

Groton Daily Independent

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Region Volleyball

Groton Area will be playing Webster Area at 7:30pm on Tuesday, Nov 4th! All region matches are held at Roncalli High School.

Birthdays: • Lon Craig • Violet Moore • Jerome Osness • Lori Craig Webb • Parker Rossow • Carla Kjelden

7:30 pm: Volleyball Region at Roncalli - Groton Area vs. Webster Area

Football Playoff Game

**Saturday, Nov. 8th
at the School of Mines Field
Game Time: 7:30 p.m. CST**

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

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118

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Water bill to go up 50 cents per month; 5th Avenue project still a go for next year

Groton city residents could see an increase in their monthly water bills as the Groton City Council looks to stay ahead of rising WEB water fees and future infrastructure replacement costs. WEB Water has announced that it will be raising the per gallon fee by 20 cents next month.

After reviewing a recent study of water usage and rates charged by other area communities, Council members decided

to increase the basic water rate by 50 cents. The current rate is \$16.50 for zero to 2,000 gallons. They also decided to an additional 50 cent increase, per 1000 gallons, to the rate using over 2000 gallons and hold that money in reserve for future infrastructure improvements such as water main replacement or a new water tower. The Water Rates Ordinance No. 700 will have a second reading and vote at the next council meeting.

Two other ordinances had their second reading and both were approved. The Sidewalk Regulations was amended to include the wording that if a sidewalk was in need of replacement, it must be replaced with cement, not grass. Too many sidewalks are disappearing.

The second ordinance clarified the language used to define the outer most point of a structure used by planning and zoning.

There were two bids submitted for repair work on the old city jail building, one for \$1883 and one for \$3500. Since there is no money in the budget, neither bid was accepted. Councilman Eddy Opp proposed another solution. By selling the lot, as is, the city would gain by putting the property back on the tax roll and not have to worry about tearing down the structure or repairing it.

"Someone could build a nice house there," Opp said.

Groton Post No. 39 American Legion



Annual Turkey Party

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014

Starting at 7:30 p.m.

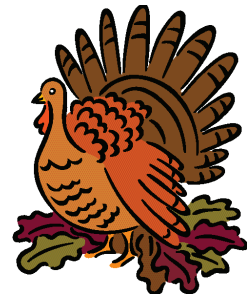
Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

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Any decision was postponed until the council members could review a map with the plot measurements. They want to make sure that adequate room would be available for any future development around the community center.

A majority of the discussion during the meeting was on past and future street projects. The 2014 street project was over budget, leaving little money left for a major project in 2015. The council did agree to look at quotes for doing three blocks west of Highway 37 on Fifth Avenue. They will ask for bids to curb and gutter along with gravel and a second quote for curb and gutter, gravel and pavement. Part of the street is already curb and guttered. The council is looking to keep the project under \$300,000 as that is all the money that is available without taking out additional loans.

There was one piece of good news on the 2014 street project. The contractor agreed to a change order. As the company used less gravel than had originally quoted, along with some other minor changes in prices, they decreased the price by over \$49,000.

Following executive session, the council voted to hold a special meeting next Monday.

Classifieds

Togel Bridal Shower

Come and Go Bridal Shower for Megan Togel, bride-to-be of Logan Clemensen, November 15, 2014, 10:00-11:30 A.M. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney, SD. The couple is registered at Target and Inspire.

Smith Thank You

Thank you to all who contributed to my bridal shower gift from Lori's Pharmacy. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Laura Smith

Bride-to-be of Taylor Anderson

Apartments 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.

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Coverage of the game made possible by the sponsors on these pages

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Groton makes it to the final four



Jackson Doeden watches as Tom Woods and Scott Thorson try to repair his helmet at the start of the game.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

There are only four teams left in the Class 11B Football Playoffs. Groton Area defeated Custer, 16-14; McCook Central/Montrose defeated Aberdeen Roncalli, 23-21; Parkston shut out Canton, 46-0; and St. Thomas More defeated Bon Homme, 45-20.

That means Groton Area will travel to St. Thomas More and McCook Central/Montrose will travel to Parkston as the final four battle it out for the opportunity to play in the DakotaDome in Vermillion at 1:30 p.m. on November 13th. "St. Thomas More is very athletic," said Coach Shaun Wanner. "They have good speed and can throw the ball. They have a three-year starting quarterback and a good wide receiver. Sometimes the best teams don't always win - we'll have to wait and see. There's no pressure on us. We're the underdog. We've gotten better as the year went on and the kids are playing their best football right now. We'll have to go back out there and get after it."

The St. Thomas More game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. CST.

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McClain Lone breaks through the huddle first as the Tiger defense is being introduced. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

its own 20 yard line as Groton kicked the ball into the end zone. The Wildcats got a first down, but then on fourth and seven, Custer punted the ball. On the punt, Austin Merkel blocked the punt and Alec Voss made the tackle into the end zone with 9:13 left in the first quarter as Groton took a 2-0 lead with the safety.

Groton's first possession started at its own 38 yard line. The Tigers got three first downs, one had to be determined by a measurement on third and eight, when Spencer Knecht scored on a 19 yard run. Jacob Milbrandt kicked the PAT and Groton took a 9-0 lead with 5:19 left in the first quarter.

Custer's next possession was fruitless as the Wildcats punted on fourth and nine. Groton took over on its 31 yard line. But then, Jackson Doeden went up the middle and in the process, he suffered a deep thigh bruise and was down on the field. "He got hit on the side by a helmet - the area where there is no padding," said Coach Shaun Wanner. "It's going to be sore for the next couple of days. He may be back on Saturday, but we'll have to practice as if he won't be able to play." That led to some confusion

Nick Dalchow and Alec Voss bump into each other as the team is being introduced. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

It was a single play on Custer's first possession of the game that spelled the difference in the final score 45 minutes later as the Tigers went on to win by two points. "Who would have thought that a safety would determine the outcome of the game," said Coach Shaun Wanner. "Our kids did a great job."

Custer started out from



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on the next play and Wanner called time-out with 2:19 left in the first quarter. "We had to make some adjustments," Wanner said, "but the kids did well." Groton punted on fourth and one as Custer took over on its own 26 yard line.

Custer took over with 1:32 left in the first quarter and took a fourth and two into the second quarter. The Wildcats were going to go for it, but then called time out. They ended up punting. Groton took over on its own 38 yard line, but a holding penalty on Groton made it first and 22. Another holding penalty made it first and 28. Groton then fumbled the ball, but recovered it. Soon it was third and 28. The Tigers punted on fourth and 27 and the Wildcats had good field position at the Tiger 41 yard line with 8:37 left in the half. Tabin Elmore had a big run for Custer and the Wildcats were at the Tiger 13 yard line. With 6:52 left in the half, Elmore scores on a seven-yard run. The PAT kick was good and it was a 9-7 Groton lead.

Groton took over on its own 21 yard line to start its next drive. The Tigers had three first downs - two by Spencer Knecht and one with an Adam Herman catch. Knecht then



Tom Woods has been keeping stats for the GHS football team for 28 years. He has only missed four games in that time period, including the one he will miss on Saturday.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Coaches Scott Thorson and Shaun Wanner attend to Jackson Doeden after he suffered a deep thigh bruise.
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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had a big run down to the one-yard line, but a penalty recalled the play and instead for first and goal from the one-yard line, it was Second and 23. Groton was unable to recover from that play and the Wildcats took over from their own 34 yard line with 1:14 left in the half. They completed a pass and were quickly in Tiger territory at the 45 yard line. "We need to get out of this half 9-7," Wanner said as he was getting anxious with the quick Custer movement. The Wildcat receiver dropped the ball at the Tiger 15 yard line. Custer got a first down and the ball down to the Tiger 30 yard line with 35 seconds left



Bennett Shabazz had 20 carries for 82 yards and had several punt and kickoff returns. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Spencer Knecht led the Tigers with 28 carries for 129 yards and he had six tackles. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Good Luck
Groton Area Tigers!



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in the half. Then the Wildcats fumbled the ball and Adam Herman pounced on it to stop the Wildcat drive. Wanner got his wish as Groton led at half-time, 9-7.

"We made the adjustments at halftime (without Jackson Doeden playing) and I thought we shut them down in the second half," Wanner said. "Spencer played really well. He had to go into out single wing and he's never done that before. He did a good job. Seric (Shabazz) did a great job coming in as a freshman playing in a big game like this."

Groton had possession of the ball to start the third quarter. After three first-downs, the Tigers had a to punt on fourth and five. Bennett Shabazz had a nice kick that landed the ball at the one-yard line. The Wildcats were considering going



The pass was intended for Custer's David Gaston, but Seric Shabazz defended him well and Adam Herman was right there to catch the ball to end the game. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

for it on fourth down and short, but called for a delay of game, so they ended up punting. Groton had excellent field position starting at the Custer 29 yard line. The Tigers got a first down and the ball was down to the 16. On fourth and one from the six yard line, Spencer Knecht runs into the end zone. Jacob Milbrandt kicked the PAT and Groton took a 17-6 lead with 1:08 left in the third quarter.

A penalty on Groton forced a rekick and the Wildcats had a 40 yard return to set up its drive at the Tiger 46 yard line. Carter Jondahl had a nice tackle and a holding penalty on Custer made it second and 21. The Wildcat drive went into the fourth quarter and they ended up punting on fourth and 20.

Groton took over on its own 32 yard line. But then, a holding penalty on Groton followed by a Tiger fumble that was recovered by the Wildcats put Custer at the Groton 27 yard line. If that wasn't enough,

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Groton was called for pass interference and it was first and 10 at the 12 yard line. Custer also fumbled the ball, but recovered it to make it second and 22. Thompsen then scored on a 24-yard pass play. The PAT kick was good and it was back to a two-point game, 16-14, with 9:16 left in the game.

Groton took over on its 28 yard line. The Tigers fell short of a first down and ended up punting on fourth and one at the Tiger 38 yard line. Custer had the ball at its own 35 yard line and ended up punting on fourth and 19.

Now time was getting to be a big factor. Groton was third and 10 at the Custer 23 yard line with 2:11 left in the game. On fourth and five, Custer calls time-out to stop the clock. Spencer Knecht muscled his way to a first down at the Custer 14. Shabazz made it down to the eight yard line on



Spencer Knecht gets ready to push aside his defender, Custer's Brandon Dailey. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

second down as Custer called another time out with 1:16 left. Shabazz's run made it third and four as Custer used its final time out. Knecht got the ball down to the nine yard line with the clock running. Just before the official started counting, Groton called time-out with 20 seconds left. It was close for a first down as Custer took over at its own seven yard line with 15 seconds left. On a big pass play, it was intercepted by Adam Herman as the game ended with Groton winning, 16-14.

Groton had more first downs, 14-8.

The Tigers had more yards rushing with 55 carries for 227 yards and Custer had 23 carries for 65 yards. Leaders for Groton were Spencer Knecht with 28 carries for 129 yards, Bennett Shabazz had 20 carries for 82 yards, Jackson Doeden had five carries for 16 yards and Kelby Hawkins carried the ball

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twice for no gain. Joel Thomsen led Custer with nine carries for 33 yards, Tabin Elmore had six carries for 12 yards, Alex Kortenmeyer had five for 11 yards and Anthony Jones had three carries for nine yards.

Tabin Elmore led Custer in passing, completing seven of 15 passes for 88 yards with one touchdown and one interception. Joel Thomsen had three catches for 53 yards. Kelby Hawkins completed two of four Groton passes for 22 yards, both caught by Adam Herman.

Groton had two fumbles and lost one while Custer lost one of two fumbles.

The Tigers had a bunch of penalties, six for 65 yards. Custer had five for 30 yards.

Defensive leaders for Groton were Carter Jondahl with eight tackles followed by Spencer Knecht with six and Austin Merkel with five.

Groton is now 7-3 while Custer finishes the season 8-2.

- Paul Kosel



Jenifer Fjelstad, Macy Knecht, Aubray Harry, Kari Hanson, Kellyn Fluke, Hailey Hanson and Emily Raap braved the cold to cheer the Groton Area football team on to a victory Monday at Custer. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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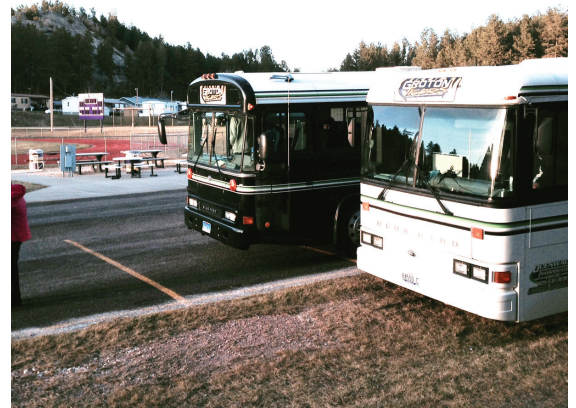
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The team eating at Pizza Ranch in Ft. Pierre. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Two buses were taken to Custer. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Some of the girls walking to downtown Wall to get some necessary heat gear. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The team stopped at the football field in Wall for a little practice and to stretch. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

The elevation of Groton is 1,302 feet while the elevation of Custer is 5,315.

The blog done by the Groton Daily Independent had 1,597 views yesterday and 34 views today, setting an all-time record for the most views done by the GDI. <http://blog.397news.com/custergame>

Today in Weather History

1992: Significant snow blanketed much of the state except the southwest between November 1st and November 4th. The snow and slush caused numerous minor traffic accidents and further delayed the fall harvest in many areas. The greatest snowfall amounts included over a foot in north central and northeast South Dakota, and the northern Black Hills, with generally 3 to 7 inches reported elsewhere. Some of the more significant storm total snowfall reports were 25.2 inches at Lead, 15 inches at Eureka, 14 inches near Summit, 13 inches near Victor, 12.6 inches at Roscoe, and 12 inches in Leola and 23 mile north of Highmore.

1927 - A great Vermont flood occurred. Tropical rains deluged the Green Mountain area of Vermont causing the worst flood in the history of the state. Torrential rains, up to 15 inches in the higher elevations, sent streams on a rampage devastating the Winooski Valley. Flooding claimed 200 lives and caused 40 million dollars damage. The town of Vernon reported 84 deaths. Flooding left up to eight to ten feet of water in downtown Montpelier VT. (2nd-4th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A super wet Gulf storm dumped upwards of fifteen inches of rain in the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia causing devastating damage and claiming forty lives. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the eastern and south central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 74 degrees at Portland ME and 86 degrees at Fort Smith AR equalled November records. It was the fourth day of record warmth for Beckley WV, Memphis TN and Paducah KY. A cold front ushered much colder air into the north central U.S. Gale force winds lashed all five Great Lakes. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a fast moving cold front produced severe weather over the Tennessee Valley and the Central Gulf Coast States during the afternoon and evening hours, and into the next morning. Thunderstorms spawned nineteen tornadoes, including eleven in Mississippi. The last of the nineteen tornadoes killed a woman in her mobile home in Lee FL. A tornado in Culbert AL injured sixteen people, and caused two million dollars damage. Thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail in Alabama. Unseasonably hot air prevailed south of the cold front. McAllen TX was the hot spot

in the nation with a high of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds plagued parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Winds gusted to 71 mph near Wheatland WY, and reached 80 mph west of Fort Collins CO. Up to five inches of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY closing many roads. Snow also blanketed northern Minnesota, with seven inches reported at Baudette. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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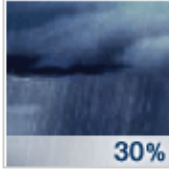



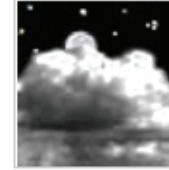

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THIS AFTERNOON	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY
						
Mostly Sunny High: 53 °F	Chance Showers Low: 35 °F	Chance Rain High: 49 °F	Blustery Low: 29 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 45 °F	Mostly Cloudy Low: 31 °F	Slight Chc Rain High: 51 °F



Mild, Breezy Tuesday

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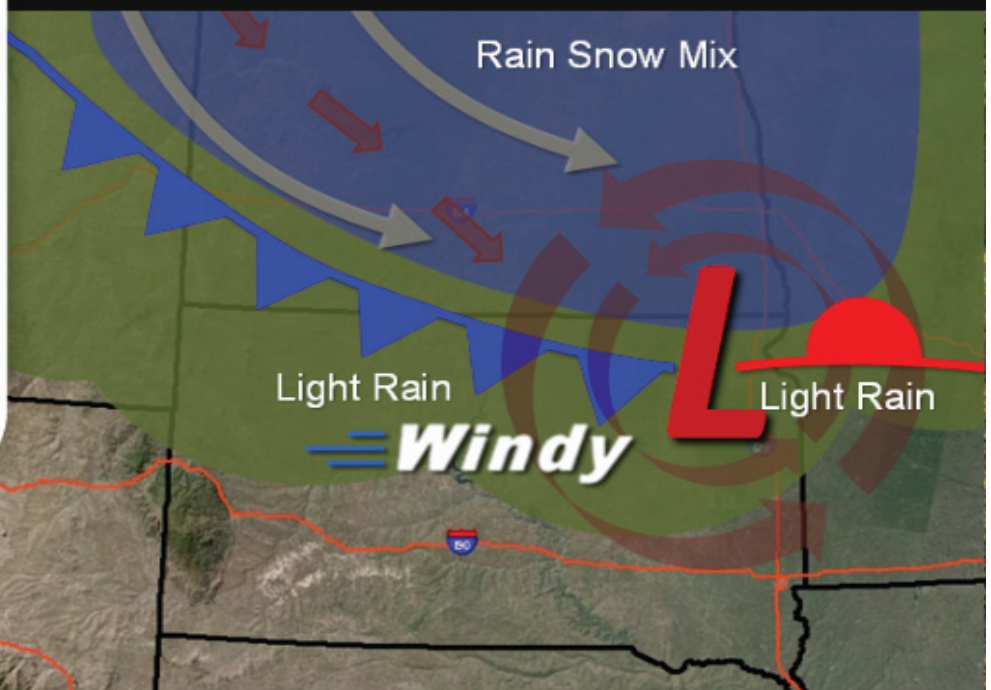


Today
Mostly Clear
Breezy

50°-60°

- 0% Clouds
- 0.00" Precipitation
- W 10-20 Wind

Clipper System Wednesday



A relatively quiet day is expected as the region is in between weather systems. However, conditions will change quickly on Wednesday as a clipper system moves over the area. Light rain is expected and northwest winds will become strong and gusty on the back side of the system. There may even be a few flakes of snow in the higher elevations of the Sisseton Hills, but no accumulation is anticipated at this time. Cooler air follows Thursday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 47.9°F at 9:27 AM

Low: 35.1°F at 3:19 AM

High Gust: 20 mph at 11:40 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 78° in 1975

Record Low: -2° in 1991

Average High: 47°F

Average Low: 25°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.09

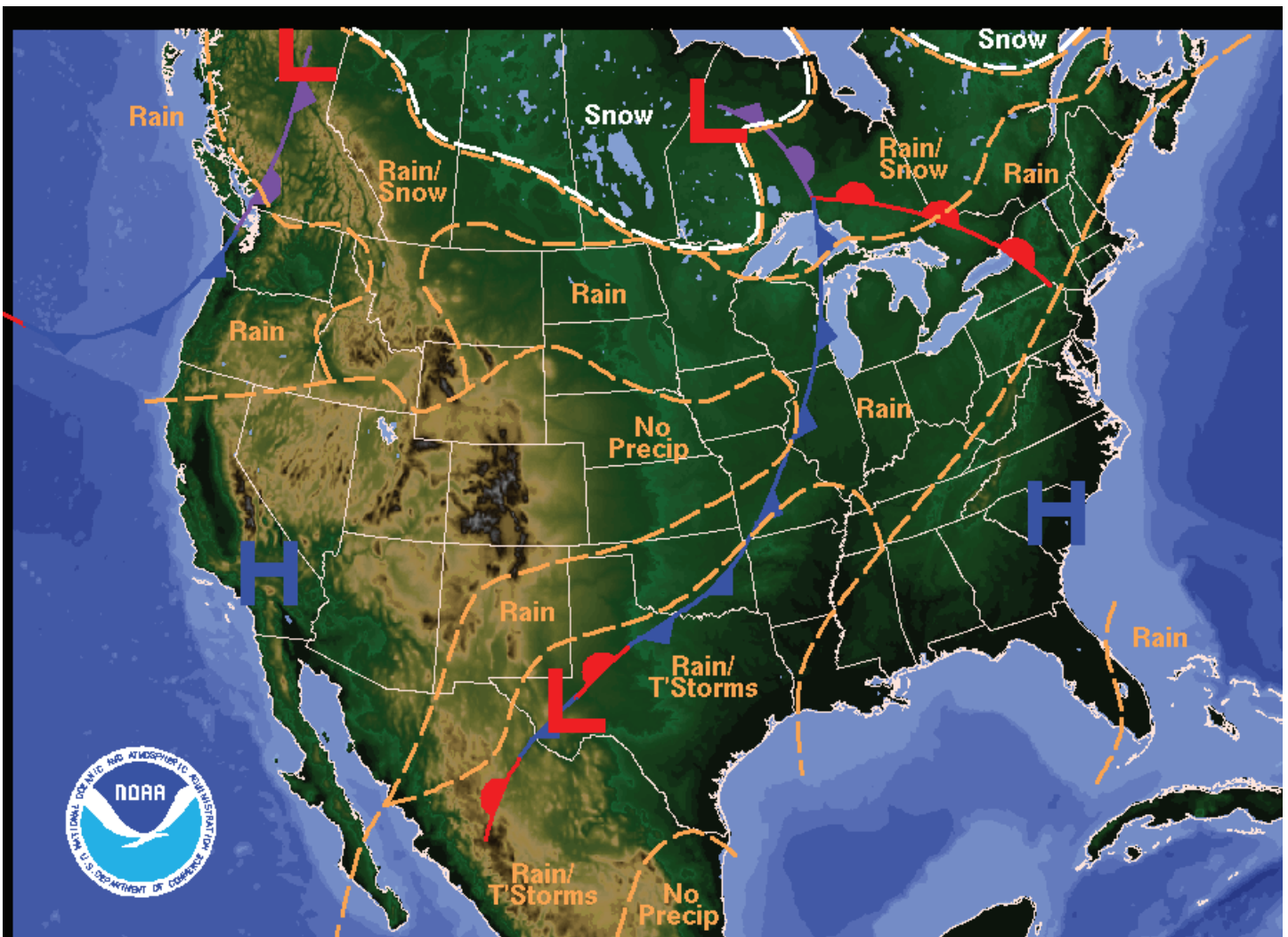
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.56

Precip Year to Date: 13.23

Sunset Tonight: 5:17 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:19 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Nov 04, 2014, issued 1:54 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



WHY LIVE A LIFE OF INTEGRITY?

"Why" is a question that most of us try to avoid. It usually demands careful thinking, choice wording and clear reasoning. It makes us refine our thoughts to give us the assurance that what we are doing or thinking is right.

Solomon makes a profound statement when he says, "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely; but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out."

It's normal to want to feel "secure" as we go about life. "Secure" implies that we are able to face life as it comes, knowing that God is present in our lives and will provide whatever we need. Being "secure" eliminates fear and the anxiety that accompany it. And, if we want that feeling of security that only comes from God, Solomon says that we must "walk in integrity" or "live without compromise or corruption."

For some, that sounds impossible. We think about our past attempts to honor God in all things. We want to be an example to others as our Savior was: a witness of His grace, a helper to those in need, a friend to the lonely and an encourager to the sick and suffering. But we allow things to get in our way and we "fall short" of who God wants us to be and who we, in fact, want to be. And therein lies the secret: it's all about what we desire.

If our innermost desire is to bring all of our life into harmony with God's Word, His will and His ways, and if we consciously submit our lives to Him and live for Him, He will give us His security. We have nothing to fear if our deepest desire is to know Him and make Him known.

Prayer: Father, the world makes many promises it cannot keep. But we have Your Word that never fails. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 10:9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.

News from the Associated Press

4 South Dakota cities dealing with animal issues

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Elected leaders in four South Dakota cities are dealing with animal issues. The Rapid City Council on Monday night rejected a proposed pilot program that would have allowed residents to keep up to six chickens in their backyards for the next three years.

Pierre city commissioners on Tuesday night were to decide whether to follow a task force's recommendation not to hold an urban deer harvest this year, because of fewer deer numbers and a drop in complaints about the animals.

A special archery deer season is underway in Sioux Falls. The Sioux Falls City Council was scheduled to vote Tuesday night on a proposed ban on deer feeding within city limits to further control the deer population.

The Aberdeen City Council also might consider a deer-feeding ban.

Polls opening across SD for midterm election

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Turnout is reported to be steady at polling sites across South Dakota for the midterm election.

Polling sites are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time Tuesday.

Voters are deciding the four-way race to win the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Tim Johnson. They're also deciding on their only U.S. House member, a governor, legislative members and other state leaders, as well as three ballot measures. They deal with patient choice, minimum wage and Deadwood casinos.

Some voting confusion has been reported in Sioux Falls. The Argus Leader reports the city in its April election used voting centers, where voters from any precinct could cast ballots. Those centers are not being used this election, and some voters have showed up in the wrong place.

SD corn and sunflower harvests still lag behind

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers working to finish up the late-season harvest have been helped by dry conditions over the past week.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 48 percent of the sunflowers, 61 percent of the corn and 80 percent of the sorghum is now in the bin. The sorghum harvest is equal to the average pace, but the sunflower and corn harvests both lag behind.

About 85 percent of South Dakota's winter wheat crop has emerged, ahead of the average pace. About 71 percent of the crop is rated good to excellent.

Pasture and range conditions statewide are rated 60 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are rated 78 percent adequate to surplus.

NDSU remains atop both FCS polls; SDSU slips

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Undefeated North Dakota State remains atop both Football Championship Sub-division polls, after defeating a South Dakota State team that has now dropped in both polls.

NDSU beat SDSU 37-17 on Saturday, and got all of the first-place votes in this week's coaches' poll and Sports Network poll.

SDSU slipped three spots in the coaches' poll and four spots in the Sports Network poll, to No. 22 in both polls.

The Bison travel to No. 19/20 Northern Iowa this Saturday, while the Jackrabbits play No. 17/19 Indiana State on the road.

3 in custody in armed robbery of Huron store

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Police investigating the armed robbery of a Huron store arrested three people. Authorities say two people held up the clerks at the Corner Pantry store early Monday, taking more than \$1,400 in cash. Police later stopped a vehicle and say the two passengers matched the description of the robbers.

Officers say they also found the money, a BB gun and a mask in the vehicle.

The passengers and driver were arrested on robbery and aggravated assault charges. The suspects all are in their 20s.

50s to 60s, no big rain in Election Day forecast

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakotans who haven't cast their ballots early won't be kept from the polls because of the weather.

Meteorologist Jeff Chapman with the National Weather Service in Sioux Falls says highs by Tuesday afternoon will range from near 50 in the northeast to around 60 in the central and southern parts of the state.

He says that's about 5 to 10 degrees warmer than normal.

Chapman says the only chance of significant rain in Tuesday's forecast is in the north, and that's likely to fall after the polls close.

He says it will be breezy across much of the state, with higher gusts expected across the north and east.

Voters will choose new US senator today

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The four-way race for South Dakota's open U.S. Senate seat has settled back into Republican Mike Rounds' corner as voters head to the polls Tuesday.

Former Gov. Rounds, Democrat Rick Weiland and independents Larry Pressler and Gordon Howie are vying to replace retiring Democrat Tim Johnson.

Republicans see South Dakota as a staple in their push to net six seats and take control of the Senate.

It was briefly considered a competitive race in the final few weeks, as Rounds' opponents said his support had eroded amid criticism of the EB-5 visa program, causing money from the campaign arms of Senate Democrats and Republicans to pour in. Rounds has defended the EB-5 program, which operated while he was governor and allowed wealthy foreigners to invest in South Dakota projects that created jobs in exchange for U.S. visas.

GOP assertions that Rounds had maintained a healthy lead were reflected in polls released last week. At a campaign event last week, Rounds said he was buoyed by those results, but repeated his frequently used campaign line: "The only poll that matters is on Tuesday of next week."

His team focused on reaching undecided voters over the last week of the campaign, and Rounds appeared with some high-profile Republicans — such as former 2012 presidential nominee Mitt Romney.

Meanwhile, Weiland has criticized the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee for running overly

negative ads against Rounds, and said that the organization, which is aimed at electing Democrats, secretly supported Pressler.

Weiland continued his campaign by showcasing his support among veterans, senior citizens and Native Americans, while Pressler touted his backing from U.S. Sen. Angus King, an independent from Maine.

The candidates have clashed over gridlock in Washington, immigration reform and social security, as well as health care reform and taxes. Weiland has waged a campaign against money in politics, while Rounds has attempted to link his opponents to President Barack Obama and government spending.

Pressler, who has also made government corruption a focus, has positioned himself as the candidate who can reach across the aisle. His once-surging shoestring campaign appeared to wilt leading up to Election Day.

Republicans poised to keep control of Legislature

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republicans are poised to retain control of the South Dakota Legislature for the next two years, but Democrats hope they can at least gain a stronger foothold in Tuesday's election.

All seats in the state House and Senate come up for re-election every two years, but Republicans need to win only a handful of contested races to keep control for the next biennium — and as they've done for 20 years.

Republicans currently have a supermajority, holding 81 of the 105 legislative seats. Republicans need to win seven contested races to keep control of the House and grab six contested Senate races to keep that chamber.

Rep. Bernie Hunhoff, the House minority leader, said Democrats hope to regain some ground that they've lost in recent years.

"I think we're going to do OK in the House races and hold our ground, if not do better. In the Senate, there's a lot of really close races and given a little extra push here at the end — and a little luck — I think we can really make some gains here in the Senate," he said.

The Republicans have 42 races combined without a Democratic challenger, which Hunhoff attributed to partisan redistricting. Democrats have 11 running unopposed for the Senate and five for the House.

Senate majority leader Tim Rave said the Republicans don't do any hard polling, but is confident the party will retain majorities.

"Some of it's gut, some of it's knowing the districts, but we have a pretty good feeling about election night," he said.

South Dakota voters to choose new US Senator

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A four-way race to win the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by retiring Tim Johnson, South Dakota's last congressional Democrat, is the marquee race Tuesday. But voters on Tuesday will also be asked to choose their only U.S. House member, a governor, legislative members and other state leaders, as well as decide on three ballot measures.

WILL ROUNDS PREVAIL?

Despite a late influx of money to finance attack ads against him, former Republican Gov. Mike Rounds still held a lead in recent polls. He's being challenged by Democrat Rick Weiland and independents Larry Pressler and Gordon Howie. Weiland and Pressler, who spent 18 years in Congress, tightened the race

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in the month before the election.

Republicans are looking to pick up the South Dakota seat in their quest for a net gain of six to take control of the chamber.

ABSENTEES

South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant says more than 90 percent of absentee ballots have been cast for Tuesday's general election. A total of 57,320 ballots have been sent out to military personnel, students and residents who will be away from the state during Election Day. Gant says his office has gotten back more than 54,450 ballots.

NOEM'S HOUSE

Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem is seen as the prohibitive favorite for another term, while Democratic challenger Corinna Robinson has struggled to build name recognition. Noem, who was first elected in 2010, has campaigned on issues of agriculture and human trafficking. Robinson, a retired Army veteran, has promised to work on increasing teacher salaries and promoting equal pay for equal work.

DOUBLE DAUGAARD?

Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard is the favorite to win a second four-year term. He has run on a platform of fiscal responsibility and economic growth, but has drawn strong criticism from school boards and educators for cutting school aid in 2011 when the sluggish economy limited state tax collections.

Democratic challenger state Rep. Susan Wismer is the state's first woman to be nominated for governor by a major party. During her campaign, she's been critical of Daugaard's handling of the state budget. She supports expanding Medicaid and increasing the minimum wage. Independent candidate Mike Myers, a former law school professor, is also in the race.

The lieutenant governor candidates are: Matt Michels with Daugaard, Susy Blake with Wismer and Lora Hubbel with Myers.

YOUR OPINIONS PLEASE

There are three measures on the ballot statewide:

— The so-called patient choice measure (Initiated Measure 17) has split the medical community. If approved, doctors who agree to the conditions set forth by insurers, including payments for services provided to patients, could join an insurer's preferred providers list. The state's medical association and specialty hospitals are in favor of it, saying it will give residents the freedom to choose their doctor. Health insurers and large hospital networks argue it will neither provide more choice nor reduce costs.

— A minimum wage measure (Initiated Measure 18) would raise it from the federal standard of \$7.25 to \$8.50 an hour. The measure also would increase the \$2.13 hourly tip wage to half the minimum wage and tie future increases to the cost of living. Supporters say it would help boost South Dakota's lagging personal income, while opponents say it could force businesses to increase prices, lay off workers or reduce benefits.

— Deadwood casinos would see the number of games they can offer double under Constitutional Amendment Q, adding roulette, keno and craps. The additional games also could be offered at the state's tribal casinos. Supporters say casinos in the historic gambling town are hurting because of increased competition. Opponents say the measure would increase social ills caused by gambling addictions, such as crime.

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OTHER STATEWIDE RACES

Four people are vying to become secretary of state, a seat being vacated by Republican Jason Gant. They are: Republican Shantel Krebs, Democrat Angelia Schultz, Libertarian Emmett Reistroffer, and Lori Stacey with the Constitution Party.

Commissioner of School and Public Lands is an open seat, with Republican Ryan Brunner, the current deputy commissioner, facing Libertarian John English.

Current officeholders are up against challengers for the following seats:

- Attorney general: Libertarian Chad Haber vs. incumbent Republican Marty Jackley.
- Auditor: Libertarian Kurt Evans vs. incumbent Republican Steve Barnett.
- Treasurer: Democrat Denny Pierson and Libertarian Ken Santema vs. incumbent Republican Rich Sattgast.
- Public Utilities Commissioner: Democrat David Allen and Constitutional Party candidate Wayne Schmidt vs. incumbent Republican Gary Hanson.

LEGISLATIVE EASE

All 35 senators and 70 representatives are running, but there's no chance Republicans will give up control of either chamber because of the large number of uncontested races.

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

The Secretary of State office's "Vote605" mobile app can show voters sample ballots and voting locations based on zip codes. It also gives detailed directions to the voting locations.

South Dakota Volleyball Polls

The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the South Dakota Sportswriters Association volleyball poll for the week of Nov.3, 2014. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking:

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs		
1. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	(9)	24-4	45	1		
2. Huron	-	16-4	32	4		
3. Watertown	-	17-3	25	3		
4. Aberdeen Central	-	18-2	21	2		
5. Spearfish	-	25-2	9	5		

Others receiving votes: Rapid City Stevens 23-7, Roosevelt 13-14.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs		
1. S.F. Christian	(9)	23-6	45	1		
2. Dakota Valley	-	25-4	36	2		
3. Wagner	-	27-5	26	3		
4. Mount Vernon-Plank	-	25-3	17	4		
4. Pine Ridge	-	31-1	9	5		

Others receiving votes: Redfield-Doland 22-4.

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Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Warner	(9)	28-1	45	1
2. Northwestern		-	25-4	34 2
3. Chester Area		-	25-2	29 3
4. Parker	-	25-3	18	4
5. Arlington	-	26-6	7	5

Others receiving votes: Hanson 21-5, Sully Buttes 25-2.

Monday's Scores The Associated Press

VOLLEYBALL

District 2AA First Round

Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Sioux Falls Washington, 18-25, 25-23, 17-25, 25-17, 15-9

District 4AA First Round

Rapid City Central def. Douglas, 25-17, 25-19, 25-19

PREP FOOTBALL

Class 11A Quarterfinal

Dell Rapids 57, Vermillion 16

Hot Springs 10, Belle Fourche 0

Madison 61, Chamberlain 0

West Central 28, Lennox 0

Class 11B Quarterfinal

Groton Area 16, Custer 14

McCook Central/Montrose 23, Aberdeen Roncalli 21

Parkston 46, Canton 0

St. Thomas More 45, Bon Homme 20

Class 9AA Quarterfinal

Deuel 42, Garretson 20

Gregory 56, Lyman 0

Kimball/White Lake 20, Arlington 12

Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 42, Elkton-Lake Benton 14

Class 9A Quarterfinal

Alcester-Hudson 54, New Underwood 6

Howard 52, Warner 0

Philip 62, Chester 12

Wolsey-Wessington 62, Potter County 32

Class 9B Quarterfinal

Canistota 52, Dell Rapids St. Mary 6

Faulkton 62, Avon 48

Hamlin 50, Eureka/Bowdle 6

Harding County 38, Faith 20

South Dakota voters casting absentee ballots

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant says more than 90 percent of absentee ballots have been cast for Tuesday's general election.

A total of 57,320 ballots have been sent out to military personnel, students and residents who will be away from the state during Election Day. Gant says his office has gotten back more than 54,450 ballots.

The deadline for voters to return an absentee ballot is 7 p.m. Tuesday.

South Dakota has more than 521,000 active voters this election. Polls and voting centers across South Dakota open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m., both local time.

As race ends, Senate candidates give final pitches

HENRY C. JACKSON, Associated Press

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Stopping President Barack Obama's agenda. Reducing money in politics. Restoring comity in Washington. Bringing a truly conservative vision to the Senate.

The closing arguments in the South Dakota Senate campaign are as divergent as the candidates in the complex, four-way race. With the final debate concluded, and the candidates in the homestretch before Election Day, here's a look at the closing arguments of the four candidates vying to replace retiring Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson: GOP nominee and former Gov. Mike Rounds; Democratic nominee Rick Weiland and independents Larry Pressler, a former Republican senator; and Gordon Howie, a tea party-inspired candidate.

— Mike Rounds

In terms of message, Rounds is finishing the campaign how he started it: Promoting his Republican credentials and promising voters he will slow the plans of Obama. As if to underscore the point, Rounds on Thursday campaigned with Obama's opponent in the 2012 presidential race, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Rounds also promised a hand in ousting Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a point he hit hard at campaign stops on Sunday.

Rounds has hit Washington in general, promising to bring South Dakota values to the Senate. He closed Thursday's rally with Romney saying, "America is not broken, Washington D.C. is."

Rounds has been targeted for his management of the state-administered, federally run EB-5 visa program. It allowed wealthy foreigners to obtain visas to live in the United States in exchange for significant investments in rural South Dakota job projects. Part of his message as the campaign closes has been to defend himself — and to dismiss his opponents for focusing on the issue.

"You haven't heard a vision from them," he said in Wednesday's final debate. "What you've heard is them trash me."

— Rick Weiland

Weiland has drawn attention from good government advocates for his almost singular focus on campaign spending and reducing the influence of money in politics. As he finishes up his Senate campaign, he has continued to focus on that theme. His closing ads have focused on cutting money from politics and protecting social safety net programs such as Medicare and Social Security. Like Rounds, he has also invoked his South Dakota heritage and pledged to bring prairie values to Washington.

His closing message has been somewhat muddled, though, by his fights with national Democrats. Senate Democrats' campaign arm initially announced it would invest as much as \$1 million in the race, largely on ads attacking Rounds. Weiland spent a crucial campaign day during the race's final full week criticizing the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, saying their ads had hurt his campaign and

were actually designed to boost Pressler, the independent. The DSCC also dramatically scaled back the amount of advertising time it planned to purchase as polls showed Rounds ahead in the race. Weiland has launched a petition drive to replace Reid as Democratic leader in the Senate, further fueling the divide.

— Larry Pressler

With little money and even less campaign staff, Pressler has spent the campaign's closing days touting newspaper endorsements and defending himself during public appearances. He used the platform of Wednesday's debate to protest ads that have targeted him in recent days, saying, "Don't believe what you're seeing on TV." On Saturday, The Sioux Falls Argus Leader and retired KELO-TV legend Steve Hemmingsen backed Pressler in the race, and on Sunday he got a boost from the Rapid City Journal's endorsement.

Pressler's overarching message has been about tone as much as any particular political issue. Pressler said he would like the Senate to be a friendlier place with more bipartisan work. He has told stories about his time in the chamber, where he served as Republican from 1979 to 1997, and talked about the importance of getting back to working across the aisle.

But Pressler has also been pointed in his criticism of Rounds. During the campaign's final debate, he pressed Rounds for more information about the EB-5 program.

— Gordon Howie

The last days of Howie's longshot campaign have been spent lobbing rhetorical shots at Rounds and touting his support from conservative groups. Like Weiland and Pressler, Howie has seized on the EB-5 program and called Rounds untrustworthy. He has said there are still more questions to be answered about the visa program.

Howie's final appeal has been about ideological purity. He has said he is the true conservative in the race and targeted wavering Rounds voters. In a recent video appeal on his campaign web site, Howie says he's the only candidate who will represent conservative, traditional values.

DCI completes probe into officer-involved shooting

DANTE, S.D. (AP) — The state's Division of Criminal Investigation has completed its probe into an incident in Charles Mix County that involved shots fired by a sheriff's deputy.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says no injuries occurred as a result of the shots fired by the deputy. Jackley adds 40-year-old Russell Turner Jr., who was originally arrested on outstanding warrants, has now been charged with aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer and various drug counts.

Authorities say the deputy was responding to a disturbance call near Dante last week when he approached a pickup truck with two people inside. The incident escalated and the deputy fired into the vehicle, which fled the scene.

Authorities say Turner tried to strike the deputy with the pickup.

A minor was a passenger in the vehicle. Turner wasn't injured by gunfire.

Feds send elections monitors to 2 SD counties

LAKE ANDES, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice has sent officials to oversee voting on two South Dakota counties during Election Day.

Election monitors on Tuesday will be at Charles Mix and Shannon counties. The officials will check on whether voters are subject to different voting qualifications or procedures on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group.

They will also monitor whether jurisdictions are complying with the minority language provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is located in Shannon County and the Yankton Sioux Tribe in Charles Mix County.

The federal agency is dispatching election monitors to 28 counties on 18 states for the general election.

Residents encouraged to contribute to time capsule

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls officials are encouraging residents and businesses to contribute to a time capsule celebrating South Dakota's 125th anniversary.

The time capsule will be buried at Falls Park near the visitors' center and won't be opened until November 2064.

Interested individuals can take their items to City Hall. Suggested items include current technology, packaging from products including prices, news pieces showing current events, photos, letters and popular toys and tools.

An eight-member committee will evaluate the items and not all will be included in the capsule.

The deadline for submission is Friday.

Republicans look for sweep on Election Day

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republicans are preparing for an Election Day sweep in South Dakota, from U.S. Senate to the governor's office.

In the most-watched race of the cycle, Republican former governor Mike Rounds has remained the front-runner in the campaign to replace retiring Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson, though his position briefly tightened in early October. According to a poll from last week, Rounds leads his Democratic opponent Rick Weiland by 9 percentage points. Independents Larry Pressler and Gordon Howie are also vying for the open seat.

South Dakota is among the top targets in the Republican Party's quest to net six seats and take control of the chamber for the final two years of President Barack Obama's term.

Weiland worked over the weekend to shore up supporter among Native Americans, who lean heavily Democratic. And Pressler announced key endorsements from KELO-TV legend Steve Hemmingsen, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader and the Rapid City Journal. Throughout the race, Rounds has attempted to tie his opponents to Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, whom he says voters in this Republican-heavy state will reject on Tuesday.

Rounds' opponents have dogged him over his gubernatorial oversight of the EB-5 visa program, which sought investment from wealthy foreigners in exchange for U.S. visas. They unified in the final debate last week to call him untrustworthy, a charge that he brushed off. Rounds has said that his biggest concern ahead of Tuesday is Republican complacency at the polls.

Incumbent Dennis Daugaard has had a considerably quieter race for the governor's office against Democrat Susan Wismer, a state representative and the first female nominee for governor from a major party. A Sioux Falls Argus Leader/KELO-TV poll released last week showed Daugaard with a 36 percentage point lead over Wismer, and as of Oct. 2, the governor had nearly \$1.5 million on hand compared to Wismer's roughly \$18,000. Wismer stumped with Weiland over the weekend, including stops on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Indian reservations. Daugaard appeared at events with Rounds across the

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state on Sunday and Monday. Independent Mike Myers is also in the race.

U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, seeking a third term, is being challenged by Democratic candidate Corinna Robinson, a retired Army Veteran. Noem has been seen as the front-runner and has raised more money than Robinson. As of Oct. 15, the final reporting period available before Election Day, Noem had more than \$900,000 in the bank, compared to Robinson's \$6,500.

Three ballot measures will also go before voters on Tuesday.

Initiated Measure 17, the so-called patient choice measure, would allow doctors who agree to the conditions set forth by insurers, including payments for services provided to patients, to join an insurer's preferred providers list. A poll last week showed voters favored the measure by a 55-28 percent margin. Seventeen percent were undecided.

Initiated Measure 18 would raise the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50 an hour; increase the \$2.13 hourly tip wage to half the minimum wage; and tie future increases to the cost of living. The same poll found voters supported the measure by a 58-36 percent margin. Six percent were undecided.

Constitutional Amendment Q will ask the state's voters to decide whether Deadwood casinos, and those operated by Indian tribes, should also offer roulette, keno and craps — three games supporters hope would attract younger players. Opponents have criticized the measure as an expansion of gambling, and polling shows it doesn't have public support.

South Dakotans will also cast their ballots for secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, treasurer, commissioner of school and public lands, public utilities commissioner and candidates for the state Legislature.

All 35 senators and 70 representatives are running, and it's very unlikely Republicans will give up control of either chamber because of the large number of uncontested races.

Senate race, minimum wage on South Dakota ballot

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The four-way race to fill the open seat of retiring U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson, South Dakota's last congressional Democrat, has dominated this election cycle. But Tuesday's ballots will also ask voters to choose a U.S. House member, governor, legislative members and other state leaders, as well as decide on three measures.

HAVE A (SENATE) SEAT

Despite a late influx of national party money, former Republican Gov. Mike Rounds still held a lead in recent polls. He's being challenged by Democrat Rick Weiland and independents Larry Pressler and Gordon Howie. Weiland and Pressler, who spent 18 years in Congress, tightened the race in the month before the election.

Republicans are looking to pick up the South Dakota seat in their quest for a net gain of six to take control of the chamber.

NOEM'S HOUSE

Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem is seen as the prohibitive favorite for another term, while Democratic challenger Corinna Robinson has struggled to build name recognition. Noem, who was first elected in 2010, has campaigned on issues of agriculture and human trafficking. Robinson, a retired Army veteran, has promised to work on increasing teacher salaries and promoting equal pay for equal work.

DOUBLE DAUGAARD?

Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard is the favorite to win a second four-year term. He has run on a platform of fiscal responsibility and economic growth, but has drawn strong criticism from school boards

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and educators for cutting school aid in 2011 when the sluggish economy limited state tax collections.

Democratic challenger state Rep. Susan Wismer is the state's first woman to be nominated for governor by a major party. During her campaign, she's been critical of Daugaard's handling of the state budget. She supports expanding Medicaid and increasing the minimum wage. Independent candidate Mike Myers, a former law school professor, is also in the race.

The lieutenant governor candidates are: Matt Michels with Daugaard, Susy Blake with Wismer and Lora Hubbel with Myers.

YOUR OPINION PLEASE

There are three measures on the ballot statewide:

— The so-called patient choice measure (Initiated Measure 17) has split the medical community. If approved, doctors who agree to the conditions set forth by insurers, including payments for services provided to patients, could join an insurer's preferred providers list. The state's medical association and specialty hospitals are in favor of it, saying it will give residents the freedom to choose their doctor. Health insurers and large hospital networks argue it will neither provide more choice nor reduce costs.

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OTHER STATEWIDE RACES

Four people are vying to become secretary of state, a seat being vacated by Republican Jason Gant. They are: Republican Shantel Krebs, Democrat Angelia Schultz, Libertarian Emmett Reistroffer, and Lori Stacey with the Constitution Party.

Commissioner of School and Public Lands is an open seat, with Republican Ryan Brunner, the current deputy commissioner, facing Libertarian John English.

Current officeholders are up against challengers for the following seats:

— Attorney general: Libertarian Chad Haber vs. incumbent Republican Marty Jackley.

— Auditor: Libertarian Kurt Evans vs. incumbent Republican Steve Barnett.

— Treasurer: Democrat Denny Pierson and Libertarian Ken Santema vs. incumbent Republican Rich Sattgast.

— Public Utilities Commissioner: Democrat David Allen and Constitutional Party candidate Wayne Schmidt vs. incumbent Republican Gary Hanson.

LEGISLATIVE EASE

All 35 senators and 70 representatives are running, but there's no chance Republicans will give up control of either chamber because of the large number of uncontested races.

POLL TIMES

Polls and voting centers across South Dakota open at 7 a.m. local time and close at 7 p.m. local time.

Sioux Falls Skyforce getting preseason underway

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls Skyforce is getting the preseason underway.

The NBA Development League team announced Monday that it had set its training camp roster, and training camp was getting underway. The team plays its first preseason game on Saturday against the Iowa Energy. The game is at the FedEx Forum in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Skyforce regular season home opener is Saturday, Nov. 22, also against Iowa, at the Sanford Pentagon.

Report: Midwest economic growth slowing down

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The economy likely will slow to a crawl in nine Midwestern and Plains states in the months ahead, according to a monthly economic survey released Monday.

The region's overall economic index fell to 51.8 in October, just above a neutral score of 50. That's down from 54.3 in September and 57.2 in August.

"Sharp declines in grain and crude petroleum prices drove the overall index down for the month. Even with the pullback, economic growth is expected to be positive, but somewhat slower in the next several months," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the report.

The survey results from supply managers are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that index, while a score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The employment index fell into negative territory at 43.1 in October from September's 53.5 as businesses linked to agriculture and energy encountered difficult conditions, but Goss said he thinks the decline is likely to be temporary.

"There is currently a record number of workers employed in the region. Even so, employers in the region continue to expand output primarily by increasing hours worked of current workers and adding temporary workers," Goss said.

The prices-paid index, which tracks the cost of raw materials, rose to 60.6 in October from September's 60.1.

Business leaders remain optimistic about the economy. The confidence index increased to 61.2 in October from September's 59.6.

The inventory index declined slightly to 51.4 in October from September's 52.

The export orders index declined to 48.8 from September's 53.2. And the October import index increased slightly to 52.9 from 52.8 in September.

"The significant increase in the value of the dollar this year has made U.S. goods less competitively priced abroad and increased the attractiveness of foreign goods sold in the U.S.," Goss said.

Other components of the overall October index were:

- Delivery lead time decreased to 56.2 from September's 59.
- New orders rose to 55 in October from 52.9.
- Production or sales increased to 55 from last month's 54.3.

Aurora man run over by own car and killed

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — An Aurora man was killed over the weekend when he was run over by his

own car.

The Highway Patrol says 41-year-old Tomas Gonzalaz lost control of his car late Sunday on a gravel road and was ejected from the vehicle when it went in the ditch and hit an embankment. Authorities say the car continued to move and ran over Gonzalaz.

The crash happened on a rural road about 11 miles northeast of Brookings. Gonzalaz was alone in the car.

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. SENATE CONTROL IS TOP MIDTERM PRIZE

President Obama isn't on the ballot but his policies are--and the GOP says this election is a referendum on his administration.

2. GOVERNORSHIPS MAY BE SOLE BRIGHT SPOT FOR DEMOCRATS

In an otherwise bleak season, governor races in three dozen states could be where the president's party stems losses.

3. TWO NUCLEAR COMMANDERS FIRED, ANOTHER DISCIPLINED

The action taken by the U.S. Air Force is fresh evidence of leadership lapses in a nuclear missile corps that has suffered a rash of recent setbacks, including the firing last year of its top commander.

4. HOW THE RIGHT-TO-DIE CONVERSATION COULD EVOLVE

Brittany Maynard's last days brought the subject to the spotlight, but legislative changes may face a skeptical political reality.

5. WHITE HOUSE ACKNOWLEDGES FERGUSON NO-FLY ZONE

The restrictions on airspace the U.S. government put in place over violent street protest in Missouri should not have stopped news organization helicopters that wanted to operate in the area, officials say.

6. WHERE RICH SYRIANS ESCAPE FROM THE HORRORS OF WAR

The party scene in Damascus provides much-needed relief for the country's upper classes who also visit malls and amusement parks to evade the monotony of the conflict.

7. WHY THE WEALTH GAP ISN'T CAUSING UNREST IN THE EMIRATES

The oil-wealthy federation provides all its citizens with jobs, tax-free income and world-class health care.

8. OLD ENGLISH PORT TRYING TO STOP ISLAMIC STATE JIHADIS

Portsmouth, whose history is intertwined with the glory days of the British Empire, is now trying to stem the flow of Muslim Britons who want to join the terrorist group.

9. CO-HOST OF NPR'S CAR TALK DIES AT 77

Tony Magliozzi, an unlikely radio star on the serious national network, dished out humorous banter and mechanic wisdom with his brother for almost four decades.

10. TAYLOR SWIFT YANKS MUSIC PORTFOLIO FROM SPOTIFY

The streaming music service stopped using her songs Monday, setting up a business struggle between the industry's most popular artist and the leading purveyor of a new music distribution system.

AP News in Brief

Republicans optimistic about Senate elections; Democrats count on get-out-the-vote operation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Public campaigning gave way to the privacy of the voting booth Tuesday with control of the Senate, the makeup of the House and three dozen governorships at stake.

President Barack Obama, his approval ratings low, was not on the ballot midway through his second term. But even he said his policies were, and Republicans rushed to agree.

"The president's policies have just flat-out failed," House Speaker John Boehner said Monday, campaigning for a 13th term in Congress and hoping for two more years as top House leader. He and other Republicans vowed to change Obama's policies, but have offered little in the way of specifics.

Democrats didn't so much defend the president as insist they were independent of him.

"There are two people on the ballot tomorrow, me and Scott Brown," Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire said as she made the rounds of six campaign stops on the race's final full day.

Midterm election: A look at the hot races, big stakes and key players on Election Day 2014

Above all else, what's at stake in Tuesday's midterm elections is control of the U.S. Senate.

That, in turn, will shape the fate of President Barack Obama's agenda for the rest of his term. And everything else that Congress wants to do, or stop from getting done.

Republicans need to gain six seats to win back the Senate majority they lost in 2006. Their odds are good, but it's not a slam dunk.

Polls and pundits alike see about 10 Democratic seats that could switch to the GOP. Democrats could flip a GOP seat, too, or perhaps as many as three if they have what passes for a good night.

Voters will also pick a new House of Representatives, choose governors in three dozen states and decide more than 100 ballot measures.

Air Force fires 2 more nuclear missile corps commanders, disciplines another

WASHINGTON (AP) — Adding to signs of distress in the nuclear force, the Air Force fired two commanders and disciplined a third in response to internal investigations of leadership lapses and misbehavior at two of its three intercontinental ballistic missile bases.

The most senior officer to be relieved was Col. Carl Jones, the No. 2 commander of the 90th Missile Wing at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming, in charge of 150 of the Air Force's 450 Minuteman 3 nuclear ICBMs. He was dismissed "for a loss of trust and confidence in his leadership abilities," and has been reassigned as a special assistant to the wing commander.

The actions Monday were confirmed to The Associated Press in response to an AP inquiry about an internal Air Force investigation of two commanders at the 91st Missile Wing at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, which also is responsible for 150 Minuteman 3 missiles. A separate investigation was conducted at F.E. Warren.

The Air Force nuclear missile corps has suffered a rash of recent setbacks, including the firing last year of its top commander.

It is unusual for disciplinary action to be taken against senior officers at two of the Air Force's three nuclear missile bases on the same day. Officials said the timing was a coincidence. It extends a pattern of leadership failures in the ICBM force over the past year.

Death of right-to-die advocate Brittany Maynard expected to prompt legislative action

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Brittany Maynard's last days started a national conversation about whether it's OK for a terminally ill person to end their own life.

Now that she has died, it's time to see whether the millions of clicks and views she generated online trigger more than just talk.

Advocates for expanding right-to-die laws beyond a handful of states expect attention from the young woman's story to carry into the new year, when state legislatures go into session.

"Up and down New England, the East Coast, and then in the West, too," said Peg Sandeen, executive director of the Death with Dignity National Center. "I think on both coasts we're going to see legislative action."

That optimism, however, will be met with the political reality that such legislation has been pushed for years, often unsuccessfully.

Syria's better-offs attend costume parties, amusement parks, seeking relief as war grinds on

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Followed by a vampire and a medieval knight, a man dressed up as an Islamic militant walks into the thumping club, past the blue-lit bar in a Damascus hotel, determined to party. The music is pounding, a break-dancer stands on his head and in the DJ booth, a man and woman are kissing.

Over the loudspeakers, a droning voice intoned: "Welcome foolish mortals. There's no turning back now."

Amid a conflict lapping at the edge of Damascus, Syria's better-offs spend their time in cafes and at parties, strolling a gleaming new mall and enjoying the controlled adrenaline of amusement park rides overlooking a city skyline of buildings and columns of smoke from bombings — striving to deny war its miserable monotony.

Yet as the Syrian conflict grinds on, well into its fourth year, almost no family has been left untouched by death, injury, poverty, homelessness or missing relatives.

"We want to change our boring routine," said Naja, a she-vampire with fake blood drooling from her reddened lips. "Every day we live a horror show (in Syria) but this one is a comedy," she said, laughing at the hotel Halloween party. Nearby, a woman painted makeup on arriving guests, turning them into vampires or Spiderman. Beside her, Cleopatra and a two-faced man posed for photographs.

A lifetime of generous perks help cushion a vast wealth gap in the United Arab Emirates

UMM AL-QUWAIN, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates contains the world's tallest building, an artificial indoor ski slope and man-made islands shaped like the world. Dubai's fleet of police cars includes a \$2.5 million Bugatti Veyron and a \$500,000 Lamborghini Aventador.

Look past the blinding glitz, though, and you discover a gulf separating the elite and their riches from most Emiratis. Yet in contrast to much of the world, a note of complaint is seldom heard here, and the reason is simple: Most Emiratis live lives of comfort that they owe to a bounty of perks and benefits from the government.

The welfare system, built more than four decades ago under Abu Dhabi's Sheik Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, helped forge long-standing political loyalty.

"We came from this hard life, but because of this man — may God rest his soul — we now have a good, beautiful life," said 60-year-old Jumaa al-Shami, who lives in the northern emirate of Umm al-Quwain.

The question is how long it will last. Officials and economists warn that the lavish government spending that has long sustained a robust Emirati middle class could eventually be curtailed. Analysts say the United Arab Emirates' economic viability requires guiding more Emiratis into self-sustaining private businesses and weaning them from the state's openhanded patronage.

Security contractor breach went undetected for months, similar to prior China hackings

WASHINGTON (AP) — A cyberattack similar to previous hacker intrusions from China penetrated computer networks for months at USIS, the government's leading security clearance contractor, before the company noticed, officials and others familiar with an FBI investigation and related official inquiries told The Associated Press.

The breach, first revealed by the company and government agencies in August, compromised the private records of at least 25,000 employees at the Homeland Security Department and cost the company hundreds of millions of dollars in lost government contracts.

In addition to trying to identify the perpetrators and evaluate the scale of the stolen material, the government inquiries have prompted concerns about why computer detection alarms inside the company failed to quickly notice the hackers and whether federal agencies that hired the company should have monitored its practices more closely.

Former employees of the firm, U.S. Investigations Services LLC, also have raised questions about why the company and the government failed to ensure that outdated background reports containing personal data weren't regularly purged from the company's computers.

Details about the investigation and related inquiries were described by federal officials and others familiar with the case. The officials spoke only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly on the continuing criminal investigation, the others because of concerns about possible litigation.

White House defends Ferguson no-fly zone, says it didn't restrict news organizations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said Monday a no-fly zone the U.S. government imposed over Ferguson, Missouri, for nearly two weeks in August should not have restricted helicopters for news organizations that wanted to operate in the area to cover violent protests there.

Audio recordings obtained by The Associated Press showed the Federal Aviation Administration working with local authorities to define a 37-square-mile flight restriction so that only police helicopters and commercial flights could fly through the area, following demonstrations over the shooting death of

18-year-old Michael Brown.

The Obama administration's defense of its actions centered on a provision of obscure federal regulations intended to allow press flights as long as they meet certain conditions. White House spokesman Josh Earnest sidestepped questions about conversations on the tapes showing police working with the FAA to keep media away.

"In this case, what the FAA says is that they took the prudent step of implementing the temporary flight restriction in the immediate aftermath of reports of shots fired at a police helicopter, but within 12 to 14 hours, that flight restriction was updated in a way to remove restrictions for reporters who were seeking to operate in the area," Earnest said.

In Missouri, St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar defended his department's involvement Monday, telling reporters that "at no time did we request that only media be kept out of the airspace." The chief said the safety restrictions were prompted by reports of gunfire and that conversations on the tapes were "out of context." He did not elaborate.

Division of twin German towns tells the tale of a fractured nation now reunited

BOECKWITZ, Germany (AP) — Friedrich-Wilhelm Lenz was only a toddler when the wall went up that split his family's 75-hectare farm in two — dividing the cow stall and even a restaurant on the land.

It was 1952, and East German authorities were erecting the wooden barrier that broke up the twin towns of Zicherie in the capitalist West and Boeckwitz in the communist East. The two had operated as one for centuries — sharing markets, schools and social clubs — and had long been the site of the Lenz family farm.

Years before the collapse of the Berlin Wall — whose 25th anniversary falls Sunday — East Germany had already started sealing off its main frontier with West Germany, spanning nearly 1,400 kilometers (870 miles), dividing communities, friends and even families.

The Lenz family keenly felt the trauma of division. The East German authorities seized their property and forced them to relocate to another town on the communist side of the border. They didn't like it and were able to move to the part of their property that remained in Zicherie in 1960.

But they left Friedrich-Wilhelm's older sister, Anneliese, with an aunt so she could finish high school before rejoining them.

Old Navy port trying to prevent more Muslims from traveling to Syria to join Islamic State

PORTSMOUTH, England (AP) — Royal Navy sailors used to swagger out of this great seaport at the zenith of the British Empire, manning the warships and trading vessels that made this nation rich and powerful. Today a handful of young men are again leaving to go to war — but this time they have sworn allegiance to foreign terrorists.

It is a sign of the times that Portsmouth, with its tradition of naval glory, finds itself trying to persuade young British Muslims not to follow six locals who traveled to Syria to join forces with Islamic State extremists battling President Bashar Assad.

Numbers alone might be a deterrent: Four or the six are dead, one is in jail, and only one is still believed active on the battlefield. But police, political leaders and Islamic community activists believe those facts alone may not convince angry young men that joining the Islamic State group — which has declared Britain an enemy — will destroy their lives.

The front of the mosque most of the young men attended before departing for Syria is decorated with an elaborate mosaic that says: "Peace Is Better." Syed Haque, chairman of the Jami Mosque's advisory council, is mystified that some of the congregation has chosen war instead.

"All those boys went, they were university students, they were working," he said. "There was nothing in their faces showing they were miserable or had problems at home or weren't being looked after by their family."

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 4, the 308th day of 2014. There are 57 days left in the year. This is Election Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 4, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge, who'd succeeded the late President Warren G. Harding, was elected to a full term of office; Nellie T. Ross of Wyoming was elected the nation's first female governor to serve out the remaining term of her late husband, William B. Ross.

On this date:

In 1862, inventor Richard J. Gatling received a U.S. patent for his rapid-fire Gatling gun.

In 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland was elected to his first term as president, defeating Republican James G. Blaine.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1939, the United States modified its neutrality stance in World War II, allowing "cash and carry" purchases of arms by belligerents, a policy favoring Britain and France.

In 1942, during World War II, Axis forces retreated from El Alamein in North Africa in a major victory for British forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Bernard Montgomery.

In 1952, Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president, defeating Democrat Adlai Stevenson. The highly secretive National Security Agency came into existence.

In 1964, comedian Lenny Bruce was convicted by a three-judge panel in New York of obscenity charges stemming from his performances at the Cafe Au Go Go in Greenwich Village. (The club's owner, Howard Solomon, was also found guilty, but had his conviction overturned; Bruce died before his appeal was decided, but he received a pardon in 2003 from New York Gov. George Pataki.)

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Jimmy Carter by a strong margin.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California; in attendance were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon - the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a festive peace rally.

In 2008, Democrat Barack Obama was elected the first black president of the United States, defeating Republican John McCain.

Ten years ago: Following his re-election victory, President George W. Bush pledged to aggressively pursue major changes in Social Security, the tax code and medical malpractice awards. It was revealed that Elizabeth Edwards, wife of former Democratic vice-presidential candidate John Edwards, had been

diagnosed with breast cancer the same day her husband and Sen. John Kerry conceded the 2004 presidential race. (Mrs. Edwards died of the disease in Dec. 2010 at age 61.)

Five years ago: An Italian judge convicted 23 Americans in absentia along with two Italians in the kidnapping of an Egyptian terror suspect, delivering the first legal convictions anywhere in the world against people involved in the CIA's extraordinary renditions program. The New York Yankees won the World Series, beating the defending champion Philadelphia Phillies 7-3 in Game 6 behind Hideki Matsui's record-tying six RBIs. Former NBA referee Tim Donaghy was released after serving most of a 15-month sentence in a gambling scandal.

One year ago: Ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, refusing to wear a prisoner jumpsuit, entered the dock at the start of his trial on murder charges in a dark suit, defiantly questioning the legitimacy of the court and proclaiming himself still Egypt's leader. In Tehran's largest anti-U.S. rally in years, tens of thousands of demonstrators joined in chants of "death to America" as hard-liners directed a major show of resolve against President Hassan Rouhani's outreach to Washington.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Doris Roberts is 84. Actress Loretta Swit is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer Harry Elston (Friends of Distinction) is 76. Blues singer Delbert McClinton is 74. Former first lady Laura Bush is 68. Actress Markie Post is 64. Rock singer-musician Chris Difford (Squeeze) is 60. Country singer Kim Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 54. Actress-comedian Kathy Griffin is 54. Actor Ralph Macchio is 53. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 53. Rock singer-musician Wayne Static (Static-X) is 49. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 45. Rapper-producer Sean "Puffy" Combs is 45. Talk show host Bethenny Frankel is 44. Soul/jazz singer Gregory Porter is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Shawn Rivera (Az Yet) is 43. Actress Heather Tom is 39. Rhythm-and-blues/gospel singer George Huff is 34. Actress Gillian Zinser (TV: "90210") is 29.

Thought for Today: "There is no dignity quite so impressive, and no independence quite so important, as living within your means." - President Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933).