

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!

- 1- Rix Apartment for Rent
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11

School Breakfast: Cereal, long john, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Tomato soup, grilled cheese, tossed greens, fresh and canned fruit.

Senior Menu: Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Brownie, Whole Wheat Bread.

Birthdays: Audrey Jacobson • Derrick Dobberpuhl

4:00pm: Boys Soccer at JV Christian

4:00pm: JH FB hosts Sisseton

5:00pm: JH VB hosts Roncalli

6:30pm: Lions Club meeting at Dakota Brush, downtown Groton

6:30pm: VB hosts Roncalli with JV/C matches at 6:30



HC Doors

Aberdeen 225-3631

www.holtey.com

Commercial & Residential Overhead Doors

Openers Remotes Parts Repairs

Emergency Service Sales Installation

Russell D Holtey - Owner

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.

© 2014 Groton Daily Independent

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

Tiger Battle to feature something new

Roy Gay, Mobridge, has set up a few feature with the annual Groton Area-Mobridge/Pollock football Tiger Battle. Gay will be sponsoring a traveling trophy that will be presented at the end of a best of ? series, which is yet to be determined. In addition, team members, coaches, staff and cheerleaders will each receive a velour pouch which will contain a military style dog tag in scripted and a Tiger eye gem stone. The plate on the trophy will explain the gem stone.



Smith named semifinalist in the 2015 National Merit® Scholarship Program

(Evanston, Illinois) Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 60th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title. Luke Smith, son of Steve and Carol Smith, Groton, is one of the semifinalists.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 440 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Steps in the 2015 Competition

About 1.4 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2013 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and his or her high school must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT® scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

National Merit Scholarships

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2015. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 240 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 200 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2015 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 308,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.



Luke Smith

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For Rent

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/397-8131.

For Sale

FOR SALE: 1984 1/2 ton Ford pickup, rusty but runs good. \$600 or best offer. Honda riding lawn mower with bagger. Works good. \$550 or best offer. Call 397-2783 or 290-5546.

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.

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

The advertisement features a central illustration of a fried chicken drumstick. Below it, there is a red starburst containing the text 'Serving 5-9 p.m.'. To the left, there is a graphic of wings with the text 'WE'VE GOT WINGS! Every Wednesday!'. To the right, there is a logo for 'ANDOVER BAR & GRILL' featuring a grill and a beer. At the bottom right, the address and phone number are listed.

Today in Weather History

1978: High winds to 65 mph damaged the roofs of several barns outside of Watertown during the early evening.

1949 - An early snowstorm brought 7.5 inches to Helena MT. In Maine, a storm drenched New Brunswick with 8.05 inches of rain in 24 hours, a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1961 - Very large and slow moving Hurricane Carla made landfall near Port Lavaca TX. Carla battered the central Texas coast with wind gusts to 175 mph, and up to 16 inches of rain, and spawned a vicious tornado which swept across Galveston Island killing eight persons. The hurricane claimed 45 lives, and caused 300 million dollars damage. The remnants of Carla produced heavy rain in the Lower Missouri Valley and southern sections of the Upper Great Lakes Region. (David Ludlum) (Storm Data)

1976 - Up to five inches of rain brought walls of water and millions of tons of debris into Bullhead City AZ via washes from elevations above 3000 feet. Flooding caused more than three million dollars damage. Chasms up to forty feet deep were cut across some roads. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Thunderstorms caused flash flooding and subsequent river flooding in central Lower Michigan. Up to 14 inches of rain fell in a 72 hour period, and flooding caused 400 million dollars damage. (Storm Data)

1987 - Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Texas, and spawned three tornadoes. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph at Goodnight TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Snow blanketed parts of the Central Rocky Mountain Region and the Central Plateau, with ten inches reported at Mount Evans in Colorado. Smoke from forest fires in the northwestern U.S. reached Pennsylvania and New York State. Hurricane Gilbert, moving westward over the Caribbean, was packing winds of 100 mph by the end of the day. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


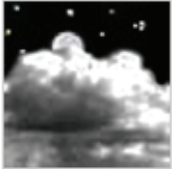

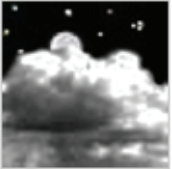



1989 - Nine cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Havre MT with a reading of 23 degrees. Livingston MT and West Yellowstone MT tied for honors as the cold spot in the nation with morning lows of 17 degrees. Thunderstorms produced hail over the Sierra Nevada Range of California, with two inches reported on the ground near Donner Summit. The hail made roads very slick, resulting in a twenty car accident. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


1992: With sustained winds of 145 mph and gusts to 175 mph, Hurricane Iniki pulverized Kauai. The worst storm in recorded history in Hawaii and one of the 10 worst in US history; it caused between \$2 billion and \$3 billion in damage.

2002: A tree limb snapped on a windy day in Union County, NJ and fell on a group of students eating lunch outside. One student was killed, 12 were injured.

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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
						
50%		20%				
Scattered Showers High: 51 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 40 °F	Slight Chc Showers High: 53 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 37 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 58 °F	Mostly Clear Low: 35 °F	Sunny High: 63 °F

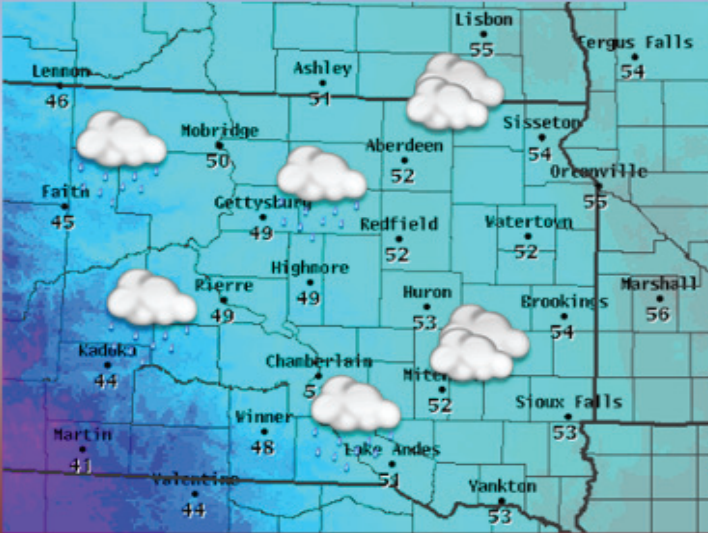


Rain West & Central Today

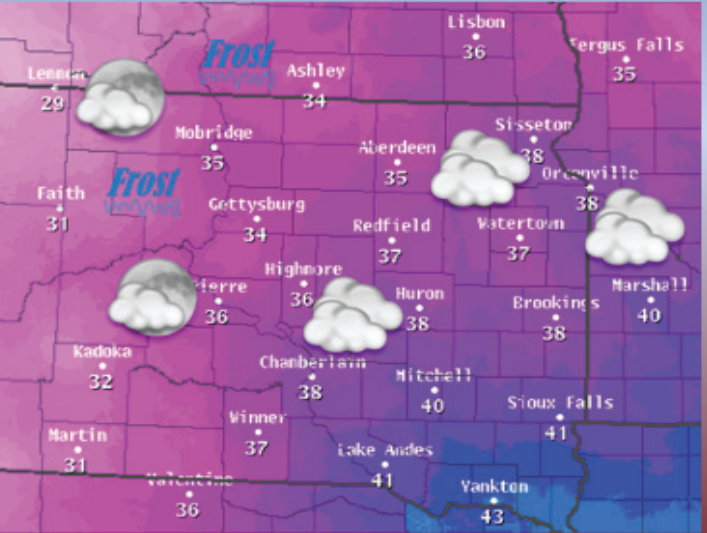
Patchy Frost Tonight – Saturday Morning

weather.gov/Aberdeen
 Like
National Weather Service Aberdeen
 @NWSAberdeen

Highs Today



Lows Tonight



Scattered showers will continue off and on through most of the morning. Another area of light rain will push into mainly western South Dakota on Thursday before we will see any clearing. A few spots might get a little frosty Friday & Saturday mornings before warmer air returns to the region.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 51.9°F at 4:22 PM

Low: 44.8°F at 6:38 AM

High Gust: 27 mph at 3:30 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 100° in 1927

Record Low: 28° in 1940

Average High: 74°F

Average Low: 48°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.75

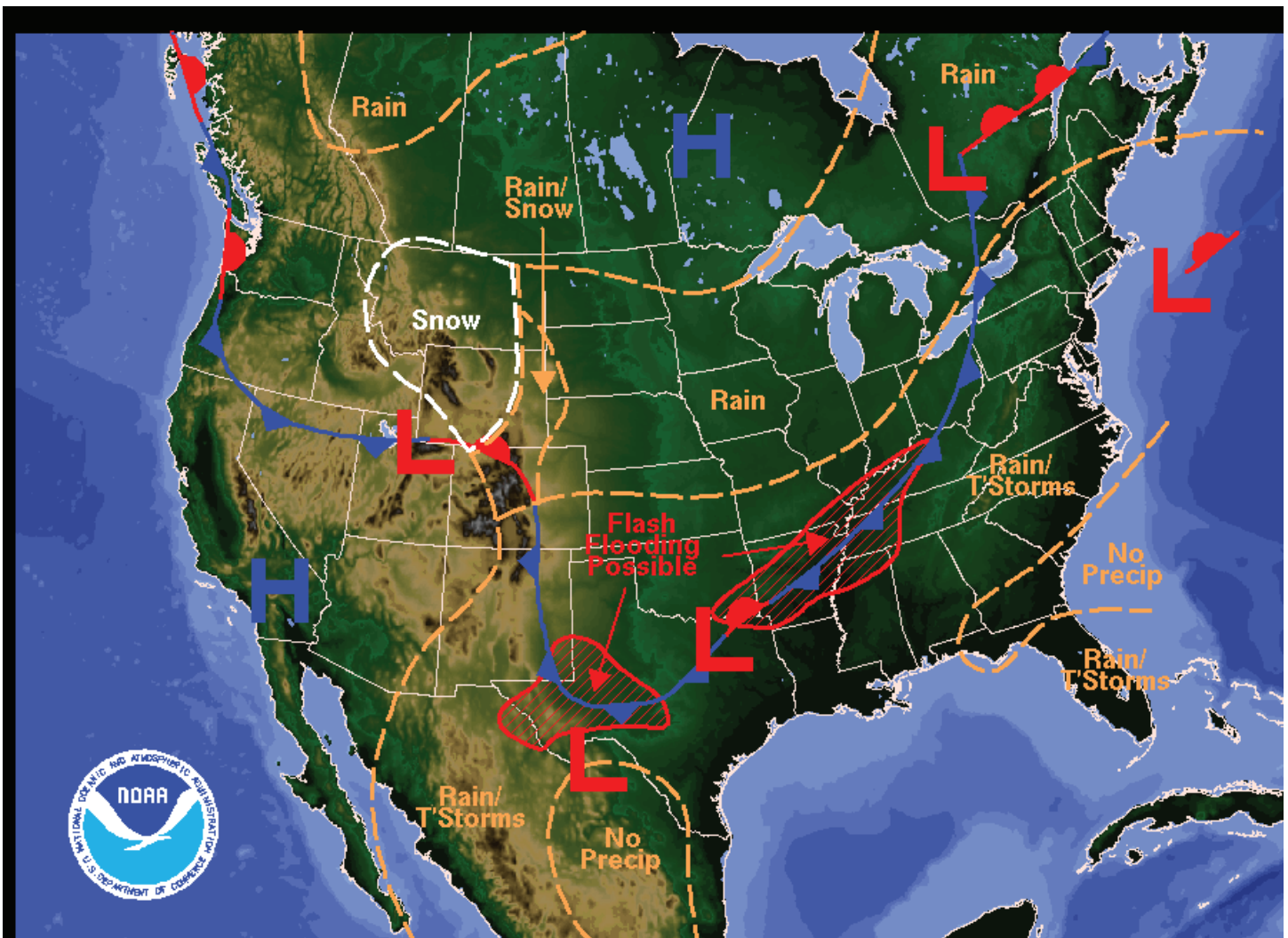
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.26

Average Precip to date: 17.04

Precip Year to Date: 12.18

Sunset Tonight: 7:52 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:09 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Sep 11, 2014, issued 3:11 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mc Reynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



RIGHT CHOICES

"When you come to a 'fork' in the road, take it," is an oft quoted bit of advice from Yogi Berra. It has brought a smile to the face of many when they first heard it. But if you listen to what he is saying, it's rather dangerous.

"Wherever you want to go, is OK. Just follow your own path and enjoy life," is what I think he is suggesting. But, is following our own self-designed path the best thing we can do with the life God has given us?

God gave us His Proverbs for us to have His understanding to know right from wrong. In fact, if we go back to a conversation between God and Solomon, his first request was for the gift of insight to discern right from wrong. Solomon, at that time, wanted to honor God with his whole heart. He knew that honoring would be difficult without God's insight to guide him. What a wise request.

Perhaps he saw his father, David, struggling with his humanity when he had to choose right from wrong. Perhaps he saw his father grieve over a poor decision that cost someone their life. Perhaps he saw his father deal with guilt when he did not ask God for guidance. There was something deep within him that challenged him to "be insightful, or discerning." So, he asked God for this gift, and when he understood and applied it in his life, he recognized its value and wanted to pass it on for us to use in our lives.

God has given us the only resource we need to be discerning: His Word. If we choose to honor Him we can find directions in His Word. Life is safe with Him, within.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we know that You will guide us and guard us if we are obedient to Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 1:4 for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—

News from the Associated Press

Eagle Butte man sentenced for sex abuse of minor

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say an Eagle Butte man has been sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for sexually assaulting a minor after hitting the victim in the head with a bottle.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says 24-year-old Brad Lee Red Bear was sentenced on Tuesday.

Red Bear pleaded guilty to abuse sexual contact by force in June. Authorities say the crime occurred in December 2013 in Eagle Butte

Red Bear will be on supervised released for five years after his release from prison.

Woman acknowledges setting Huron restaurant afire

HURON, S.D. (AP) — One of two Huron women charged with starting a fire at the Tailgate restaurant in Huron has pleaded guilty to second-degree arson.

KOKK-AM reports 31-year-old Julia Lopez acknowledged her role in starting the March fire in an attempt to collect insurance money.

Her attorney, Kent Shelton, said she has no ownership in the restaurant and said Lopez was asked to do it by the owner.

The case against 55-year-old Kathleen Wollman has been delayed two weeks so attorneys could try to reach a plea deal. She's also charged with arson and burglary.

Snow in the forecast for parts of western SD

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The strong system bringing to South Dakota its first winter storm of the season could dump up to 7 inches of snow in some areas on the western side of the state.

The National Weather Service says rain will transition to snow early Thursday across the Black Hills and northeast Wyoming. Heavy wet snow could lead to tree damage and power outages.

A winter storm warning is in effect until noon Thursday for the northern and central Black Hills including the cities of Lead, Deadwood, Hill City and Mount Rushmore.

The weather service says many areas across far western South Dakota may experience a hard freeze by Friday morning as temperatures are expected to dip into the 20s and even teens in the Black Hills.

Prosecutors: Statements in Bakken murder voluntary

MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Prosecutors in eastern Montana asked a state judge Wednesday to deny a defense request to suppress an alleged confession by the suspect in a high-profile murder case.

Michael Keith Spell, 25, of Parachute, Colorado, is accused of killing 43-year-old Sidney High School math teacher Sherry Arnold during an attempted random abduction in the Bakken oil patch. Her body was found more than two months later in a shallow grave in North Dakota.

Spell allegedly confessed to his involvement in the crime six days after Arnold disappeared, during an interrogation by FBI agents in the hours following his arrest by a SWAT team in South Dakota. Because Spell is mentally disabled, his attorneys say he was not capable of voluntarily waiving his rights to remain silent and have an attorney present.

But Deputy Richland County Attorney T.R. Halvorson wrote in a court brief that video of the interview

shows Spell made his statements voluntarily.

State District Judge Richard Simonton has scheduled an Oct. 1 hearing on the matter.

"The court has the video by (Special Agent) George Doberstein. The court has the testimony of SA Doberstein. The court can observe directly and for itself whether there was coercion, lawlessness, or undue advantage taken of Michael Spell's condition," Halvorson wrote. "The statement by Michael Spell was voluntary, and the video shows it."

Spell attorney Al Avignone said the defense was not alleging that any kind of force or other improper actions were taken against Spell — only that his disability rendered him incapable of consenting to an interview.

"He does not understand his Constitutional rights and can't voluntarily waive his rights," Avignone said.

Prosecutors dropped their pursuit of the death penalty in the case after experts testified Spell is mildly mental disabled. A 2002 U.S. Supreme Court ruling prohibits executions of the mentally disabled as cruel and unusual punishment.

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

A second defendant, Lester Van Waters Jr., also of Parachute, has pleaded guilty to deliberate homicide by accountability in a deal with prosecutors.

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

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

Waters has implicated Spell as the killer.

State Fair tiger vendor disputes PETA claims

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The People For the Ethical Treatment of Animals is accusing a State Fair vendor of displaying tigers illegally but the exhibitor's company says the claims are baseless.

Chicago-based All Things Wild brought the Royal White Tiger Discovery Exhibit to the state fair this year. Marcus Cook works for All Things Wild and helped display the animals at the exhibit.

PETA claims Cook had his exhibitor's license from the U.S. Department of Agriculture revoked.

Mike Whittman is with the legal department at All Things Wild. He says Cook was on the board of directors for a nonprofit company whose license was revoked, but didn't have a license himself.

Whittman says it's legal for Cook to work for his company and handle animals; PETA disputes this fact.

Senators chide freight railroads on delays

JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators and shippers complained Wednesday that widespread delays in freight rail shipments are hurting a wide array of industries and driving some companies out of business, and they expressed doubt that the railroad companies are doing all they can to fix the problem.

The delays, which escalated late last year and continued through the spring and summer, appear to be the result of too few rail cars and too much demand from shippers, officials representing the agricul-

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ture, auto and chemical industries told a hearing of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. Lawmakers displayed a photo of a giant mound of wheat standing in the open because North Dakota farmers can't get a railroad company to ship it.

Shipping rates are 90 percent higher than they were in 2002, but service has drastically diminished, said Calvin Dooley, president of the American Chemistry Council.

Edward Hamberger, the rail industry's top lobbyist, said the industry is struggling to keep up with a sharp increase in freight rail demand created by the oil fracking boom in the Bakken region of North Dakota and two years of unusually bountiful harvests, and that the problem was acerbated by an unusually harsh winter. Railroads spent \$26 billion last year on new track and other capital improvements, and that shipping rates are the same level they were in 1988 when adjusted for inflation, he said.

"This industry recognizes our customers aren't getting the service to which they have become accustomed," said Hamberger, president and CEO of the Association of American Railroads. "We didn't see the surge in traffic coming; many of our customers didn't either."

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash, told Hamberger she didn't believe the \$26 billion figure.

"I don't believe your investment figures are sincere figures," she said. "You are making a ton of money and what is happening is people are losing their jobs and their products can't get to market."

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., said he didn't buy Hamberger's explanation for the causes of the delays.

"You can't blame everything on the winter. You just can't do that. Sorry," Rockefeller said. "I know you have the money. I don't want to hear about a record amount being invested."

The freight rail industry is "the most powerful, under-the-radar lobbying group" in Washington, he said. But he warned that their support in Congress is ebbing.

"I think the world is gradually going to shift against thinking like yours, and I think when that happens you will be surprised and you will be unready ... and we'll have a different situation," said Rockefeller, a long-time critic of the freight rail industry.

Rockefeller has introduced a bill to give the Surface Transportation Board, which regulates freight rail prices, more power to address delays and other problems.

SD governor orders flags flown at half-staff

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's governor has ordered flags flown at half-staff Thursday, the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard asks that the flags remain at half-staff from 8 a.m. until sunset Thursday. Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives in the attacks.

Sept. 11 has been designated as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance.

State gets \$12M for fixing stretch of SD railway

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state now has the final piece of funding needed to rehab a stretch of railway that will open up grain-shipping opportunities for farmers in south-central South Dakota, officials announced this week.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation said Tuesday it has received \$12 million in federal funding, which completes the estimated \$28 million budget for the project.

The department will restore about 42 miles of railroad from Chamberlain to Presho that hasn't been regularly used since the 1990s, according to Steve Halverson, a farmer and leader with Rails to the Future, the coalition of producers that has been orchestrating the project with the Department of Trans-

portation.

The state will likely start the bidding process for the project near the end of the year and the renovation should be done in about two years, said Bruce Lindholm, project manager for the department's Office of Air, Rail and Transit.

The South Dakota Wheat Growers say they'll build a \$40 million shuttle loader facility and agronomy center if the railroad is rehabilitated at least as far as Lyman, which is about halfway between Chamberlain and Presho. With the project being fully funded, Halverson said the state will repair the entire 41.6 stretch of rail, with the possibility that it could extend even further west, to Vivian.

For farmers in the region, Halverson said the news is huge, noting that without nearby rail service, farmers have to transport their grain to faraway railways using state highways, which is costly and destroys the roads the region.

"Farmers are tiring of wearing their trucks out running up and down the highway," he said.

Halverson also noted that farmers can get about 20 to 25 cents more per bushel once the rail is running again.

"Hauling freight by rail so much cheaper; it's so much more efficient," he said.

The push for a renovated railway in the region has been a long time coming. Halverson estimated the rail system in the region hasn't been effectively used since the 1970s. But Rails to the Future has gotten support at all local levels of government this year.

The Legislature pledged \$7.2 million last session; the state Railroad Board committed an additional \$7 million; and the group raised more than \$1 million in local commitments from public and private donors. The federal funding is through a so-called TIGER grant, a program that dates to President Barack Obama's 2009 economic stimulus bill.

"The system worked," Halverson said. "Everything fell into place."

While the renovation and the grain elevators will take a few years to be up and running, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in a statement it's necessary the project gets underway.

"Now more than ever, our state needs good rail infrastructure to move grain to out-of-state markets," he said.

Producers in the Dakotas and Minnesota have seen severe rail shipping delays this season, which has left grain piling up around the region. Farmers and some politicians say increased crude oil and freight shipments from the western North Dakota oil fields are causing the delays. Railroads have denied they favor one sector over another.

Former US Senate hopeful Walker arrested in SD

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Former U.S. Senate candidate Clayton Walker who's been indicted on election law violations has been arrested for reportedly threatening state employees.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says Walker was arrested Wednesday on three counts of threatening by electronic device. He was also arrested for violating the terms of his personal recognizance bond in his felony election law case.

Jackley says the new charges against Walker stem from the former candidate's repeated phone calls to several state offices threatening and harassing employees.

Walker was indicted in June on charges of perjury and filing false election documents. He's scheduled to appear in court Oct. 7.

Walker, of Black Hawk, was taken off the ballot after his nominating petitions were successfully challenged on grounds they included unregistered voters and had other discrepancies.

Dakota officials bracing for rare children's virus

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A rare virus believed to be the cause of a severe respiratory illness that has affected children in at least 10 states may have already made its way to North Dakota and South Dakota, public health officials said Wednesday.

The suspected germ is known as enterovirus 68. It's an uncommon strain of a common family of viruses that typically hit in summer and autumn.

Dr. Lon Kightlinger, South Dakota state epidemiologist, said many hospitals test for the generic form of the virus, but it takes some time to get specific subtype results to and from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I don't want to say it's not here. We just haven't received word back from the CDC lab that this is exactly what it is," Kightlinger said. "But the treatment is the same, the prevention is the same, so I am just going under the assumption it certainly could be here."

The virus can cause mild cold-like symptoms including runny noses, coughing and wheezing. Health officials say this strain is particularly harsh and children with asthma and other health problems are most at risk.

Cases have been confirmed in Missouri and Illinois. CDC officials said earlier this week they are testing to see if the virus caused respiratory illnesses reported in children in Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma and Utah.

There is no vaccine for the virus, which is spread person to person through contact and droplets. Kightlinger and Colleen Reinke, spokeswoman for the North Dakota Department of Health, said parents should emphasize good hand-washing practices and reminding children to cover their coughs and sneezes.

"Prevention is just down to the basics," Kightlinger said.

Most children recover within a week with no lasting problems. Kightlinger, whose office has received numerous calls about the virus, said some people are having trouble separating the illness from the much-publicized Ebola virus cases.

"We've have got to be very clear: This is an enterovirus," he said. "It hits every year just about this time, summer or fall. This is just a harsher subtype of it."

Wind Cave National Park postpones controlled burn

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, S.D. (AP) — National Park Service officials have postponed the 2,200-acre planned fire at Wind Cave National Park in southwest South Dakota.

The National Park Service says the prescribed burn has been pushed to October because of the current wet weather and green grasses.

The fire is expected to keep ponderosa pine trees from encroaching on the prairie land. The burn area is located in the southwest corner of the park, west of Highway 385.

The prescribed fire program began in 1972. Parts of the park are burned in a controlled setting every year. The fire removes the buildup of dead brush that could fuel a wildfire and rejuvenates the prairie grasses.

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Man sentenced for meth on Yankton reservation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Wagner man has been sentenced to seven years and three months in prison for methamphetamine trade on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in southeastern South Dakota.

U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson says 39-year-old Julian Lee Winckler was sentenced on Monday.

Johnson says Winckler pleaded guilty in June to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Authorities say Winckler was involved in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine on the Yankton Sioux Reservation and sold the drug to a confidential source last year.

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. WHAT OBAMA IS RISKING WITH WIDER AIRSTRIKES

AP's Julie Pace says the president is thrusting U.S. forces into an expensive operation fraught with danger and unpredictable consequences.

2. SYRIAN OPPOSITION WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENT

Western-backed rebels, who have been in disarray and losing the civil war, say the U.S. move against the Islamic State group should be coupled with degrading and ultimately removing Assad.

3. JUDGE: PISTORIUS CAN'T BE FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER

The double-amputee Olympian may still face culpable homicide, or negligent killing, in the shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

4. CHANGES SURROUND 9/11 ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

The Sept. 11 museum has opened, the fences have come down around the memorial plaza and One World Trade Center is near completion.

5. WHO NFL HAS TABBED TO INVESTIGATE RAY RICE CASE

Former FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III will probe how the league handled evidence as it looked into domestic violence claims against former the Ravens running back.

6. RIGHTS GROUP ACCUSES ISRAEL OF WAR CRIMES IN GAZA

Human Rights Watch made the conclusion following an investigation it carried out into attacks on or near three U.N.-run schools sheltering displaced Palestinians.

7. FEMA WANTS MILLIONS IN SANDY AID REPAID

The federal agency is scrutinizing about 4,450 households that it suspects received improper payments after storm, an AP investigation finds.

8. WHY "YES" CAMP IS GAINING MOMENTUM IN SCOTLAND

In the battle of the ads in the independence debate, that group is scoring the most points — and that gives it a chance of winning the Sept. 18 referendum.

9. MISSOURI LAWMAKERS ENACT 72-HOUR ABORTION WAIT

Gov. Jay Nixon had denounced the measure as "extreme and disrespectful" toward women because it contains no exception for cases of rape or incest.

10. ROB FORD HOSPITALIZED WITH POSSIBLE TUMOR

The Toronto mayor has been complaining of abdominal pains and an examination resulted in the working diagnosis of a tumor, health officials say

AP News in Brief

Obama authorizes airstrikes in Syria for first time, part of broad effort to combat militants

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opening a new military front in the Middle East, President Barack Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes inside Syria for the first time Wednesday night, along with expanded strikes in Iraq as part of "a steady, relentless effort" to root out Islamic State extremists and their spreading reign of terror.

"We will hunt down terrorists who threaten our country, wherever they are," Obama declared in a prime-time address to the nation from the White House. "This is a core principle of my presidency: If you threaten America, you will find no safe haven."

Obama announced that he was dispatching nearly 500 more U.S. troops to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, as well as conduct intelligence and reconnaissance flights, bringing the total number of American forces sent there this summer to more than 1,500. He also urged Congress anew to authorize a program to train and arm Syrian rebels who are fighting both the Islamic State militants and Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Obama's plans amounted to a striking shift for a president who rose to political prominence in part because of his early opposition to the Iraq war. While in office, he has steadfastly sought to wind down American military campaigns in the Middle East and avoid new wars — particularly in Syria, a country where the chaos of an intractable civil war has given the Islamic State space to thrive and move freely across the border with Iraq.

Speaking on the eve of the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Obama's plans were also an admission that years of American-led war in the Middle East have not quelled the terror threat emanating from the region.

Expanding US airstrikes in Iraq and extending them to Syria are 1st steps in long campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — By expanding his military campaign against the Islamic State group, President Barack Obama hopes to reverse the militants' momentum in Iraq, squeeze their sanctuary in Syria and erode their recruiting appeal across the greater Mideast. Those are key steps toward Obama's stated goal of eventually destroying the extremist group.

The strategy's success, however, also hinges on a set of more difficult moves: effective coordination

with Iraqi and Kurdish ground forces, undercutting financial and ideological support for the Islamic State group, and building up anti-Islamic State forces in Syria without strengthening the regime of President Bashar Assad, which Obama considers illegitimate.

These U.S. gains are unlikely to occur quickly, but broadening U.S. airstrikes in Iraq and extending them to Syria could “change the reality and the perception of whether ISIL has the momentum or whether they are being rocked back on their heels,” said Michele Flournoy, the Obama administration’s first policy chief at the Pentagon and now the chief executive officer at the Center for a New American Security think tank. ISIL is an alternative acronym for the Islamic State group.

Undermining the Islamic State group’s popular image as a military steamroller is especially important, particularly in the short run, she said.

“On the Iraq side of the border it has already begun,” she said.

Syrian opposition welcomes Obama’s speech, calls for removal of Assad

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria’s main Western-backed opposition group on Thursday welcomed President Barack Obama’s authorization of U.S. airstrikes targeting the Islamic State group inside Syria, saying it stands “ready and willing” to partner with the international community to defeat the extremists.

But the Syrian National Coalition said that equally important was the realization that fighting the Islamic State group alone is not enough and should be coupled with degrading and ultimately removing President Bashar Assad from power.

Kurdish politicians in Iraq similarly praised Obama’s announcement of wider airstrikes and assistance to Iraqi forces.

“We welcome this new strategy,” said Hoshyar Zebari, a Kurdish politician and one of Iraq’s newly-appointed deputy prime ministers. “We think it will work with the cooperation of the indigenous local forces like Iraqi Security Forces, the Kurdish peshmerga and other forces.”

Zebari also called for active Arab participation in the war against the Islamic State, saying the group was a threat not just to Iraq and Syria but the entire world.

Analysis: Criticized as cautious, Obama orders airstrikes with unknown costs and consequences

WASHINGTON (AP) — For a president criticized as overly cautious and reluctant to lead, Barack Obama is taking a huge risk. He is thrusting U.S. fighting forces into a growing military operation with clear dangers, unknown costs, an indefinite length and unpredictable consequences.

After years of resistance, the president who wanted to end America’s wars will now oversee a sweeping airstrike campaign in both Iraq and Syria, a country mired in an intractable civil war. He’s sending hundreds more U.S. troops to Iraq to help train security forces there. And he’s pressing Congress for authority to pour U.S. weaponry into Syria to strengthen opposition forces fighting both the Islamic State militants and President Bashar Assad’s government.

All three are precisely the scenarios Obama has assiduously sought to avoid.

For now, the public is with him, with polls showing wide support for airstrikes in Iraq and Syria even as Obama’s own approval ratings slump and his foreign policy ratings sink to near record lows.

“This is America’s leadership at its best,” Obama declared in his address to the nation, as if to answer critics even in his own party who complain he has been too slow to act.

9/11 anniversary commemoration remains the same amid changes to the sacred site

NEW YORK (AP) — A solemn reading of the names. Moments of silence to mark the precise times of tragedy. Stifled sobs of those still mourning.

As the nation pauses Thursday to mark the thirteenth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attack, little about the annual ceremony at ground zero has changed. But so much around it has.

For the first time, the National September 11 Museum — which includes gut-wrenching artifacts and graphic photos of the attacks — will be open on the anniversary. Fences around the memorial plaza have come down, integrating the sacred site more fully with the streets of Manhattan while completely opening it up to the public and camera-wielding tourists.

A new mayor is in office, Bill de Blasio, one far less linked to the attacks and their aftermath than his immediate predecessors. And finally, a nearly completed One World Trade Center has risen 1,776 feet above ground zero and will be filled with office workers by this date in 2015, another sign that a page in the city's history may be turning.

For some who lost loved ones in the attacks, the increasing feel of a return to normalcy in the area threatens to obscure the tragedy that took place there and interfere with their grief.

Amid rising criticism, NFL to investigate its handling of Rice case

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL called in a former FBI director to examine how it pursued and handled evidence in the Ray Rice domestic violence case as pressure increased for the league to be more transparent about its original investigation.

The move late Wednesday came hours after The Associated Press reported that a law enforcement officer said he sent an NFL executive a video in April that showed Rice striking his then-fiancee at a casino. Goodell has maintained that no one in the NFL saw the video until it was released by TMZ Sports Monday.

Women's organizations, members of Congress and players have called for more detail about the NFL's handling of the Rice case. The criticism intensified after the law enforcement official's account.

Goodell turned to Robert S. Mueller III, who was the director of the FBI for a 12-year term, to lead the inquiry. The probe will be overseen by owners John Mara of the New York Giants and Art Rooney of the Pittsburgh Steelers, two of Goodell's strongest supporters. Both are members of key NFL committees and have closely advised Goodell throughout his tenure.

The NFL called the probe independent, and did not discuss how the owners will work with Mueller. But there could be an appearance of conflict: Mara has already indicated he doesn't think Goodell's job should be in jeopardy.

Thousands of Superstorm Sandy victims could be asked to return FEMA funds

NEW YORK (AP) — After Superstorm Sandy hit the East Coast nearly two years ago, the federal government quickly sent out \$1.4 billion in emergency disaster aid to the hurricane's victims.

Now, thousands of people might have to pay back their share.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is scrutinizing about 4,500 households that it suspects received improper payments after the storm, according to program officials and data obtained by The Associated Press through a public records request. As of early September, FEMA had asked around 850 of those households to return a collective \$5.8 million. The other cases were still under review.

FEMA's campaign to recover overpayments, called "recoupment" in agency lingo, typically involves inadvertent violations of eligibility rules, bureaucratic mistakes or missing documentation, rather than outright fraud.

Many people asked to return money were deemed ineligible because their damaged properties were vacation houses or rental properties, not their primary residences. Others had double dipped into the aid pool, with more than one household member getting payments. Some received FEMA money for things later covered by insurance.

Oscar Pistorius murder trial: Judge begins reading reasoning behind upcoming verdict

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — The judge in the Oscar Pistorius murder trial on Thursday read the reasoning behind her upcoming verdict on whether the double-amputee athlete intentionally killed girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp and appeared to initially agree with parts of Pistorius' account that it was a mistaken killing.

Judge Thokozile Masipa told Pistorius he could remain seated on a wooden bench in the South African courtroom until she asked him to stand, and then proceeded to explain her assessment of the testimonies of some of the 37 witnesses who testified at the double-amputee Olympian's dramatic trial. This verdict phase was expected to take hours and possibly even two days to fully read out.

Casting doubt on witness accounts of hearing a woman's screams, Masipa said "none of the witnesses had ever heard the accused cry or scream, let alone when he was anxious," apparently acknowledging the possibility that the defense argument that Pistorius had been screaming in a high-pitched voice.

"That in itself poses a challenge," Masipa said of the fact that neighbors had never previously heard Pistorius scream and had no "model" to compare with the screams they heard on the night of Steenkamp's death.

At one point, Masipa said: "I continue to explain why most witnesses got their facts wrong."

Human rights group says Israel committed war crimes in Gaza war, highlights school attacks

JERUSALEM (AP) — A leading international rights group on Thursday alleged that Israel committed war crimes during this summer's Gaza war, saying it reached that conclusion after investigating three attacks on or near United Nations-run schools housing displaced Palestinians.

Human Rights Watch said it investigated the strikes at the schools in three separate locations in the war-battered Gaza Strip, attacks in which at least 45 people were killed.

According to its investigation, based on field research and interviews with witnesses, the New York-based group said no military targets were apparent in the area of the schools and that some of the attacks were indiscriminate.

"The Israeli military carried out attacks on or near three well-marked schools where it knew hundreds of people were taking shelter, killing and wounding scores of civilians," Fred Abrahams, special adviser at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement. "Israel has offered no convincing explanation for these

attacks on schools where people had gone for protection and the resulting carnage.”

Israel argues that the heavy civilian death toll during the 50-day summer war was Hamas’ fault, accusing the Islamic militant group of launching rockets — and drawing retaliation — from school yards, residential areas and mosques.

Yes camp winning battle of ads in Scotland campaign as voting nears

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — When the campaign to keep Scotland in the United Kingdom launched a recent TV ad, the spot went viral — but for all the wrong reasons.

In a kitchen, a woman complains that while her husband can’t stop talking about the independence referendum, she doesn’t have time to think about voting because she’s too busy with housework.

Within hours, spoof videos appeared online, mocking the perceived sexist tone. “The tone of the whole video was completely outdated, sexist and insulting to women,” said Sandra Geddes, a 33-year-old office worker who said she plans to vote no on independence even though she was angered by the commercial.

In the battle of the ads in Scotland’s independence debate, the Yes camp is scoring the most points — and that may be a factor in the surge that has given it a chance of winning on Sept. 18 after months trailing far behind. While the “Better Together” campaign has been derided for old-fashioned, even patronizing ads, the breakaway side has engaged voters with a slick and humorous campaign that presents a dynamic picture of Scotland.

The pro-independence camp recently won hearts with a poster of a baby’s hand in the tender grip of a parent with the slogan “Scotland’s future in Scotland’s hands.” While it appealed to a sense of family, it didn’t smack of conservative “family values” as some of the No campaign’s ads are seen as doing. Critics claim pro-unity posters bearing messages such as “we love our kids, we’re saying no thanks” are offensive for implying Yes campaign supporters don’t love their families.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, September 11, the 254th day of 2014. There are 111 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On September 11, 2001, on America’s single-worst day of terrorism, nearly 3,000 people were killed as 19 al-Qaida members hijacked four passenger jetliners, sending two of the planes smashing into New York’s World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon and the fourth into a field in western Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1714, the forces of King Philip V of Spain overcame Catalan defenders to end the 13-month-long Siege of Barcelona during the War of the Spanish Succession.

In 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

In 1814, an American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

In 1857, the Mountain Meadows Massacre took place in present-day southern Utah as a 120-member Arkansas immigrant party was slaughtered by Mormon militiamen aided by Paiute Indians.

In 1936, Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) began operation as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed

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a key in Washington to signal the startup of the dam's first hydroelectric generator.

In 1941, groundbreaking took place for the Pentagon. In a speech that drew accusations of anti-Semitism, Charles A. Lindbergh told an America First rally in Des Moines, Iowa, that "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration" were pushing the United States toward war.

In 1954, the Miss America pageant made its network TV debut on ABC; Miss California, Lee Meriwether, was crowned the winner.

In 1962, The Beatles completed their first single for EMI, "Love Me Do" and "P.S. I Love You," at EMI studios in London.

In 1974, Eastern Airlines Flight 212, a DC-9, crashed while attempting to land in Charlotte, North Carolina, killing 72 of the 82 people on board. The family drama "Little House on the Prairie" premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1984, country star Barbara Mandrell was seriously injured in an automobile accident near Nashville that claimed the life of the other driver, Mark White.

In 1989, the exodus of East German refugees from Hungary to West Germany began.

In 1994, actress Jessica Tandy died in Easton, Connecticut, at age 85.

Ten years ago: Parents and grandparents of those lost on September 11 stood at the World Trade Center site and marked the third anniversary of the attacks. Spc. Armin Cruz became the first Military Intelligence soldier convicted in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal as he admitted abusing inmates and received a lighter sentence in return for his testimony against others. Svetlana Kuznetsova overwhelmed Elena Dementieva 6-3, 7-5 in the first all-Russian U.S. Open final. Mike Leigh's "Vera Drake" won the Golden Lion for best picture at the close of the Venice Film Festival. Lyricist Fred Ebb died in New York City; he was 76.

Five years ago: On his first 9/11 anniversary as president, Barack Obama urged Americans to come together in service just as they united after the terrorist attacks. Anti-abortion activist James Pouillon (PUHL'-yuhn) was shot to death near a high school in Owosso, Michigan. (Harlan James Drake was convicted of first-degree murder in the killing of Pouillon and the owner of a gravel pit, Mike Fuoss, and sentenced to life in prison.) Death claimed Hollywood writer Larry Gelbart at age 81 and poet and punk rocker Jim Carroll at age 60.

One year ago: A car bomb tore through a Libyan Foreign Ministry building in the eastern city of Benghazi on the anniversary of a deadly attack on the U.S. consulate there as well as the 2001 terror attacks in the United States. More than 1 million people showed their support for Catalan independence by joining hands to form a 250-mile human chain across the northeastern region of Spain.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betsy Drake is 91. Former Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, is 90. Actor Earl Holliman is 86. Comedian Tom Dreesen is 75. Movie director Brian De Palma is 74. Rock singer-musician Jack Ely (The Kingsmen) is 71. Rock musician Mickey Hart (The Dead) is 71. Singer-musician Leo Kottke is 69. Actor Phillip Alford is 66. Actress Amy Madigan is 64. Rock singer-musician Tommy Shaw (Styx) is 61. Sports reporter Lesley Visser is 61. Actor Reed Birney is 60. Singer-songwriter Diane Warren is 58. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh (jay) Johnson is 57. Musician Jon Moss (Culture Club) is 57. Actor Scott Patterson is 56. Rock musician Mick Talbot (The Style Council) is 56. Actress Roxann Dawson is 56. Actor John Hawkes is 55. Actress Anne Ramsay is 54. Actress Virginia Madsen is 53. Actress Kristy McNichol is 52. Musician-composer Moby is 49. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is 49. Business reporter Maria Bartiromo is 47. Singer Harry Connick Jr. is 47. Rock musician Bart Van Der Zeeuw is 46. Actress Taraji (tuh-RAH'-jee) P. Henson is 44. Actress Laura Wright is 44. Rock musician Jeremy Popoff (Lit) is 43. Blogger Markos Moulitsas is 43. Singer Brad Fischetti (LFO) is 39. Rapper Mr. Black is 37. Rock musician Jon Buckland (Coldplay) is 37. Rapper Ludacris is 37. Rock singer Ben Lee

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is 36. Actor Ryan Slattery is 36. Actress Ariana Richards (Film: "Jurassic Park") is 35. Actress Elizabeth Henstridge is 27. Actor Tyler Hoechlin (HEK'-lihn) is 27. Country singer Charles Kelley (Lady Antebellum) is 33. Actress Mackenzie Aladjem is 13.

Thought for Today: "This will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." - Elmer Davis, American news commentator (1890-1958).