

Groton Daily Independent

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Schaller, Sternhagen qualify for state

Two cross country runners have qualified for the state meet. The regional meet was held yesterday in Webster. Qualifying were Jasmine Schaller and Luke Sternhagen. We will have the results in tomorrow's edition. Ran out of time this morning.

Friday, October 17

END OF FIRST QUARTER

School Breakfast: French toast, links, juice, milk, fruit.

School Lunch: Popcorn chicken, sweet tots, veggie cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey sub sandwich, creamy potato salad, fruited Jell-O, ice cream sundae.

Birthdays: • Gladys Dirks • Judy Flihs • Laura Ptacek • Dylan Krueger • Tyler Rossow • Jackson Bahr

7:00pm: FB at Tiospa Zina

Saturday, October 18

Oral Interp at NSU Festival

Birthday: Chelsey Luecke

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Serve at Kids Against Hunger

3:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Pastor at Rosewood Court

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

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



The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back 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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Pheasant Opener

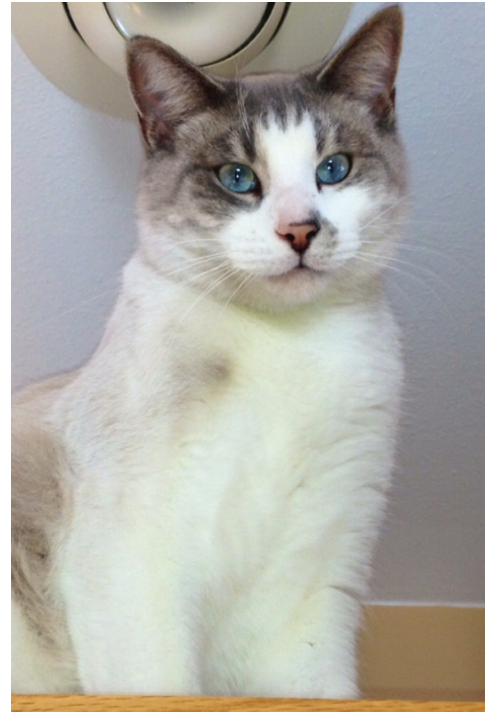
Friday, Oct. 17, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

10 oz. Sirloin, Baked Potato, 3 Jumbo Shrimp with Salad, \$19.50

12 oz. Baked Walleye Filet, baked potato, 3 Jumbo Shrimp with Salad
\$19.50



120 S Main St. • 298-5252



REWARD

Lost neutered male cat, white with gray, pink nose, blue eyes, belongs to Shaun Wanner Family on the west side of Groton. Call 290-7723

Classifieds

For Rent

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

SERVICE TECH

Farm Equipment Tech needed for repair and service of Case IH and Massey Ferguson farm equipment. Sponsored training, excellent benefit package and the possibility for advancement. Contact Steve at 605-395-6421 or email resume to s.harry@harrysinc.com.

Harry Implement Inc.

PO Box 841
Ferne, SD
57439



Netters beat Chargers

Groton volleyball fans were treated to some exciting action Thursday night as Groton defeated Hamlin, 3-1, in a match that featured 12 lead changes and the game was tied 23 times.

"We're getting our money's worth," said Glenn Cooper of the match. Coach Chelsea Hanson said, "It was a great night for the girls. I couldn't be more excited for them!"

The win was not an easy one, though, as Groton had to rally at times and come up with some big saves and big hits. "Hamlin is definitely not a push over team," Hanson said. "We played well and we deserved to win this one."

Hamlin charged out to a 3-0 lead in the first game. The game was tied three times and there were three lead changes before Groton got on top. Groton's biggest lead was five points, 21-16, when Hamlin called time out. The Chargers then rallied and it was 21-18. Groton was one point away from winning, 24-20, when Hamlin came back to tie the game at 24. The game went extra points when Megan Unzen had an ace serve to give Groton a 28-26 win.

Ashley Gibbs had a some big plays in the second game that helped to keep Groton in the game. The game was tied three times at the beginning, twice in the middle and twice at the end. Groton had trailed, 20-15 and came back to tie the game at 22 and 23, but could not get the upper hand as Hamlin won the second game, 25-23.

Hamlin charged out to a 4-1 lead in the third game, but the game intensified as the it was tied seven times mingled with five lead changes during the stretch from 5-5 to 11-11. Groton then jumped out to a 14-11 lead with the help of two Hamlin miscues. The final point was a long volley that ended up with Josie Doeden having a kill to give Groton a 25-18 third game win.

Katie Koehler stepped up to the task at the net to help Groton in the fourth game, but it was a team effort for the Tigers. "Everyone did their part," Hanson said. "Our defense and serve received passed well. Courtney (Kurtz) put the ball where the hitters could attack it and we pounded the ball more than we have all year. We asked a few girls to step up and instead, the whole team did and I couldn't be more proud of the girls."

Groton took the early lead in the fourth game, but after trailing 5-4, Groton scored 11 unanswered points to take a 15-5 lead. Hamlin did not give up, but the Groton lead was too much to overcome and Groton went on to win the final game as Gibbs made the final point, 25-21.

"We played well and we played with emotion," Hanson said. "and that's what we need moving forward. We didn't give up like we have in times in the past and that shows the growth we've had."

Groton was 89 of 100 in serving with 12 ace serves. Kurtz was 22 of 22 with one ace serve and Kasey Waage was 20 of 22 with one ace serve. Hamlin was 83 of 88 with three ace serves.

In sets, Groton was 155 of 156 with 37 assists. Kurtz was 146 of 147 with 34 assists. Hamlin was 149 of 150 with 32 assists.

Groton had 46 kills as the Tigers were 165 of 194 in attacks. Ashley Gibbs was 41 of 45 with 12 kills and Doeden was 31 of 39 with 11 kills. Hamlin was 143 of 165 in attacks with 32 kills.

Groton had six blocks - three by Gibbs, two by Doeden and one by Tori Bjerke. Hamlin had 26 blocks.

Groton had 156 digs with Waage having 40, Audrey Wanner 35 and Gibbs 22. Hamlin had 100 digs.

Groton is now 11-8 on the season and will be at Northwestern on Tuesday. Hamlin is now 15-12.

"We will enjoy this win for the next few days," Hanson said, "and then we will continue to move forward and work hard on getting better everyday."

Groton won the junior varsity match, 25-12 and 25-14, and Groton won the C match, 21-25, 25-10 and 15-9.



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James S. Johnston, DPM



Patrick Kelly, MD

SANFORD
Aberdeen

Today in Weather History

1984: A snowstorm struck northern Utah producing a record 18 inches in 24 hours at Salt Lake City, and 40 inches at the nearby Alta Ski Resort. The town of Magna, located ten miles west of Salt Lake City, did not receive any snow at all. The storm was responsible for a fifty vehicle pile-up along Interstate 15 near Farmington UT.

1781 - General Cornwallis attempted to escape encirclement by crossing York River, "but a violent storm arose" dispersing his boats causing him to ask for an armistice. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1910 - A hurricane made a loop off the southwest coast of Florida. Winds above 100 mph were reported at Fort Myers FL, and the barometric pressure at Sand Key reached 28.40 inches. (David Ludlum)

1950 - Small but powerful Hurricane King struck Miami, FL. The hurricane packs winded to 122 mph, with gusts to 150 mph. Hurricane King then moved up the Florida peninsula to Georgia. Four persons were killed and damage was 28 million dollars. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1971 - Great balls of fire were observed just ahead of a tornado moving down the main street of Wray CO. However, little other electrical activity accompanied the storm. Nine persons were injured in the tornado, all at a trailer court at the edge of town. (The Weather Channel)

1984 - A snowstorm struck northern Utah producing a record 18 inches in 24 hours at Salt Lake City, and 40 inches at the nearby Alta Ski Resort. The town of Magna, located ten miles west of Salt Lake City, did not receive any snow at all. The storm was responsible for a fifty vehicle pile-up along Interstate 15 near Farmington UT. (Storm Data)


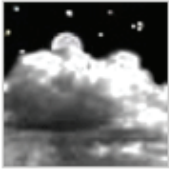





1987 - It was a great day for an Oktoberfest, or to enjoy the colors of autumn, as much of the nation enjoyed sunny and mild weather. Columbia SC dipped to 34 degrees, marking their third morning in a row of record cold. Bakersfield CA reached 80 degrees for the 143rd day in a row to break a record established in 1940. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Middle Mississippi Valley and the Lower Ohio Valley. Severe thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes in Indiana, including one which injured four persons. Strong thunderstorm winds at Connerville IND caused three million dollars damage. Thunderstorms in Illinois produced hail two inches in diameter Colfax. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms representing the remnants of Hurricane Jerry deluged southeast Kentucky with four to six inches of rain in 18 to 24 hours, resulting in widespread flash flooding. Flooding resulted in more than five million dollars damage. Temperatures again warmed into the 80s and lower 90s in the southeastern U.S. Lakeland FL and Orlando FL reported record highs of 95 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY
						
Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 52 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 55 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 63 °F



Cool, Cloudy, and Breezy Today

Follow us on Social Media

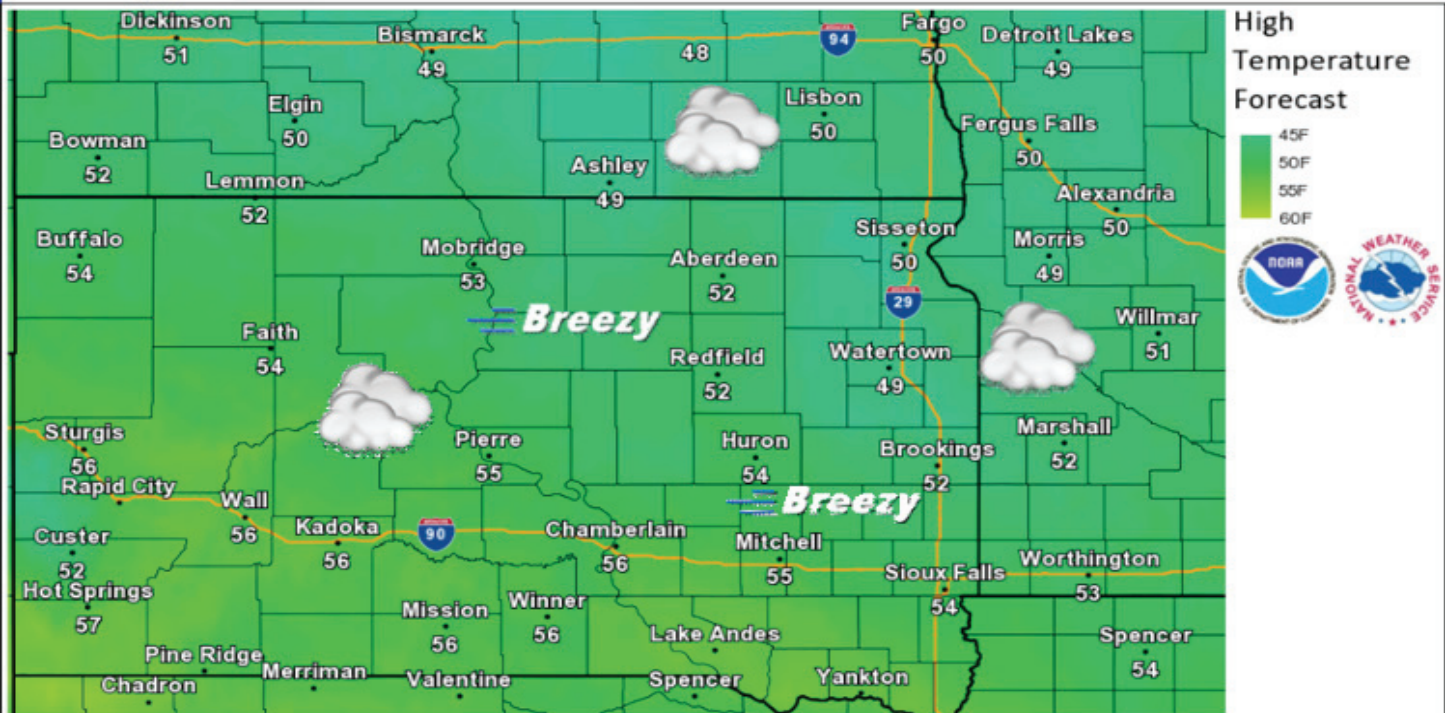
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Valid ending Friday October 17th, 2014 at 7 PM CDT

Created Friday October 17th, 2014 at 5:20 AM CDT

Breezy and gusty northwest winds will be felt today, but speeds will not be as strong as Thursday. Temps will be cooler as cold air surges southward behind a departing low pressure system. Cloudy skies can be expected through the day. Warmer temps will return to the area on Sunday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 67.2°F at 2:05 PM

Low: 50.4°F at 7:57 AM

High Gust: 32 mph at 12:36 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1910

Record Low: 15° in 1976, 1930

Average High: 57°F

Average Low: 32°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.16

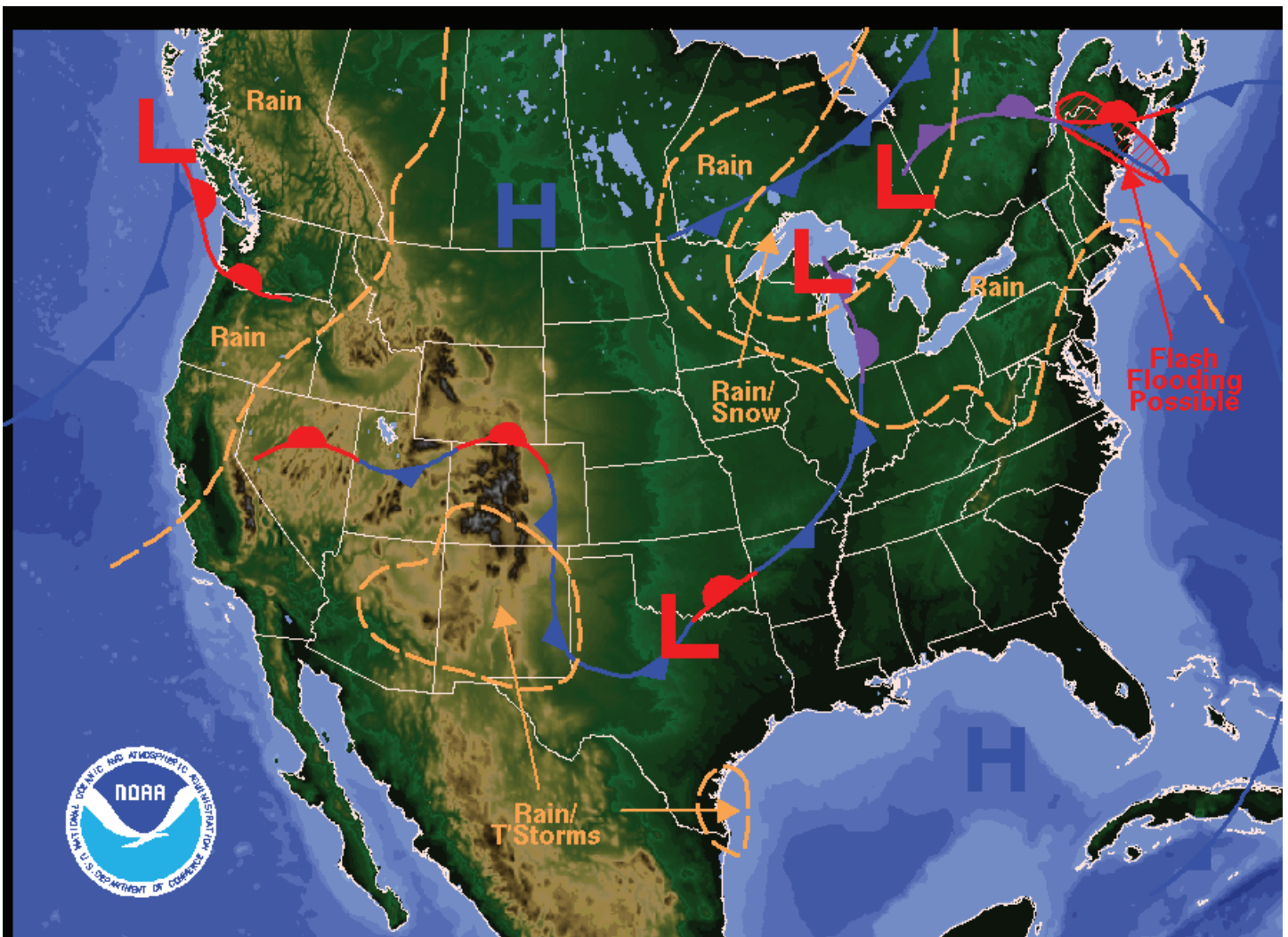
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.11

Average Precip to date: 19.64

Precip Year to Date: 13.05

Sunset Tonight: 6:45 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:54 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Oct 17, 2014, issued 3:05 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



LEARNING FROM OTHERS

"If you're smart," he said convincingly, "you can learn from the mistakes of others. You'll never live long enough to make them all yourself and learn the consequences of being foolish. And," he continued, "you won't have to pay the high price some of us have had to pay for our mistakes."

Perhaps that was the intent of Solomon when he wrote, "My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight." Obviously, this is a very stern warning from an experienced, perhaps a "worldly-wise" father to his son. Pay attention and listen well are very similar in their intent. "Son, listen up, or else you'll be sorry!" Not today - for we rarely experience immediate consequences for our wrongful behavior. But there will be a payday - someday! We can be certain that there is a reward to come or a price to pay for everything we do.

Sexual indiscretion has serious, and very often, life-long consequences. Consequences that impact more than those involved in "sex outside of marriage." God very clearly and carefully defined the boundaries: a rich sexual relationship is to be confined to and experienced within the bonds of the marriage covenant. No exceptions!

Society ridicules such a "narrow view" of sex. However, when we look at the tragic consequences of "casual sex," it is heartbreaking: unwanted children, rampant abortions, broken hearts and homes, disease, children growing up without their "mom" or "dad" and...

Prayer: How costly, Father, is the price we pay when we disobey Your laws. Give us Your strength, we pray. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 5:1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight,

News from the Associated Press

SD teacher of the year from Brandon Valley

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's teacher of the year for 2015 is a Brandon Valley High School math teacher.

Allen Hogie was selected from six regional finalists and received the honor Thursday evening at a state education conference in Pierre.

He has his National Board Certification and is a mentor to other teachers seeking certification. Hogie received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in 2007 and is on the South Dakota Council of Teachers of Mathematics as a liaison to the national council.

Through Northern State University, Hogie also teaches college calculus I as a dual-credit course.

He'll receive \$8,000, a \$6,700 technology package and the use of a vehicle for a year. Hogie also will compete for the title of national teacher of the year.

Judge weighs dismissal of SD gay marriage lawsuit

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A lawsuit challenging South Dakota's constitutional ban on gay marriage is headed to court.

Judge Karen Schreier (SHRY'-er) will take oral arguments Friday in Sioux Falls on the state's request to dismiss the case filed in May by six couples.

The U.S. Supreme Court last week denied appeals from five states, which allowed for expansion of marriage rights.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says South Dakota will continue to defend the ban despite the decision. He says the state still believes marriage should be defined by South Dakota voters and not by the federal courts.

Minneapolis lawyer Josh Newville says the couples are frustrated the state denies them the right to marry and now wants to try to dismiss the case.

SD state parks to host Halloween weekend events

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Several state parks in South Dakota will be hosting trick-or-treat events during Halloween weekend.

Officials with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department say Custer State Park will host one-mile guided night hikes on Oct. 24 and 25. The hikes will be along a path lit only by jack-o-lanterns.

The Big Sioux Recreation Area near Brandon will allow visitors to participate in a scavenger hunt on Oct. 25. Prizes and treats will be available at stops along the trail.

At LaFramboise Island Nature Area in Pierre visitors will be able to follow a trick-or-treat trail through the wooded nature area on Oct. 26.

Costumes are encouraged for the hikes but not required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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Thursday's Scores The Associated Press

VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Webster, 25-12, 23-25, 25-18, 25-7
Arlington def. Estelline, 25-21, 25-14, 25-20
Avon def. Freeman, 25-12, 25-13, 25-22
Bennett County def. Todd County, 23-25, 25-12, 25-21, 25-14
Beresford def. Lennox, 25-22, 21-25, 25-5, 25-23
Bon Homme def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-5, 25-8, 25-11
Brandon Valley def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 23-25, 25-20, 25-17, 25-13
Burke/South Central def. Gregory, 25-19, 25-17, 19-25, 25-20
Centerville def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-15, 25-23, 25-20
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Faith, 25-22, 25-19, 25-11
Colome def. White River, 25-21, 25-14, 25-21
DeSmet def. Colman-Egan, 25-10, 25-23, 24-26, 25-20
Deubrook def. Castlewood, 25-21, 19-25, 25-23, 25-22
Deuel def. Britton-Hecla, 25-23, 25-23, 23-25, 25-19
Douglas def. Custer, 25-23, 20-25, 29-27, 25-17
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Lake Preston, 25-11, 25-10, 25-11
Freeman Academy def. Marty Indian, 25-1, 25-13, 25-6
Gayville-Volin def. Bridgewater-Emery, 17-25, 22-25, 26-24, 25-20, 16-14
Grant-Deuel def. Waubay, 25-20, 25-14, 25-18
Hanson def. Ethan, 25-14, 25-20, 25-19
Harrisburg def. Yankton, 13-25, 27-25, 25-20, 24-26, 15-10
Herreid/Selby Area def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-15, 25-13, 27-25
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Ipswich, 11-25, 25-21, 26-24, 25-13
Homer, Neb. def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 24-26, 25-27, 26-24, 25-21, 17-15
Iroquois def. Florence/Henry, 25-23, 25-19, 24-26, 25-15
Jones County def. Kadoka Area, 25-19, 25-11, 25-20
Kimball/White Lake def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-15, 25-16, 25-17
Langford def. Edmunds Central, 25-13, 25-10, 25-21
Lead-Deadwood def. Belle Fourche, 25-21, 25-19, 25-23
Lower Brule def. Crow Creek, 25-18, 25-19, 25-12
Marion def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-14, 25-23, 25-8
McIntosh def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-16, 25-23, 25-27, 25-23
Mitchell Christian def. Dakota Christian, 25-22, 25-15, 25-20
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. West Central, 25-15, 25-15, 22-25, 27-25
Northwestern def. Potter County, 25-15, 25-14, 25-8
Omaha Nation, Neb. def. Flandreau Indian, 25-10, 25-7, 25-12
Parker def. Parkston, 26-24, 25-13, 25-20
Philip def. Lyman, 25-20, 25-18, 25-27, 25-18
Platte-Geddes def. Chamberlain, 25-22, 17-25, 25-15, 25-15, 25-21
Rapid City Christian def. Oelrichs, 25-23, 25-21, 25-23
Red Cloud def. Edgemont, 25-27, 25-16, 25-20, 25-17

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Redfield/Doland def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-16, 25-22, 25-15
Sioux Falls Christian def. Dell Rapids, 25-11, 25-13, 25-12
Sioux Valley def. Baltic, 25-14
Sisseton def. Milbank, 25-14, 24-26, 25-22, 19-25, 15-12
Spearfish def. St. Thomas More, 25-20, 19-25, 25-20, 25-17
Stanley County def. Dupree, 25-16, 25-20, 25-15
Sully Buttes def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-17, 25-19, 25-17
Summit def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-14, 25-10, 25-7
Tea Area def. Garretson, 25-13, 25-20, 25-17
Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Scotland, 25-22, 25-15, 17-25, 21-25, 15-9
Vermillion def. Canton, 25-17, 25-16, 25-21
Wagner def. Andes Central, 25-19, 15-25, 25-20, 25-7
Warner def. Faulkton, 25-10, 25-19, 25-15
Watertown def. Brookings, 25-13, 25-14, 25-19
Wessington Springs def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-8, 25-20, 22-25, 25-17, 12-15
Wilmot def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-8, 25-15, 25-14

Officials expect usual crowd coming for opener

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A year after the lowest harvest season in more than two decades, South Dakota officials and hunters are optimistic that this weekend's pheasant opener will be booming as usual and the start of a better season.

Pheasant numbers have fallen statewide in recent years and the state saw an unusual decline last year. Hunters killed about 980,000 birds in 2013 — the lowest since 1990 — and with that the state licensed the lowest number of pheasant hunters since 1997, according to data provided by the wildlife department.

But hunters are hopeful this year, especially following a positive survey of young birds in August. The state's annual brood count survey found an average of 2.68 pheasants per mile, a 76 percent increase from 1.52 in 2013.

Regardless, Tony Leif, the director of the Game, Fish and Parks department, said he expects the usual crowd of thousands of resident and non-resident hunters to be in South Dakota this weekend, noting that the opener often sees the same influx of annual hunters every year.

For many in the state, he said, the pheasant opener is the biggest weekend of the year.

"It's a day that many residents put in the same category of many of our national holidays, even Christmas and Thanksgiving," he said. "To some it's probably even more important."

In rural towns and pheasant hotspots, such as Gregory, the opener is a gold mine for local businesses.

Holly Glover, the executive director of the chamber of commerce for Gregory and Dallas, said both hotels in the area are booked well into the season and most hunting lodges are as well.

Glover said for Gregory, everything from grocery stores to retail will see a sharp increase in business this weekend.

"I don't know that there is an industry that isn't touched," she said.

Tax fraud ring leader, ex-USD player pleads guilty

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former University of South Dakota football player who recruited students and others to steal identities and fraudulently collect hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax refunds pleaded guilty Thursday nearly two years after they were indicted.

Alphonso "Rico" Valdez, 23, of Tampa, Florida, faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for one count of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. and a mandatory two-year sentence for aggravated identity theft.

Prosecutors accused Valdez and 10 other people of stealing people's identities and filing bogus income tax returns showing about \$1.1 million in refunds due. The Internal Revenue Service paid fraudulent claims of more than \$400,000 before the scheme was uncovered.

Under questioning by U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier, Valdez said he was not forced into participating in the ring. Valdez told Schreier he began attending drug education classes 10 months ago after he tested positive for marijuana.

Valdez is now a senior studying health science at Tennessee State University. He told the court his goal is to become a high school football coach and show children that they can "further their education" despite mistakes they may have made.

Seven of the 11 people have ties to USD. Six, including Valdez, played for the school's football team. Another former student was part of the track and field team and student body president.

The ring was indicted in 2012.

Court documents show Valdez recruited students at USD and people he knew in Tampa to gather names, addresses and other identifying information, and used that information to file the fraudulent tax returns.

The scam was discovered when Valdez used preloaded debit cards to withdraw \$900 in cash from an ATM in Vermillion, South Dakota. Valdez tried to hide his identity by wearing sunglasses and a stocking cap. That led investigators to a USD dorm room, where authorities said they found evidence of fraud that started a months-long investigation.

Valdez' co-defendants: Charlie Adams, 23, Raunta Ellison, 25, Melissa Dinataly, 24, Dametrius Turner, 23, Jeremy Blount, 25, Christopher Lundy, 23, Christopher Frierson, 23, Nathan Singletary III, 24, all from Tampa; Terry Liggins, 29, of Omaha, Nebraska; and Marquis Butler, 24, of Los Angeles.

Schreier allowed Valdez to remain free until the sentencing hearing scheduled for Jan. 12.

Survey: slow growth in rural parts of 10 states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new survey suggests slower economic growth ahead in rural areas of 10 states in the Plains and the West.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss said Thursday falling grain prices and weak global growth are weighing down the economy in rural areas.

The overall economic index for the region fell to 43.4 in October from September's already negative 48.2. The index has been steadily falling since June 2013 when it hit 60.5.

The survey indexes range from 0 to 100. Any score below 50 suggests decline in the months ahead.

Bankers from rural areas of Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

South Dakota gay marriage ban headed to court

CARSON WALKER, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge could decide Friday whether to dismiss a lawsuit challenging South Dakota's ban on gay marriage, with attorneys for both sides expected to argue their case as similar fights play out across the nation.

The lawsuit, filed in May by six same-sex couples, challenges a 1996 state law and a voter-approved 2006 constitutional amendment that ban gay marriage. Attorney General Marty Jackley is defending the ban, saying it should be up to voters and state lawmakers — not a judge — to define marriage in South Dakota.

"That's what this case is about," Jackley reiterated Thursday in an interview with The Associated Press.

Jackley has asked that the case be dismissed, and both sides will argue their case in Sioux Falls on Friday before U.S. District Court Judge Karen Schreier.

The couples are frustrated that the state is "trying to deny them their day in court," said their Minneapolis-based attorney, Josh Neville. But he said they remain steadfast in their fight to have the state grant them the right to marry and to recognize same-sex marriages legally performed in other states.

Schreier could rule Friday or file her decision later. If she immediately sides with Jackley, attorneys for the couples have vowed to appeal to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which also covers federal appeals from Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and North Dakota.

The U.S. Supreme Court last week denied appeals from five states, but that decision legalized gay marriage in about 30 states because the cases were appealed from other federal appellate courts that had overturned the bans and have jurisdiction over several states.

The Supreme Court would likely agree to take a gay marriage case if a federal appeals court upholds a state's ban and thereby creates a split in federal appeals court rulings, Neville said.

Jackley said it was possible though unlikely that South Dakota's case would end up in the Supreme Court because cases in other states are further along in the courts. The Dakotas were the last states to see lawsuits challenging their gay marriage bans.

Commission rejects shipping sheep out of state

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Montana wildlife commissioners on Thursday rejected a proposal to move some bighorn sheep out of state, saying they would prefer the agency either find new locations here or transfer animals between existing herds.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks agency officials had recommended ending the state's policy barring the relocation of sheep from Montana, saying overpopulated herds were making the animals prone to disease outbreaks and that they were having trouble finding suitable relocation sites within the state.

Of particular concern are the sheep in the Missouri River Breaks, where the population this summer was estimated to be 436, or 111 animals over what the agency says the population should be. Agency officials had recommended reducing the numbers by transferring some of the sheep out of state to prevent disease and to keep bighorn sheep from commingling with domestic sheep in the area.

South Dakota had requested bighorn sheep from Montana this winter. Washington state and Nebraska have requested animals during the winter of 2015-16, officials said.

But after hearing from multiple people who were opposed to the plan, Montana Fish and Wildlife commissioners meeting in Bozeman voted against the agency's recommendations.

Commissioners said relocating sheep out of state should be a last resort, and that allowing the wildlife agency to do so now may cause officials to scale back their search for suitable in-state locations.

The commissioners urged the agency to speed up its study of the health risks of transferring sheep between existing herds and left open the possibility of changing the state's bighorn sheep conservation strategy.

The state adopted its policy against out-of-state relocations in response to hunter complaints when 60 sheep were transplanted to Utah in 2009.

The conservation strategy calls for establishing five new herds in Montana in locations that meet specific criteria for habitat and hunter access. The in-state relocation sites that have been suggested have been too close to domestic sheep and goats that can spread disease, lack adequate habitat or lack public access necessary to allow hunting.

More landowners join Missouri River flood lawsuit

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The list of landowners suing the federal government over major flooding along the Missouri River since 2006 has grown considerably.

The lawsuit filed against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in March was amended Thursday to include 436 plaintiffs. The latest additions to the lawsuit include 38 North Dakota landowners and the Omaha and Winnebago tribes of Nebraska.

The landowners argue that the Corps' decisions since 2006 have contributed to flooding especially during the extended 2011 flooding that devastated hundreds of thousands of acres of mostly farmland in South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.

The federal government has denied the allegations and says the Corps shouldn't be blamed.

Landowners say the recurring flooding deprived them of their land, so they should be compensated.

Wismer to attend 'Women's Rally' in Aberdeen

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Democratic candidate for governor Susan Wismer and her running mate Susy Blake are slated to attend a "Women's Rally" in Aberdeen.

The South Dakota Democratic Party is sponsoring the event Thursday night. Officials say the rally's primary focus is to get out the vote for Democratic candidates.

North Dakota U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp and former South Dakota U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin also are slated to attend.

Wismer and Blake will face Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Lt. Gov. Matt Michels in the November election. The last Democrat elected governor was Richard Kneip in 1974.

Wismer is the South Dakota's first female nominee for governor from a major party.

Gas Natural sells its Wyoming Energy West assets

CODY, Wyo. (AP) — Energy West Inc. is selling its subsidiary, Energy West Wyoming Inc. to Black Hills Corp. for \$17 million.

Energy West parent company Gas Natural Inc. announced the sale of the natural gas pipelines, real estate, equipment and contracts on Tuesday.

The transaction is expected to close in six to 12 months, pending regulatory approval.

Energy West Wyoming serves about 6,700 customers in Cody and the surrounding region.

Gas Natural, a holding company, distributes and sells natural gas to about 73,000 customers in seven states, including Montana and Wyoming.

Black Hills Corp, based in Rapid City, South Dakota, serves 777,000 natural gas and electric customers

in seven states including South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.

Police: Bust will hurt Sioux Falls meth trade

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A big drug bust in Sioux Falls is expected to put a big dent in the methamphetamine trade in the area

Police on Tuesday arrested six men and seized more than 1½ pounds of meth, after a yearlong investigation. Authorities believe the meth was being shipped into South Dakota from out of state.

"This is a significant drug bust," police spokesman Sam Clemens told the Argus Leader. "It's not often we come around pounds of methamphetamine."

The meth was found at two hotels and at a home that authorities believe was the base for a major drug ring.

"We've got 700 to 800 different (drug) transactions that will no longer happen because this has been seized," Clemens told KELO-TV.

The home is near an elementary school, a college and some churches. Neighbors say they thought they lived in a safe area and are shocked by the arrests.

"Most of us neighbors know each other and it's quiet. There's not a lot of riff raff that goes on at night," John Yarmin told KELO.

Judge Joni Cutler on Wednesday ordered cash-only bonds ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 for the suspects, saying they are significant dangers to the community, according to the Argus Leader.

Rural electric co-ops getting fed loan guarantees

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Four rural electrical cooperatives in South Dakota are getting large federal loan guarantees to help build or improve transmission and distribution lines.

The money is part of \$1.4 billion in U.S. Department of Agriculture loan guarantees for such projects nationwide. The agency says the goal is to improve the delivery of electric power to rural communities in 21 states.

East River Electric Power Co-op in South Dakota and Minnesota is getting a \$131.7 million loan guarantee for 445 miles of lines.

Loan guarantees also are going to three other South Dakota co-ops: \$3.3 million for Kingsbury Electric, \$6.1 million for Cam Wal Electric and \$6.7 million for Bon Homme Yankton Electric. Those projects encompass a total of 253 miles of line.

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 SAYS ABOUT EBOLA RESTRICTIONS

The president says imposing a travel ban from disease-ravaged West Africa, as Republicans have demanded, would be counterproductive.

2. WHY KOBANI IS KEY TO FIGHT AGAINST IS

Robert Ford, the former U.S. ambassador to Syria, says the fall of the besieged Syrian city to Islamic State extremists would be seen as a "defeat" for the Americans and undermine U.S. credibility in the overall battle.

3. ISRAEL RAISES THE DEAD WITH SKYWARD CEMETERY

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With real estate at a premium, Israel is at the forefront of a global movement building vertical cemeteries in densely populated countries.

4. WHAT APPLE IS BANKING ON

The tech giant is making a bigger strategic bet with next week's launch of Apple Pay — the mobile pay service aimed at turning your iPhone into your wallet.

5. POLICE IN HONG KONG DISMANTLE SOME PROTESTS

Riot police clear an offshoot pro-democracy protest zone, taking down barricades, tents and canopies that have blocked key streets for more than two weeks.

6. BERMUDA BRACES FOR POWERFUL HURRICANE

Gonzalo, a Category 4 storm, roars toward the tiny British territory and residents are bracing for damaging winds and life-threatening storm surge.

7. FBI CHIEF WARNS AGAINST CELLPHONE ENCRYPTION

James Comey says encrypted data could stall murder investigations and suspects could walk free, but privacy advocates and technology experts say the concerns are exaggerated.

8. ONCE IN A MILLION YEARS EVENT

A comet as hefty as a small mountain will pass mind-bogglingly close to Mars on Sunday, approaching within 87,000 miles at a speed of 126,000 mph.

9. DON'T EXPECT A POLAR VORTEX REDUX

The government says the upcoming winter looks pretty average and they don't expect a lot of extreme conditions like last year's cold outbreaks when Arctic air dipped south.

10. WHO ADVANCED TO THIRD FALL CLASSIC IN 5 YEARS

Travis Ishikawa's game-winning home run lifts San Francisco past St. Louis 6-3 in Game 5 and into the World Series against Kansas City

AP News in Brief

Obama weighs Ebola czar while Texas toughens monitoring for exposed health care workers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing renewed criticism about the U.S. response to Ebola, President Barack Obama is conceding that it may make sense to have a single person lead the administration's effort. But he says imposing a travel ban from disease-ravaged West Africa, as Republicans have demanded, would be counterproductive.

In Dallas, the epicenter of Ebola in the U.S., officials took a tougher approach toward monitoring dozens of health care workers who were exposed to the virus while treating an infected patient who later died. The health care workers were asked to sign legally binding documents agreeing not to go to public places or use public transportation.

Those who break the agreement could face undisclosed sanctions.

The move came after two nurses who had treated Thomas Eric Duncan at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital were diagnosed with Ebola and the disclosure that one of them had flown roundtrip between the Dallas area and Cleveland before her diagnosis.

Self-monitoring was extended Thursday to people who took the same outbound flight as nurse Amber Vinson; it had been imposed earlier for passengers on the return trip. Another group being contacted: shoppers at the Akron bridal shop Vinson visited that Saturday.

At 1 Florida hospital, staff prepares for possibility Ebola cases could enter the ER

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Step inside All Children's Hospital and you're greeted with three things: hand sanitizer, tissues and masks decorated with little cartoon Band-Aids with legs, feet and smiles. "Dirt Squirt Alert!" a sign says. "Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!"

A sign at the check-in counter calls on people to immediately tell the triage nurse if anyone in the family has a cough, fever and/or runny nose and has been to the Middle East, part of a check for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome. Now they ask another question to anyone with flu-like symptoms: Have you been to a country with an Ebola outbreak?

As questions persist over the handling of an Ebola patient who has since died at a Dallas hospital, it has become clear that the key to containing the disease in the U.S. lies with the response of local hospitals, like All Children's. And the problem of containing the outbreak extends far beyond using hand sanitizer.

"The next patient with Ebola will show up at a smaller community hospital somewhere," said Ashish Jha, a professor of international health and the director of the Harvard Global Health Institute. "We need a strategy now."

Nurses staged protests this week around the country, saying that smaller hospitals aren't prepared and employees haven't been trained to safely deal with Ebola cases. About 75 nurses participated in a union-organized rally Wednesday in Tampa.

In the battle for Kobani, small Syrian city is more of a strategic prize than US will admit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dusty and remote, the Syrian city of Kobani has become an unlikely spoil in the war against Islamic State militants — and far more of a strategic prize than the United States wants to admit.

Perched on Turkey's border, the city of about 60,000 has been besieged for weeks by IS fighters. Kobani is now a ghost town: the U.N. estimates that fewer than 700 of its residents remain as its people flee to safety in Turkey.

The Obama administration has declared Kobani a humanitarian disaster, but not a factor in the overall strategy to defeat the Islamic State group.

"Kobani does not define the strategy of the coalition with respect to Daesh," Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters in Cairo earlier this week, using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. "Kobani is one community, and it's a tragedy what is happening there, and we don't diminish that." But, Kerry said, the primary U.S. military focus is in neighboring Iraq.

But this week, the U.S. dramatically upped its air power strikes against IS in and around Kobani, including 53 strikes over the last three days alone. Several hundred IS fighters were killed, the Pentagon said.

Hong Kong police swoop in to clear smaller, offshoot pro-democracy protest zone in dawn raid

HONG KONG (AP) — Riot police cleared an offshoot Hong Kong pro-democracy protest zone in a dawn raid on Friday, taking down barricades, tents and canopies that have blocked key streets for more than

two weeks, but leaving the city's main thoroughfare still in the hands of the activists.

Hundreds of officers, some in helmets and shields, descended in the early morning on the busy district of Mong Kok, a smaller protest zone across the Victoria Harbor from the main occupied area in the city's financial district. The key thoroughfare in Admiralty, near the heart of the city's financial district, remained occupied by protesters.

The dawn operation — the third in recent days by police to retake streets from protesters — came hours after Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying sought to defuse a bitter standoff with student-led democracy protesters by reviving an offer of talks over democratic reforms in the city.

However, Leung warned police wouldn't refrain from clearing protest sites while holding talks and the latest operation is likely to make it harder to resolve the crisis with protesters, who were already angered by a video of a group of officers beating a handcuffed activist.

Officers swiftly tore down metal barricades, bamboo and wooden planks used by protesters to block off the streets as well as blue and white striped tarps covering their main campsite in the middle of a four-way intersection. Much of the protest zone was cleared in about half an hour.

European leaders signal progress on Ukraine, but caution success in implementation

MILAN (AP) — European leaders and Russia signaled cautious optimism over a peace deal for Ukraine after a high-level meeting in Milan on Friday, but emphasized details still need to be worked out.

European leaders are pressing Russian leader Vladimir Putin to fully respect a cease-fire deal signed last month in Belarus, which has reduced but not completely ended hostilities in eastern Ukraine.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said the leaders agreed the need to verify the cease-fire, to hold local elections in eastern Ukraine in compliance with Ukrainian law and to control the border areas.

He said further meetings would discuss how to implement the broad agreements.

One proposal being discussed on the sidelines by the Russian, Ukrainian and Italian foreign ministers is using drones to control the border areas, an Italian foreign ministry official said.

Hong Kong posts set off crackdown on Chinese art colony that seemed an island of free speech

BEIJING (AP) — Just a few weeks ago, oil painters in eastern Beijing's Songzhuang art district had welcomed foreign reporters into their studios and shown off works tackling such touchy subjects as China's prisons and Communist Party politics. Over lunch, they candidly lamented the state of free speech in China while chewing on chicken and downing glasses of beer.

In a tightly controlled society where dissent is quickly squashed, the artists of Songzhuang appeared to be enjoying a rarely seen degree of creative and political freedom. But then, on Oct. 1, that illusion was shattered.

Police first detained poet Wang Zang after he posted on Twitter a picture and message supporting pro-democracy demonstrators in Hong Kong. The next day, police rounded up another seven people who were heading to a poetry reading advertised on social media as supporting Hong Kong protesters. A total of 13 people living or working in the art colony were ultimately detained on charges of "creating trouble," according to Wang Zang's wife, Wang Li.

This past weekend, the police buildup was everywhere, with uniformed officers patrolling the aisles of

Songzhuang's art shops and riding in golf carts through its sleepy winding streets. Artists who weeks earlier had opened wide their studio doors were apologetically warning away visitors, fearful that speaking too freely could get them into trouble.

Since Songzhuang was founded two decades ago, its artists have largely avoided official harassment by following a few tacit rules: If they produced provocative work, they showed it only to each other, and if they sold it, they did so privately. Most importantly, they kept a low profile.

As supply of Holy Land dwindles, Israel raises the dead amid global 'vertical cemetery' trend

PETAH TIKVA, Israel (AP) — At first glance, the multi-tiered jungle of concrete off a major central Israeli highway does not appear unusual in this city of bland high-rises. But the burgeoning towers are groundbreaking when you consider its future tenants: They will be homes not for the living but rather the dead.

With real estate at a premium, Israel is at the forefront of a global movement building vertical cemeteries in densely populated countries. From Brazil to Japan, elevated cemeteries, sometimes stretching high into the sky, are providing the final resting place for thousands of people. They are now the default option for the recently departed in the Holy Land.

After some initial hesitations, and rabbinical rulings that made the practice kosher, Israel's ultra-Orthodox burial societies have embraced the concept as the most effective Jewish practice in an era when most of the cemeteries in major population centers are packed full.

"The source of all this is that there is simply no room," said Tuvia Sagiv, an architect who specializes in dense burial design. "It's unreasonable that we will live one on top of the other in tall apartment buildings and then die in villas. If we have already agreed to live one on top of the other, then we can die one on top of the other."

The Yarkon Cemetery on the outskirts of Tel Aviv has been his flagship project. As the primary cemetery for the greater Tel Aviv area, its traditional burial grounds are at near capacity with 110,000 graves stretched across 150 acres. But thanks to an array of 30 planned vertical structures, Sagiv said the cemetery will be able to provide 250,000 more graves without gobbling up any more land, providing the region with 25 years of breathing room.

First trial to judge ex-Khmer Rouge on genocide charges aims to show brutal rule led to deaths

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The first trial weighing charges of genocide against Cambodia's brutal 1970s Khmer Rouge regime opened Friday with a prosecutor saying it will show that Cambodians were enslaved in inhumane conditions that led to the deaths of 1.7 million people from starvation, disease and execution.

Khieu Samphan, the regime's head of state, and Nuon Chea, right-hand man to the communist group's late leader, Pol Pot, already received life sentences in August after being found guilty of crimes against humanity, relating mostly to forced movement of millions to the countryside when the Khmer Rouge took power in 1975.

They have appealed their convictions, and in brief statements to the court on Friday called for postponing further trial sessions. Nuon Chea said the court should wait for a ruling on his plea that four judges should be dismissed for alleged bias, and Khieu Samphan said it was unfair to proceed while

his defense team was still working on appealing the verdict in his first trial. They threatened to boycott further proceedings.

The U.N.-backed tribunal split the cases into two trials for fear that Khieu Samphan, 83, and Nuon Chea, 88, could die before any proceedings against them could be completed.

In addition to genocide against minorities, the second trial will address for the first time accusations of rape and forced marriages.

25 years later, could the San Francisco Bay Area take another massive earthquake?

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — It's been 25 years since a massive quake rocked the Bay Area just before a World Series game, killing dozens, injuring thousands and causing billions of dollars' worth of damage as it buckled freeways, brought down a bridge and knocked buildings off their foundations.

It was the strongest quake to hit the region in generations.

The shaking lasted about 15 seconds, but its effects can still be seen transforming the region. Here's a look back at the Oct. 17, 1989, Loma Prieta earthquake:

Q: What happened?

A: Sixty-three people were killed and more than 3,000 were injured when the 6.9 magnitude quake hit just before the San Francisco Giants played the Oakland A's.

Apple's new tablets, iMac impress, but analysts say Apple Pay is more important strategic move

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) — Apple's skinnier iPads and flashy big-screen iMac are sleek and stunning. But the tech giant is making a bigger strategic bet with next week's launch of Apple Pay — the mobile pay service aimed at turning your iPhone into your wallet.

The service, which goes live Monday and has hundreds of banks on board, is "hugely important" says Forrester Research analyst Frank Gillett. It puts Apple in the middle of a wide range of consumer transactions, underscoring Apple's value as a brand and giving people a powerful new reason to buy iPhones, iPads and other gadgets.

Apple Pay is designed to work on the company's newest iPhones, which contain a chip that allows payments at a special terminal in retail outlets. It also will be available on the new iPad Air 2 for online purchases only.

"It's a strategic advance not just because it may be a new revenue source, but because it injects Apple into a whole different value stream" for customers and the company's business partners, Gillett says.

Mobile pay isn't new; rival tech companies and the banking industry have worked on such systems for years. But Apple is launching its new service at an ideal time, says Gartner tech analyst Van Baker. Consumers are increasingly worried about the security of traditional credit and debit cards and U.S. merchants are facing new mandates to switch to safer chip-based cards or other payment systems.

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Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 17, the 290th day of 2014. There are 75 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 17, 1814, the London Beer Flood inundated the St. Giles district of the British capital as a vat at Meux's Brewery on Tottenham Court Road ruptured, causing other vats to burst as well and sending more than 320-thousand gallons of beer into the streets; up to nine people were reported killed.

On this date:

In 1610, French King Louis XIII, age 9, was crowned at Reims, five months after the assassination of his father, Henry IV.

In 1777, British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered to American troops in Saratoga, New York, in a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

In 1807, Britain declared it would continue to reclaim British-born sailors from American ships and ports regardless of whether they held U.S. citizenship.

In 1919, Radio Corp. of America was chartered.

In 1931, mobster Al Capone was convicted of income tax evasion. (Sentenced to 11 years in prison, Capone was released in 1939.)

In 1933, Albert Einstein arrived in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

In 1939, Frank Capra's comedy-drama "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," starring James Stewart as an idealistic junior senator, had its premiere in the nation's capital.

In 1941, the U.S. destroyer Kearny was damaged by a German torpedo off the coast of Iceland; 11 people died.

In 1956, the all-star movie "Around the World in 80 Days," produced by Michael Todd, had its world premiere in New York.

In 1961, French police attacked Algerians protesting a curfew in Paris. (Reports of the resulting death toll vary widely, with some estimates of up to 200.)

In 1979, Mother Teresa of India was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1989, an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale struck northern California, killing 63 people and causing \$6 billion worth of damage.

Ten years ago: The Iraqi militant group of terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi (AH'-boo MOO'-sahb al-zahr-KOW'-ee) declared its allegiance to Osama bin Laden. (Al-Zarqawi was killed in a U.S. airstrike in 2006.) Betty Hill, who claimed that she and her late husband, Barney, had been abducted, examined and released by extraterrestrials in 1961, died in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, at age 85.

Five years ago: Pakistani soldiers attacked militant bases in the main al-Qaida and Taliban stronghold along the Afghan border. Songwriter Vic Mizzy, 93, who'd composed the catchy themes for the 1960s sit-coms "The Addams Family" and "Green Acres," died in Bel Air, California.

One year ago: The government reopened its doors hours after President Barack Obama signed a bipartisan congressional measure passed the night before to end a 16-day partial shutdown. The Boston Red Sox edged the Detroit Tigers 4-3 for a 3-2 lead in the AL championship series.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Marsha Hunt is 97. Actress Julie Adams is 88. Newspaper columnist Jimmy Breslin is 84. Country singer Earl Thomas Conley is 73. Singer Jim Seals (Seals & Crofts) is 72. Singer Gary Puckett is 72. Actor Michael McKean is 67. Actress Margot Kidder is 66. Actor George Wendt is 66. Actor-singer Bill Hudson is 65. Astronaut Mae Jemison is 58. Country singer Alan Jackson is 56. Movie critic Richard Roeper is 55. Movie director Rob Marshall is 54. Actor Grant Shaud is 54.

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Animator Mike Judge is 52. Rock singer-musician Fred LeBlanc (Cowboy Mouth) is 51. Actor-comedian Norm Macdonald is 51. Singer Rene' Dif is 47. Reggae singer Ziggy Marley is 46. World Golf Hall of Famer Ernie Els is 45. Singer Chris Kirkpatrick ('N Sync) is 43. Rapper Eminem is 42. Singer Wyclef Jean (zhahn) is 42. Actress Sharon Leal is 42. Actor Matthew Macfadyen is 40. Rock musician Sergio Andrade (an-DRAY'-day) is 37. Actor Chris Lowell is 30. Actor Dee Jay Daniels is 26.

Thought for Today: "The philosophies of one age have become the absurdities of the next, and the foolishness of yesterday has become the wisdom of tomorrow." - Sir William Osler, Canadian physician and educator (1849-1919).