considered. Additional information regarding the Project described above may be obtained by contacting the Authority at the address shown above.

Any individual affected by the above described Project may, at or prior to the scheduled time for the aforementioned hearing on said Project, file a written request with the Authority that a local hearing be held on the proposal to issue the Bond to finance said Project. A local hearing, if requested, would be conducted in the county where the Project is located.

Notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that this hearing is being held in a physically accessible place. Please notify the Authority at the above address within 48 hours of the public hearing if you have special needs for which this agency will need to make arrangements. The telephone number for making special arrangements is (605) 773-5436.

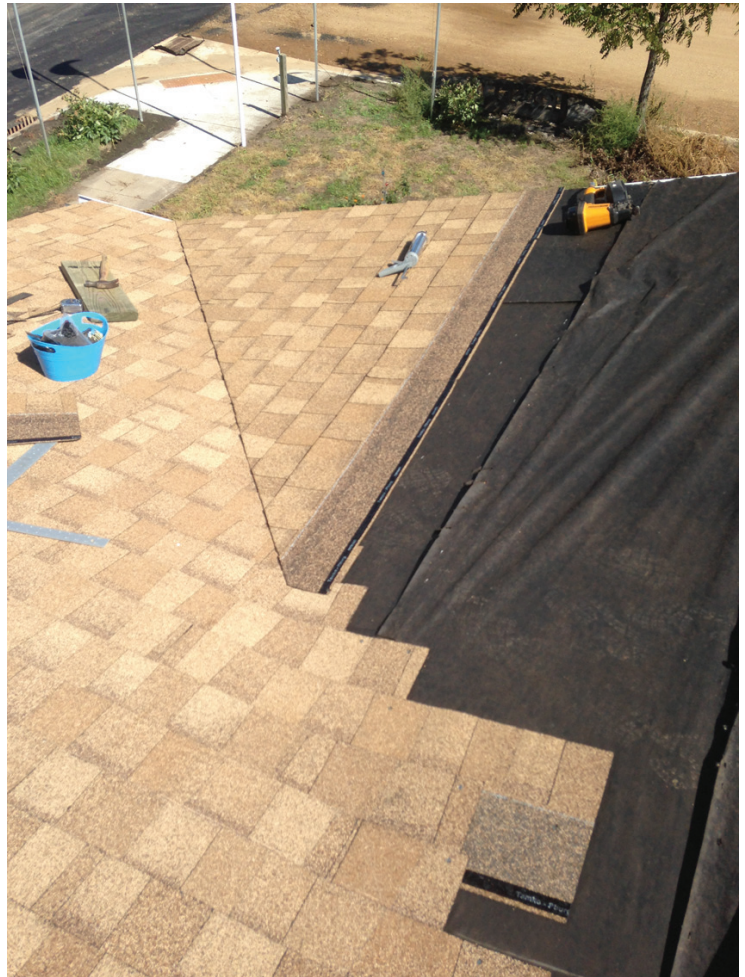
Terri LaBrie, Executive Director
South Dakota Value Added Finance Authority

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What are the odds? I didn't realize until I got to the school board meeting of the name on my Diet Coke bottle - Laura. I had to send it to former Superintendent Laura Schuster, who got a good laugh from it. We need to keep Laura's mom in our prayers. Laura was going back home from Bismarck where her mom has been very, very sick.



I had to finish the roofing project by myself yesterday. I must say I didn't do too bad. At last, it is done!



Today in Weather History

1961: A young girl in Bullhead in Corson County was killed by lightning in the afternoon while walking on the highway and her younger brother was slightly injured.

1983: High winds from the late evening into the early morning hours of the 10th blew through east central South Dakota damaging crops, downing hundreds of trees, breaking windows, damaging roofs and buildings, downing power poles and damaging vehicles. Gusts to 75 mph in Huron moved a semi trailer one-half block. Scattered power outages of up to 24 hours were reported in numerous areas as branches fell across power and telephone lines. Thirty power poles were downed in Kingsbury county alone. Corn, beans, and sunflowers suffered extensive damage in many areas with up to 50 percent losses reported. Gusts up to 90 mph were reported at Lake Poinsett, Lake Norden, and Estelline where roofs and shingles were ripped from buildings and numerous windows were broken. At Lake Poinsett, extensive damage was done to boats, docks, and automobiles. Several grain bins were also damaged or destroyed by the high winds.

1921 - A dying tropical depression unloaded 38.2 inches of rain upon the town of Thrall in southeastern Texas killing 224 persons. 36.4 inches fell in 18 hours. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1944 - The "Great Atlantic Hurricane" ravaged the east coast. The storm killed 22 persons and caused 63 million dollars damage in the Chesapeake Bay area, then besieged New England killing 390 persons and causing another 100 million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1960: The storm surge from Hurricane Donna submerged the Overseas Highway. The hurricane broke the pipeline that supplied fresh water to the Florida Keys.

1964: Hurricane Dora became one of the few hurricanes to strike the extreme northeast part of Florida.

1971 - Hurricane Ginger formed, and remained a hurricane until the 5th of October. The 27 day life span was the longest of record for any hurricane in the North Atlantic Ocean. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the central U.S. Thunderstorms in West Texas spawned four tornadoes in the vicinity of Lubbock, and produced baseball size hail and wind gusts to 81 mph at Ropesville. Thunderstorms produced hail two inches in diameter at Downs KS and Harvard NE, breaking car windows at Harvard. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)




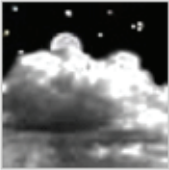



1988 - Florence became a hurricane and headed for the Central Gulf Coast Region. Florence made landfall early the next morning, passing over New Orleans LA. Winds gusts to 80 mph were recorded at an oil rig south of the Chandeleur Islands. Wind gusts around New Orleans reached 61 mph. Total property damage from Florence was estimated at 2.5 million dollars. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - The first snow of the season began to whiten the mountains of Wyoming early in the morning, as for two days a moist and unusually cold storm system affected the state. By the morning of the 11th, a foot of snow covered the ground at Burgess Junction. Thunderstorms developing along a cold front crossing the Ohio Valley produced severe weather in Indiana during the late afternoon and early evening hours. Strong thunderstorm winds blew down a tent at Palestine injuring seven persons, and frequent lightning interrupted the Purdue and Miami of Ohio football game, clearing the stands. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2002: A powerful squall line spawned four tornadoes that flattened buildings and took four lives in Mpumalanga, South Africa.

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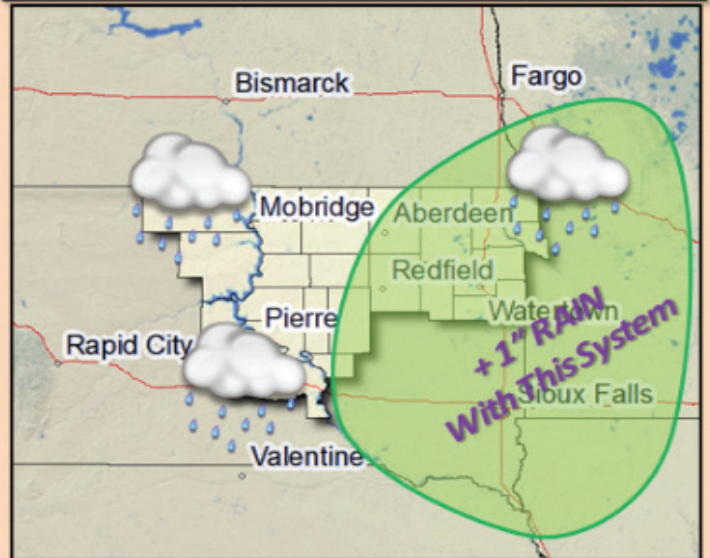
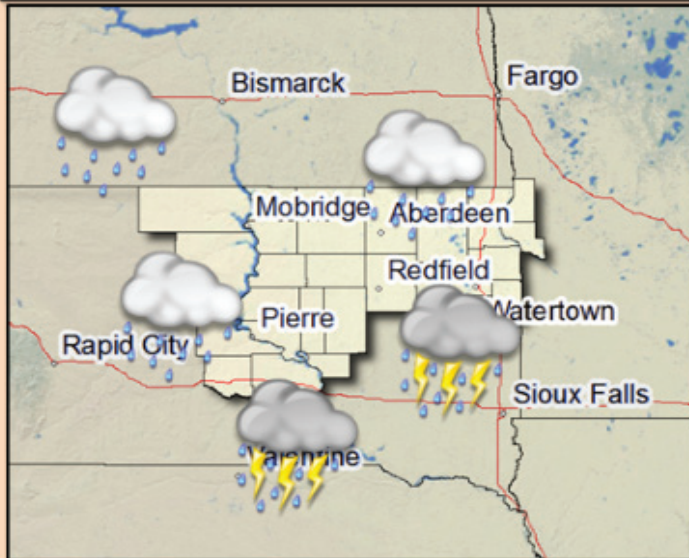
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TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY
 70%	 80%	 30%		 20%	 20%	
Thunderstorms Likely High: 63 °F	Showers Low: 44 °F	Chance Showers High: 52 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 37 °F	Slight Chc Showers High: 53 °F	Slight Chc Showers Low: 37 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 57 °F

*Scattered Light Showers Early
More Widespread Showers and Storms This Afternoon
Rain Overnight Focused In The East*

TODAY

TONIGHT



Chilly Conditions Persist Into The Weekend



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

A storm system developing across the region today will spread light showers through the area this morning, becoming more widespread by the afternoon, with a few embedded weak thunderstorms. Overnight, as the system strengthens rain will develop over eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. Over an inch of rainfall can be expected with this system by Wednesday morning.

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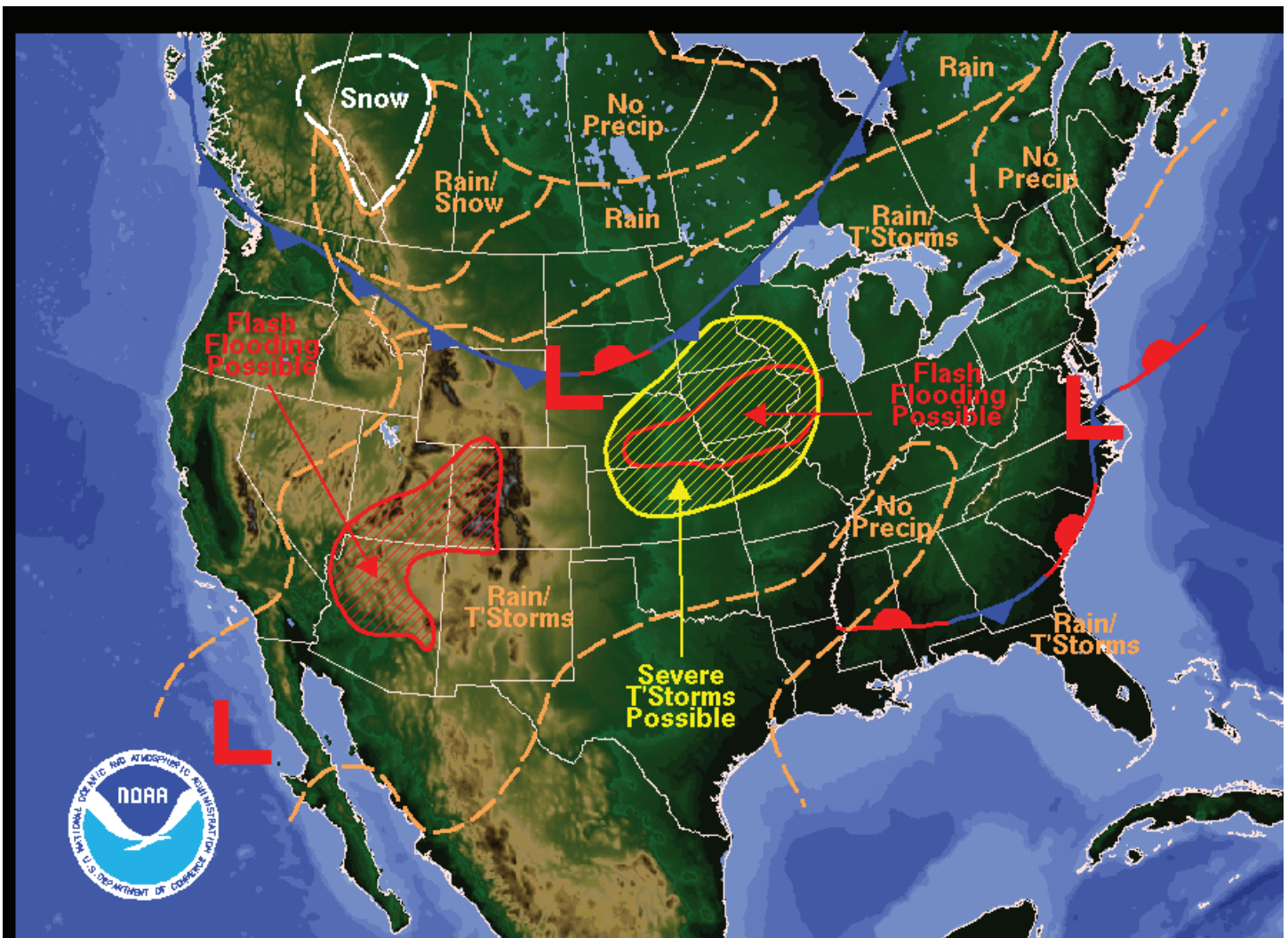
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 82.1°F at 5:03 PM
Heat Index: 84.0 at 3:56 PM
Low: 59.3°F at 3:33 AM
High Gust: 30 mph at 4:10 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 101° in 1931
Record Low: 26° in 1898
Average High: 75°F
Average Low: 49°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.60
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.19
Average Precip to date: 16.89
Precip Year to Date: 12.11
Sunset Tonight: 7:56 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:06 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Sep 09, 2014, issued 3:52 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mc Reynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE

Whenever I hear the word "gain" I think it is related to "weight." Especially my weight. There are very few mornings that I do not step on the scale to get my "daily report" on what I ate yesterday. Most nutritionists do not recommend such a program. But my hope to see the arrow pointing downward remains steadfast.

A gain or increase can be good or bad, exciting or depressing, encouraging or discouraging, depending on what the gain refers to. If we depend on the stock market, a gain can be a good thing. But, if we see a gain in our personal debt, it can be disturbing. Our gains or losses, for the most part, are usually in the physical realm.

Solomon, however, speaks of a type of gain, or being able to attain some "thing" as long as we live. Educators speak of "life" valuable and available to and offered to us in Proverbs. Our "attaining" more of God's wisdom is very important for all Christians. We are constantly challenged to "grow" throughout Scripture and Proverbs provides the path!

The word used for wisdom in this verse also means skillfulness - applying knowledge that comes from God to our lives every day so we can do "things" right.

As we go one step further, we come to the fact that it is possible to develop decision making skills that are God honoring and enable us to establish life-principals that will bring us success. God's proverbs can guide us through life, help us in our relationships with others, lead to good practices in business, enrich our homes and bless God.

PRAYER: Lord, You've left us "no excuses" on how we are to live life if we are Christians. Thanks for the directions! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 1:2 for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight;

News from the Associated Press

Community wind farm project tops \$1 million mark

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Officials with a planned community wind farm in southeastern South Dakota say they have raised more than \$1 million.

Dakota Power Community Wind has a goal of raising \$1.5 million. The group of local landowners hopes to begin development of the project this fall.

Group spokesman Paul Shubeck says fundraising efforts should wrap up in the next few weeks.

Officials say there are 24,000 acres committed to the project, which is enough land to support a 300 megawatt farm.

Gov. to release results of Pheasant Habitat group

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard plans to release a report Tuesday that compiles the recommendations from this year's Pheasant Habitat Work Group Summits.

Daugaard hosted meetings across the state this year to hear from landowners, sportsmen, people who work in the tourism industry and others to learn about the current state of pheasant habitat and how it can be expanded.

This year's tally of young pheasants found an average of 2.68 pheasants per mile, a 76 percent increase from 1.52 in 2013. Officials say it's a good sign bird numbers in the state are expected to increase a year after one of its lowest brood counts in three decades.

The governor will discuss the recommendations in the report at 4 p.m. in Sioux Falls at the Game, Fish and Parks Outdoor Campus.

Jury convicts man charged with assaulting officer

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A jury has convicted a South Dakota man accused of fighting with a police officer.

Twenty-one-year-old Justin Janis, of Interior, was charged with assault on a federal officer. He faces a maximum penalty of eight years in prison.

The incident happened last November. Authorities say Janis stuck and Oglala Sioux officer after law enforcement was called to a residence on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 17.

SD Supreme Court to meet in Sioux Falls in Oct.

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court will hold its October session in Sioux Falls as part of ongoing effort to move some hearings out of Pierre.

Chief Justice David Gilbertson says the court will hear oral arguments on three cases each morning of Oct. 6-8 in the Jeschke Fine Arts Center at the University of Sioux Falls.

Booklets containing a short synopsis of each case, biographical information on the justices and a short summary of the appellate procedure will be available for people who attend the sessions that are free and open to the public.

Monday's Scores The Associated Press

VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-11, 25-8, 25-18

Belle Fourche def. Douglas, 25-22, 28-26, 18-25, 25-19

Britton-Hecla def. Florence/Henry, 25-18, 25-18, 26-24

Colome def. Marty Indian, 25-5, 25-12, 25-11

Grant-Deuel def. Waubay, 25-13, 25-22, 27-25

Parker def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-17, 25-11, 25-6

Scotland def. Freeman, 13-25, 19-25, 25-20, 31-29, 15-7

Waverly-South Shore def. Langford, 25-11, 25-11, 25-21

Midwest railcar shortage debate shifts to DC

CARSON WALKER, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Midwestern lawmakers and farmers are shifting the attention of a locomotive and railcar shortage problem to Washington this week with legislation, a committee hearing and meetings with decision-makers.

The national Surface Transportation Board held a hearing last week in Fargo, North Dakota, because farmers and some politicians have said increased crude oil and freight shipments from the state's western oil fields are largely the cause of shipping delays across the region that have led to grain to pile up. Railroads have denied they favor one sector over another.

South Dakota Sen. John Thune, the ranking Republican on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, said Monday that he and committee chairman Sen. John Rockefeller, a Democrat from West Virginia, are introducing legislation to give the Surface Transportation Board more efficiency and authority, in hopes of easing the problem.

Among the proposed changes: increase the board's authority so it can do its own investigations instead of waiting for a complaint; improve rate review timelines; and increase the number of members from three to five.

Rockefeller and Thune will also lead a commerce hearing Wednesday that will look at rail service backlogs nationwide.

"We think right now, coming into the harvest and knowing the rail issues ahead of it, it's a good time to shine the light on these issues and make the railroads more accountable," Thune said.

A board spokesman said the agency could not comment on the pending legislation.

Farmers Union members from around the country are in Washington this week for the National Farmers Union 2014 Fly-In and plan to press the rail issue with members of Congress and staffers in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and White House. South Dakota Farmers Union President Doug Sombke and other state presidents from Corn Belt states are also meeting with the chairman of the Surface Transportation Board.

With commodity prices low because of bumper crops, added costs due to the railcar shortage are further eroding profits, including from fines imposed on some farmer-owned cooperatives for not making grain deliveries on time, Sombke said.

"It should really be imposed on the railroad that did not deliver it on time, not the grain deliverer," he said.

Education group: Hike SD sales tax for teacher pay

BY KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Representatives from three South Dakota education organizations on Monday proposed using a summer sales tax hike to increase teacher salaries, a step they said was crucial to attract more educators to the state.

The group wants to create the Teacher Salary Enhancement Fund, which would be separate from the established state aid fund. The proposal presented Monday at the Legislative Planning Committee calls paying for the fund by increasing the state sales tax by 1 cent in June, July and August, which the authors estimated would generate at least \$40 million annually, or at least \$4,000 per teacher in the state.

Wade Pogany, the executive director of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota, said the fund is one possible solution to the teacher shortage in South Dakota, which officials say has increased in recent years as long-time educators retire and young professionals choose to teach in South Dakota's neighboring states.

Pogany was joined by Rob Monson, the executive director of the School Administrators of South Dakota, and Mitch Richter, from the South Dakota United School Association.

Pogany said the increase in salaries is necessary to entice college graduate to stay in South Dakota to teach in addition to drawing out-of-state teachers in.

"Our neighbors are outpacing us considerably," Pogany said.

Legislators on the committee said they were pleased with the group's approach, but said the proposal still need be researched more before moving forward.

"Your model is solid and it's just a matter of us to keep drilling into the details and talking through the scenarios," said Rep. Scott Munsterman, R-Brookings, who chairs the committee.

To be eligible for the Teacher Salary Enhancement Fund, schools would have to meet three benchmarks, under the proposal brought forward on Monday.

Schools would have to reach a certain level of reserve funding or less, be under the minimum base salary and agree to commit half of the Per Student Allocation dollars they receive above a 2 percent increase.

The proposal also calls for \$250,000 to be appropriated to the Department of Education for promoting teaching and attracting prospective teachers to the profession.

South Dakota Volleyball Polls

The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the South Dakota Sportswriters Association volleyball poll for the week of Sept. 8, 2014. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking:

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	(9)	2-0	45	1	
2. Aberdeen Central	-	4-0	35	3	
3. Watertown	-	3-0	15	RV	
4. Washington	-	2-3	13	4	
5. Harrisburg	-	2-1	11	RV	

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Others receiving votes: Roosevelt 3-4, Spearfish 3-0, Rapid City Stevens 4-3.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Dakota Valley	(6)	4-0	42	1	
2. S.F. Christian	(3)	6-0	39	2	
3. Belle Fourche	-	3-0	25	3	
4. Mount Vernon-Plank	-	2-0	13	5	
5. Pine Ridge	(1)	7-0	10	RV	

Others receiving votes: Sioux Valley 3-1, Miller 2-0, Bon Homme 6-0.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Warner	(9)	4-1	45	1	
2. Northwestern	-	8-2	36	2	
3. Arlington	-	4-1	25	3	
4. Chester Area	-	5-0	19	4	
5. Parker	-	5-0	8	RV	

Others receiving votes: Alcester-Hudson 1-1, Hanson 4-1.

South Dakota Prep Polls

The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking. With first-place votes in parentheses and total points:

Class 11AAA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Sioux Falls Roosevelt	(9)	2-0	45	1	
2. Brandon Valley	-	1-1	31	2	
(tie)Sioux Falls Lincoln	-	2-0	31	3	
4. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	-	1-1	19	4	
5. Aberdeen Central	-	1-1	7	5	

Others receiving votes: Sioux Falls Washington 0-2.

Class 11AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. Brookings	(5)	2-0	417	1	
2. Yankton	(3)	2-0	19	5	
3. Harrisburg	(1)	2-0	25	3	
4. Watertown	-	1-0	29	4	
5. Pierre	-	1-1	45	5	

Others receiving votes: Douglas 2-0.

Class 11A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs	
1. West Central	(8)	1-0	44	1	
2. Madison	-	2-0	33	2	
3. Dell Rapids	(1)	0-1	28	3	

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4. Vermillion - 2-0 13 NR

5. Tea Area - 1-1 11 4

Others receiving votes: Hot Springs 0-1, Sisseton 2-0.

Class 11B

Rank-SchoolFPV Rcd TP Pvs

1. Parkston (8) 2-0 44 1

2. Winner (1) 2-0 36 2

3. St. Thomas More - 2-0 26 3

1. Aberdeen Roncalli - 2-0 16 4

5. Tri-Valley - 2-0 8 5

Others receiving votes: None.

Class 9AA

Rank-SchoolFPV Rcd TP Pvs

1. Gregory (4) 2-0 40 T3

2. Arlington (5) 2-0 39 2

3. Bridgewater-E-Ethan - 1-1 23 1

4. Woon4Wess Spr.4San Central - 2-0 18 NR

5. Webster Area - 4-0 6 NR

Others receiving votes: Garretson 2-0, Deubrook Area 0-1, Menno-Marion 2-0.

Class 9A

Rank-SchoolFPV Rcd TP Pvs

1. Wolsey-Wessington (5) 2-0 40 1

(tie) Howard (4) 1-0 40 2

3. Potter County - 2-0 25 3

4. Alcester-Hudson - 2-0 19 4

5. Warner - 2-0 6 5

Others receiving votes: Herreid-Selby Area 1-0.

Class 9B

Rank-SchoolFPV Rcd TP Pvs

1. Canistota (6) 2-0 40 4

2. Hamlin (3) 2-0 34 2

3. Harding County - 2-0 25 3

4. Avon - 1-1 21 1

5. Dell Rapids St. Mary - 1-0 9 5

Others receiving votes: Eureka-Bowdle 2-0, Hitchcock-Tulare 1-0.

KDLT anchor and Riverfront Broadcasting honored

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Broadcasters from Sioux Falls and Yankton have been honored for their contributions to the industry.

The South Dakota Broadcasters Association named Riverfront Broadcasting owners Carolyn and Doyle Becker broadcasters of the year. The company includes KYNT-AM, KKYA-FM and KDAM-FM in Yankton; KCCR-AM, KCCR-FM and KLXS-FM in Pierre; and KORN-AM and KQRN-FM in Mitchell.

SDBA and the Contemporary Media & Journalism Department of the University of South Dakota also awarded KDLT-TV news anchor Tom Hanson with the 2014 Tom Brokaw Award.

The awards were given out over the weekend at the association's state convention in Sioux Falls.

South Dakota spring wheat harvest behind average

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Spring wheat harvest in South Dakota is lagging behind totals from last year at the time and the five-year average.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that spring wheat harvested was at 88 percent, behind the five-year average and last year's figure of 99 percent.

Barley harvested was at 89 percent, trailing the five-year average of 98 percent and the 96 percent figure from last year.

Pasture and range conditions were rated 12 percent excellent, 56 percent good, 26 percent fair, 5 percent poor and 1 percent very poor.

The report says below-normal temperatures persisted across most of the state.

Naval Academy releases student body by state

BRIAN WITTE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a third of the U.S. Naval Academy's students are from five states: California, Texas, Maryland, Virginia and Florida.

The academy released a distribution of midshipmen by state at a Board of Visitors meeting Monday.

California had the highest number of students with 442. Texas came second with 331. Maryland, which is home to the academy, has 300 students. Virginia came next with 286, followed by Florida with 280.

Together, those states account for 1,639 of the academy's 4,572 students. That's about 36 percent of the Brigade of Midshipmen.

Vermont was the state with the fewest students with seven, followed by North Dakota with eight and South Dakota with nine. Wyoming, New Hampshire and Alaska had 14 each.

The District of Columbia has four students at the academy.

Mitchell man charged in death of his wife

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A 49-year-old Mitchell man is accused of killing his wife.

Donald McDougal is charged in Davison County with alternate counts of first- and second-degree murder. Police say McDougal was arrested over the weekend.

Authorities say the body of Janie McDougal was discovered at a Mitchell apartment on Sept. 1 after a neighbor called police.

Mitchell Police Lt. Don Everson declined to release further details. He says the investigation is ongoing.

First-degree murder carries a maximum penalty of death or life in prison. Second-degree murder is punishable by life in prison.

The Davison County clerk's office says a lawyer has not yet been appointed for Donald McDougal.

South Dakota prison inmate found dead in cell

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man serving a life sentence for fatally shooting his girlfriend was found dead in his prison cell, bringing to three the number of South Dakota prison inmates who have died in a week, according to the Department of Corrections.

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Kent Davidson, 37, was found dead at the South Dakota State Penitentiary early Monday morning, authorities said.

The death is under investigation by the Division of Criminal Investigation and an autopsy will be conducted, officials said in a statement.

Davidson pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in April. Authorities said Davidson shot 26-year-old Crystal Schulz in the head on March 11, 2013. Her body was found three days later in a shed at her mother's place.

Davidson was arrested hours later after a standoff with police.

Court documents said Davidson and Schulz were engaged, but Schulz was ending their relationship.

Davidson also was serving a five-year sentence for forgery out of Tripp County and a five-year sentence for second-degree escape out of Minnehaha County.

James McVay, 44, was found hanging in his cell overnight in the South Dakota State Penitentiary on Thursday, corrections officials said. He was formally sentenced to death in May.

McVay had pleaded 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.

An autopsy is being done to determine how convicted arsonist Leo Christensen, 59, died at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield. Christensen became ill at the prison on Tuesday and was transported by ambulance then airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital, where he died the next day.

Christensen was sentenced in 2003 to 50 years in prison for first-degree arson.

Supreme Court sets term at Sioux Falls college

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court will begin its October court term at the University of Sioux Falls.

The Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments at the school on Oct. 6-8. The court is slated to hear three cases each day.

Booklets containing a schedule of the cases to be heard and a short synopsis of each case, as well as biographical information on the Justices and a short summary of appellate procedure will be available.

The public is invited to attend any of the sessions.

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. REPORT: FLIGHT 17 LIKELY DOWNED BY 'OUTSIDE IMPACT'

The Dutch team investigating the downing of the Malaysia Airlines jet over Ukraine stopped short of saying the plane was shot down by a missile, nor does it say who was responsible.

2. HOW COALITION BUILDING CAN BE TRICKY

The diplomacy of building a multinational alliance, in the latest case against the Islamic State group, has been historically time-consuming, and questions about who can or should join are often messy.

3. WHY THIS TRUCE MAY LAST

Recent battlefield gains by pro-Russia rebels mean that Putin has the upper hand in peace talks that will help determine Ukraine's future.

4. APPLE TO REVEAL ITS NEXT BIG THING

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The trend-setting tech giant is expected to present the next generation of the iPhone, while also attempting to awaken the market for wearable computers.

5. WHO IS HEADING TO THE POLLS

Voters in New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Delaware and Rhode Island will decide who will top the ticket in the final primaries before Election Day.

6. BALTIMORE RAVENS RELEASE RAY RICE

The NFL has also suspended the star running back after a video surfaced showing him striking his then-fiancee last February.

7. FOURTH AMERICAN WITH EBOLA TO RETURN TO U.S.

The patient, whose name has not been released, had been working in an Ebola treatment center in Sierra Leone.

8. FRENCH BID TOPLESS SUNBATHING 'ADIEU'

As few as 2 percent of the country's women under 35 now say they want to bare their breasts, according to a new poll.

9. LETTING YOUR CAR FIND A SPOT AND PARK ITSELF

With a thumb swipe on a smartphone, your car one day will be able to drive into a parking deck, find an open spot and back into a space — all by itself.

10. CILIC CAPTURES U.S. OPEN TITLE

Croatia's Marin Cilic now reigns as the tournament's champion, a year after he missed the major due to a doping suspension.

AP News in Brief

Report: Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 likely downed by "high energy objects" from outside

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was likely struck by multiple "high-energy objects from outside the aircraft," causing it to break up over eastern Ukraine, a preliminary report into the deadly aviation disaster concluded Tuesday.

The report by the Dutch Safety Board stopped short of saying the Boeing 777 was shot down by a missile, but its findings appear to point to that conclusion. It also did not say who might have been responsible.

The Boeing 777 suddenly plunged out of the sky July 17 over pro-Russian rebel-held territory in Ukraine, killing all 298 passengers and crew on board.

"The damage observed in the forward section of the aircraft appears to indicate that the aircraft was penetrated by a large number of high-energy objects from outside the aircraft," the report said. "It is likely that this damage resulted in a loss of structural integrity of the aircraft, leading to an in-flight break up."

The board is leading the international investigation into the cause of the disaster. Its full report is expected within a year of the crash.

AP Analysis: Putin hopes to achieve his goals in Ukraine with truce; military threat remains

MOSCOW (AP) — Ukraine's last cease-fire collapsed quickly. This one may last — because it's in Russian President Vladimir Putin's interests.

Putin's goal of keeping Ukraine in Russia's orbit remains the same. But recent battlefield gains by pro-Russia rebels mean that Moscow has the upper hand in peace talks that will help determine Ukraine's future.

From the onset of the Ukrainian crisis, Putin's objective has been to secure enough autonomy for Ukraine's Russian-speaking east that the region can keep its close ties to Russia — and to prevent Ukraine from ever joining NATO.

In March, after Ukraine ousted its pro-Russian president, Moscow annexed the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea. But while many in Ukraine and the West fear Putin wants to seize more land, that doesn't seem to be his preferred option. If he wanted to grab more land in Ukraine, he could have easily done so.

Putin apparently has calculated that the price would be too high, both because of the devastating economic punishment the West would impose and because of the need to spend tens of billions of dollars to support eastern Ukraine. With the Russian economy in recession, that's a liability the Kremlin can't afford.

Analysis: Building a multinational coalition can be tricky business

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first President Bush had one, so did President Bill Clinton, and the second President Bush had two. Now, President Barack Obama wants to build a coalition of nations to join the U.S. to combat the threat posed by the Islamic State group in the Middle East and beyond.

The diplomacy of coalition building is time-consuming, and questions about who can or should join are often messy. And in this situation it is complicated by the fact that the U.S. and its allies share an interest in defeating the extremists with some governments they otherwise oppose. Yet, if politics makes for strange bedfellows, coalitions do as well.

Thus, when Secretary of State John Kerry embarks to the Middle East and Europe this week to enlist what he has called a "coalition of the willing and capable" against the Sunni-led militants controlling large swaths of Syria and Iraq, he must tread carefully.

"I think it is absolutely critical that we have Arab states, and specifically Sunni majority states, that are rejecting the kind of extremist nihilism that we're seeing out of ISIL, that say that is not what Islam is about, and are prepared to join us actively in the fight," Obama said last week at the NATO summit in Wales, using an alternate acronym for the militant group. "And my expectation is, is that we will see friends and allies and partners of ours in the region prepared to take action, as well, as part of a coalition."

Obama, who will lay out his strategy for confronting the Islamic State group in a speech Wednesday, and Kerry got a boost Monday when the Arab League essentially agreed to become part of the coalition, announcing that its 22 members would take urgent — although unspecified — political, defensive, security and legal measures to combat extremists.

News Guide: Highlights of Tuesday's primary elections in 5 states

Highlights from Tuesday's primary elections in Delaware, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

TOP OF THE TICKET

Topping the ticket on the final primary day before Election Day is the race for U.S. Senate in New Hampshire, where 10 candidates are on the Republican ballot, seeking to challenge first-term Democratic incumbent Sen. Jeanne Shaheen in November. The winner of the general election could help decide the battle for Senate control.

One Republican stands out: Former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown, a front-runner since he announced his bid in April. He is widely expected to win the Republican nomination with ease Tuesday.

Longer version of Rice video shows couple screaming, spitting and 'She's drunk, right?'

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Ray Rice and Janay Palmer can be heard shouting obscenities at each other, and she appears to spit in the face of the three-time Pro Bowl running back right before he throws a knockout punch in a video shown to The Associated Press by a law enforcement official.

The video, shown to the AP Monday night, includes audio and is longer than the grainy TMZ Sports video released earlier that day. After the TMZ video made its way around the Internet, the Baltimore Ravens cut Rice and the league suspended him indefinitely. Rice was originally suspended for two games and coaches and others had praised his behavior since the arrest for striking his then-fiancee in February.

The videos show Rice and Palmer in an elevator at an Atlantic City casino. Each hits the other before Rice knocks Palmer off her feet and into a railing. Months ago, a TMZ video showed Rice dragging Palmer, now his wife, from the elevator at the Revel casino, which closed on Sept. 2.

The higher-quality video shown to the AP shows Rice made no attempt to cover up the incident. After Palmer collapses, he drags her out of the elevator and is met by some hotel staff. One of them can be heard saying, "She's drunk, right?" And then, "No cops." But Rice didn't respond.

The video was shown to the AP on condition of anonymity because the official isn't authorized to release it.

Apple poised to unveil iPhone 6 and likely a smartwatch

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is poised to reveal its next big thing Tuesday in a crucial attempt to prove its technological tastemakers still have the power to mesmerize the masses.

The trend-setting company is expected to rouse the still-slumbering market for wearable computers with a smartwatch or bracelet equipped to monitor health, help manage homes and even buy merchandise.

Apple is a late arrival to this relatively new niche: several other companies already sell smartwatches that are being greeted with widespread indifference.

If any company can transform the landscape, it's likely to be Apple Inc. after the company shifted the direction of digital technology with the iPod, iPhone and iPad. Other MP3 music players, smartphones

and tablet computers were first to market, but the devices didn't enthrall consumers until Apple imbued them with a sense of elegance, convenience and wizardry.

"It means more to us to get it right than to be first," Apple CEO Tim Cook explained to analysts earlier this year.

Sanctuary movement revived in Arizona as immigrants move in to churches to avoid deportation

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — On her 27th day of living in a tiny room at a Tucson church known for pioneering the popular immigrant sanctuary movement in the 1980s, Rosa Robles Loreto swept a courtyard, prayed with a group of parishioners and greeted her uniformed son fresh off his baseball practice.

Robles Loreto is a 41-year-old immigrant who lacks legal status and is facing deportation after getting pulled over for a traffic infraction four years ago. She has vowed to remain in Southside Presbyterian Church until federal immigration authorities grant her leniency.

Robles Loreto is the third immigrant to take sanctuary in a church this year in Arizona, reviving a popular movement from the 1980s that sought to help Central American migrants fleeing civil wars stay in the U.S. by letting them live inside churches, where immigration officials generally do not arrest people.

Although the latest version of the movement so far appears to have only taken place in Arizona, national immigration advocates say it's about to grow, propelled by activists hoping the sanctuary movement will draw attention to the lack of immigration reform. The Rev. Noel Andersen, a national grassroots coordinator for Church World Service, said cities such as Denver, Portland, New York and Washington D.C., are organizing and preparing for the potential of more migrants taking sanctuary in churches.

"I would say there's close to 300 congregations out there throughout the country that are willing and ready to give sanctuary when needed," Andersen said.

Appeals court hears arguments over whether legalizing gay marriage would harm children

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A debate over whether children would be harmed or helped by legalizing gay marriage was the main focus when a federal appeals court in San Francisco waded again into the issue of the constitutionality of gay marriage.

The three judges on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals — two of whom have ruled in previous cases in favor of gay rights — reserved many of their most pointed questions Monday at the defenders of state bans in Idaho, Nevada and Hawaii.

Regardless of how the court ultimately rules, many legal observers — including one of the judges on the panel — believe the issue of gay marriage is heading for the U.S. Supreme Court to decide. Many are speculating the Justice Anthony Kennedy may cast the deciding vote for a Supreme Court often split 5-4.

"We all know this is going to be decided one step up," attorney Monte Stewart told the panel after arguing in favor of gay marriage bans in Idaho and Nevada.

"And we all know by whom," Judge Stephen Reinhardt said to laughter in the court, referring to Kennedy.

Syrian prisoner in deteriorating standoff at Guantanamo as transfer to South America stalls

MIAMI (AP) — At about 155 pounds, the Syrian prisoner is gaunt for a man over 6 feet tall. He is pale and weak, so lethargic at times that one of his lawyers said he had to lie on the floor when he met with her one day this summer at the prison on the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The hunger strike that 43-year-old Abu Wa'el Dhiab started 18 months ago to protest his indefinite confinement without charge was supposed to be over by now. He was told in the spring he would be resettled in Uruguay, along with five other Guantanamo prisoners. But as the months have dragged on and the transfer put on hold, his standoff with military officials has only deteriorated, at times turning violent.

"Everyone who has seen him recently is alarmed," said Alka Pradhan, one of his attorneys.

The prisoner has been engaged in a tense struggle with guards in recent months, according to documents filed in federal court in Washington, where Dhiab, who has been fed through a nasal tube to prevent starvation, is challenging some of the tactics used by the military to deal with prisoners on hunger strike.

In July, the Pentagon gave Congress a legally required 30-day notice that it intended to transfer Dhiab and five other Guantanamo prisoners — three other Syrians, a Tunisian and a Palestinian — to Uruguay, where President Jose Mujica, a leftist former political prisoner, offered to accept them as a humanitarian gesture. The other prisoners have kept a much lower profile at Guantanamo than Dhiab so little is known about them. But they are among the several dozen prisoners who cannot return to their homelands because they would face persecution or because their own countries are considered unstable.

What we learned at the US Open: Cilic could win a Grand Slam title, Nishikori could come close

NEW YORK (AP) — Suspended at this time in 2013, Marin Cilic showed at the 2014 U.S. Open that he could win a Grand Slam title.

Kei Nishikori proved that he can come very close.

And Cilic hopes the last 15 days made clear there are players that casual fans might not be familiar with who are capable of doing these things, too.

"It's, I feel, very inspirational for all the other guys out there who are working and sometimes losing motivation, having trouble to dig deep and to believe in the achievements," the 25-year-old Cilic said. "I would definitely feel much stronger if I would see somebody like me accomplish things like this. It sort of came out of nowhere for me."

The 14th-seeded and 16th-ranked Cilic's 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Nishikori in the final at Flushing Meadows on Monday made him the first player in a decade to win a major championship while ranked outside the top 10. (His victory pushed him up to No. 9).

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, September 9, the 252nd day of 2014. There are 113 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 9, 1776, the second Continental Congress made the term "United States" official, re-

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placing "United Colonies."

On this date:

In 1543, Mary Stuart was crowned Queen of Scots at Stirling Castle, nine months after she was born.

In 1850, California became the 31st state of the union.

In 1893, Frances Cleveland, wife of President Grover Cleveland, gave birth to a daughter, Esther, in the White House; it was the first time a president's child was born in the executive mansion.

In 1919, some 1,100 members of Boston's 1,500-man police force went on strike. (The strike was broken by Massachusetts Gov. Calvin Coolidge with replacement officers.)

In 1926, the National Broadcasting Co. (NBC) was incorporated by the Radio Corp. of America.

In 1932, the steamboat Observation exploded in New York's East River, killing 72 people.

In 1948, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) was declared.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made the first of three appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

In 1971, prisoners seized control of the maximum-security Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, New York, beginning a siege that ended up claiming 43 lives.

In 1976, Communist Chinese leader Mao Zedong died in Beijing at age 82.

In 1986, Frank Reed, director of a private school in Lebanon, was taken hostage; he was released 44 months later.

In 1997, Sinn Fein (shin fayn), the IRA's political ally, formally renounced violence as it took its place in talks on Northern Ireland's future. Actor Burgess Meredith died in Malibu, California, at age 89.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Colin Powell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that abuses by government-supported Arab militias in Sudan qualified as genocide against the black African population in the Darfur region. A powerful car bomb exploded outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, killing at least 9 people, including the bomber.

Five years ago: In a speech to a joint session of Congress, President Barack Obama summoned lawmakers to enact sweeping health care legislation, declaring the "time for bickering is over." (In an extraordinary breach of congressional decorum, Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., shouted "You lie!" when the president said illegal immigrants would not benefit from his proposals; Wilson ended up apologizing.) British commandos in Afghanistan freed New York Times reporter Stephen Farrell from Taliban captors, but one commando and a Times translator were killed. Fox announced that Ellen DeGeneres would be the fourth judge on "American Idol," replacing Paula Abdul. (DeGeneres was on "Idol" for one season; she was succeeded by Jennifer Lopez.)

One year ago: Four days of vehicular gridlock began near the George Washington Bridge when two of three approach lanes from Fort Lee, New Jersey, were blocked off; the traffic jam was later blamed on loyalists to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie over the refusal of Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich to endorse Christie for re-election. (Christie has denied any prior knowledge of the lane closures.) Rafael Nadal won his 13th Grand Slam title and second at the U.S. Open by withstanding Novak Djokovic with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 victory.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sylvia Miles is 80. Actor Topol is 79. Rhythm-and-blues singer Luther Simmons is 72. Singer Inez Foxx is 72. Singer Dee Dee Sharp is 69. Rock singer-musician Doug Ingle is 68. Country singer Freddy Weller is 67. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Joe Theismann is 65. Rock musician John McFee (The Doobie Brothers) is 64. Actor Tom Wopat is 63. Actress Angela Cartwright is 62. Musician-producer Dave Stewart is 62. Actor Hugh Grant is 54. Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., is 51. Actor-comedian Charles Esten (formerly Chip) is 49. Actress Constance Marie is 49. Actor David Bennent is 48. Actor Adam Sandler is 48. Rock singer Paul Durham (Black Lab) is 46. Actress Julia Sawalha (TV: "Absolutely Fabulous") is 46. Model Rachel Hunter is 45. Actor Eric Stones-

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treet is 43. Actor Henry Thomas is 43. Actor Goran Visnjic (VEEZ'-nihch) is 42. Pop-jazz singer Michael Buble' (boo-BLAY') is 39. Country singer Joey Martin (Joey + Rory) is 39. Latin singer Maria Rita is 37. Actress Michelle Williams is 34. Actress Julie Gonzalo is 33. Country singer-songwriter Hunter Hayes is 23.

Thought for Today: "To be happy with a man you must understand him a lot and love him a little. To be happy with a woman you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all." - Helen Rowland, American writer, journalist and humorist (1876-1950).

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