

Groton Daily Independent

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Birthdays: Derek Carr • Jodi Sternhagen
8:30 am: MathCounts at Aberdeen Ron-
calli

Football Playoff Game

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



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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Coffee Cup

Team Standings: Ten Pins 25, Farm Girls 19.5, James Valley 19, Jungle Lanes 18.5, Ken's 15.5, Golden Girls 10.5.

High Games: Joyce Walter 189, Mavis Rossow 181, Nicole Kassube 173.

High Series: Joyce Walter 496, Penny Stolle 468, Vickie Kramp 465.

Conde National

Team Standings: Mets 11.5, Braves 11, Cubs 10, Giants 10, Colts 9, Pirates 8.5.

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 204, Cliff Kuckelburg 197, Bryce Dargatz 183.

Men's High Series: Lance Frohling 512, Cliff Kuckelburg 503, Larry Frohling 502.

Women's High Games: Vickie Kramp 191, Joyce Walter 180, Nicole Kassube 165.

Women's High Series: Joyce Walter 512, Vickie Kramp 474, Breanna Kuckelburg 426.

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.

Turkey, Ham and Bacon
to be given away

FREE ADMISSION

DOOR
PRIZE!

Lunch served
by Auxiliary



Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Pocket Gophers 4, Jackelopes 3, Killer Chihuahuas 2, Chipmunks 2, Coyotes 1, Foxes 0

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 226, 218, 214, Ziggy 225, Roger Spanier 218, Craig Dunker 204, 201

Women's High Games: Dar Larson 186, 164, Darci Spanier 166, Tasha Dunker 162

Men's High Series: Brad Waage 658, Ziggy 602, Roger Spanier 593

Women's High Series: Dar Larson 494, Vicki Walter 449, Darci Spanier 440

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Netters beat Webster Area, 3-2

It was a thriller for the Groton volleyball team Tuesday night as the Lady Tigers pulled out a 3-2 win in the first round of the regional tournament. Game scores were 24-26, 25-22, 14-25, 25-16 and 15-10.

Groton was 92 of 101 in serving with 16 ace serves. Marlee Jones was 14 of 19 with seven ace serves and Courtney Kurtz was 24 of 24 with four ace serves.

In sets, Groton was 143 of 143 with 38 assists. Kurtz had 136 sets and 37 assists.

The Tigers were 158 of 191 in spikes with 49 kills. Josie Doeden was 33 of 41 with 15 kills and Ashley Gibbs was 36 of 42 with 12 kills.

Tori Bjerke and Josie Doeden each had two blocks. The Tigers had 131 digs with Kasey Waage having 30, Kurtz 23 and Gibbs 22.

Groton will take on Milbank at 6 p.m. on Thursday while Roncalli plays Sisseton following the Groton-Milbank game.

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.

House for Rent

Two-bedroom house in Groton. Full basement, breezeway, attached garage, large yard. Wheelchair accessible. Furnished, appliances included. \$700/month. Less with lease. (941) 525-4515.

Today in Weather History

1959: A strong cold front brought near blizzard conditions and bitter cold temperatures. High temperatures in many locations only reached the upper teens. Some daytime highs include; 19 degrees in Pierre and Waubay; 18 degrees in Aberdeen, Faulkton, Kennebec, Pollock and Roscoe; 17 degree in Eureka, Gettysburg, Mobridge and Watertown; and 15 degrees in Timber Lake and near McIntosh. Some record or near record lows also occurred near midnight on the 5th. Some lows include; 2 degrees in Aberdeen; 1 degree near McIntosh; 0 degrees in Timber Lake and Pollock; and 2 degree below zero in Kennebec.

1894 - The famous Election Day snowstorm occurred in Connecticut. As much as a foot of wet snow fell, and the snow and high winds caused great damage to wires and trees. Winds gusted to 60 mph at Block Island RI. (David Ludlum)

1961 - Strong Santa Ana winds fanned the flames of the Bel Air and Brentwood fires in southern California destroying many homes. At 10 PM the Los Angeles Civic Center reported a temperature of 74 degrees along with a dew point of 5 degrees. On the 6th, Burbank reported a relative humidity of three percent. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - A slow moving storm produced five to nine inch rains across northern Georgia causing the Toccoa Dam to burst. As the earthen dam collapsed the waters rushed through the Toccoa Falls Bible College killing three persons in the dorms. Thirty-eight persons perished at a trailer park along the stream. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Low pressure off the California coast produced stormy weather in the southwestern U.S. Flash flooding stranded 8000 persons in the Death Valley National Park of southern California. Thunderstorms over southern Nevada produced dime size hail and wind gusts to 68 mph around Las Vegas. Unseasonably mild weather in the northeastern U.S. was replaced with snow and gale force winds. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A powerful low pressure system produced high winds from the Great Plains to New England, and produced heavy snow in northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Winds gusted to 64 mph at Knoxville TN, and reached 80 mph at Pleasant Valley VT. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Temperatures warmed into the 80s across much of Texas. Highs of 86 degrees at Abilene, Fort Worth and San Angelo were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

2002 - Severe thunderstorms moved across southeastern Alabama and the Florida panhandle, producing wind damage and several tornadoes. A tornado struck the Alabama town of Abbeville killing 2 people and injuring 25 (Associated Press).

FRIDAY IS
FRIED CHICKEN DAY
Served with Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Serving 5-9 p.m.

WE'VE GOT WINGS!

ANDOVER BAR & GRILL

Every Wednesday! 120 S Main St. • 298-5252

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TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	THURSDAY NIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY
 60%				 20%		
Rain Likely High: 51 °F	Blustery Low: 28 °F	Sunny High: 47 °F	Increasing Clouds Low: 31 °F	Slight Chc Rain High: 55 °F	Blustery Low: 30 °F	Mostly Sunny High: 41 °F



Clipper System Brings Rain, Wind

Follow us on Social Media

weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



A clipper system will move across the region today, bringing damp and windy conditions. Light rain will gradually shift east, at the same time northwest winds pick up. Wind gusts in excess of 45 mph are likely for much of the region this afternoon. Light rain may turn to snow briefly across the higher elevations of the Sisseton Hills this evening, however little to no snow accumulation is expected. Cooler air moves into the region Thursday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 50.8°F at 3:21 PM

Low: 24.0°F at 4:48 AM

High Gust: 23 mph at 1:58 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 79° in 1904

Record Low: -6° in 2003

Average High: 46°F

Average Low: 24°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.12

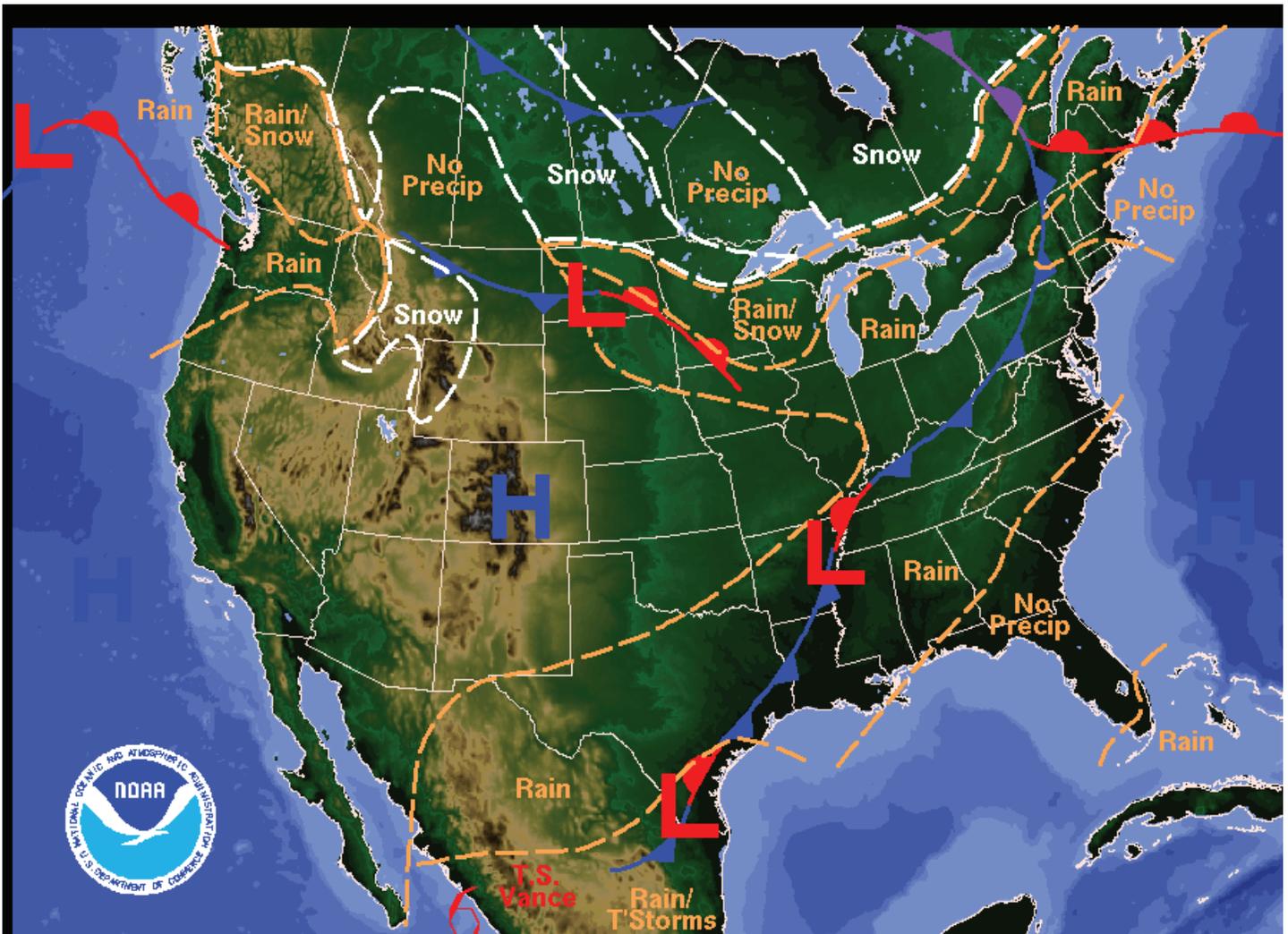
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.59

Precip Year to Date: 13.23

Sunset Tonight: 5:15 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:20 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Nov 05, 2014, issued 2:27 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



IS THE WORD "LOVE" A COVER-UP?

"Do you know what today is?" Mary, my wife, asked.

"Of course. It's Tuesday," I replied.

"Well, is it anything more than Tuesday? Does it have a number and is there a month that goes with it?" she asked with a faint smile.

Looking at my watch, I said, "It's October 24. Almost time for Halloween." And that did it.

First there came tears. Then, a few more words about forgetting important things - like birthdays. Then more tears. Not only was I embarrassed, I was humiliated that I forgot such an important date and event.

"But, I do love you. And that should make up for it," I said, thinking of the words of Solomon: "Love covers all wrong." But does it?

Love, God's love, is the center of every relationship - beginning with Him. And when we learn to love Him as He loves us, it will have a preeminent place in our lives. It will be visible to all whom we know - especially those in our lives that are special to us. They will be more than a name or number: they will be blest because we love them.

The love that Solomon describes here is a love that draws in and unites. It invites people into our hearts and then bonds them to us as closely as two pieces of Velcro.

We cannot use the word love as a "cover" when we do something wrong - as though we want the other person to feel guilty. True love, God's love, anticipates a need long before it surfaces. It remembers the needs of others and reaches out to them as God reaches out for each of us.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to be sincere and honest and pure when we say, "I love you!" May our love match Yours. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.

News from the Associated Press

Basin Electric Power Co-op holding annual meeting

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Basin Electric Power Cooperative is hosting more than 1,000 people from a nine-state region at its annual meeting in North Dakota's capital city.

The theme for this year's meeting is "Member Owned, Member Driven." It's scheduled Wednesday and Thursday at the Bismarck Event Center.

Basin Electric CEO and General Manager Paul Sukut and North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple are among the scheduled speakers.

Bismarck-based Basin Electric supplies power to 137 rural electric systems in the Dakotas, Wyoming, Minnesota, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Iowa and Nebraska. Those systems deliver power to about 2.8 million consumers.

GOP wraps up one-party rule in South Dakota

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — From South Dakota's congressional offices down to treasurer, Republicans hold every statewide office for the first time in more than 50 years.

Mike Rounds joins a newly united U.S. House and Senate as the state's junior senator — the first all-GOP South Dakota delegation since John F. Kennedy was president — replacing the lone, retiring Democratic holdout Tim Johnson.

A stacked political deck isn't necessarily unusual in a state that tends to lean Republican, but lawmakers said after Tuesday's election that their overwhelming majority status is proof that voters believe in a conservative path.

"I think that, hopefully, it's not just a symbol," U.S. Sen. John Thune said Tuesday evening. "I think it's more hopefully an indication that our government, our style has worked here in South Dakota."

By retaining the supermajority in the state Legislature and Dennis Daugaard in the governor's office — plus helping the national party succeed in regaining control of the Senate — Republicans plan to keep doing what they're doing.

Republicans told voters on the campaign trail that would include, at least on a state level, continuing to hold down taxes, keeping the state's business climate competitive and pursuing economic development programs to hold down an unemployment rate that's one of the country's lowest. They also plan to tackle initiatives such as improving transportation infrastructure and juvenile justice reform.

But some Democrats believe that one-party rule isn't a healthy way to govern, and intend on continuing to bring ethics measures to the state Legislature.

This Senate race was nothing like Johnson's narrow, 524-vote triumph over Thune in 2002, or Thune's tight victory over Sen. Tom Daschle in 2004. Rounds held a margin of more than 20 percent over his nearest rival early Wednesday, with about a quarter left to count. South Dakota Republican Party Chairman Craig Lawrence said the state party tripled or quadrupled its ground game this year compared to its efforts in 2012.

And the state Democratic Party didn't have the resources to adequately back legislative candidates or even its gubernatorial nominee, state Rep. Susan Wismer. Democrats didn't run candidates for at least 40 of the state's 105 legislative seats on the ballot.

"If I fail, it's only because I didn't have the money and the machine behind me," Wismer said before

the results arrived Tuesday, referring to the Republican party. "It's not because our message wasn't the right message."

Lawrence said he believes the GOP's focus on limited government, personal freedom and low taxes resonates with South Dakota voters. Rounds reiterated his campaign themes on Tuesday night: He'll try to repeal and replace the federal health care act, push forward on the Keystone XL pipeline and remove bureaucracy and regulatory burdens for farmers and businesses.

On a statewide level, Lawrence said Republicans plan to listen to residents — and pledged not to overreach, a promise that state House Democratic Leader Bernie Hunhoff believes.

"People who think they have a mandate wake up in the morning with a big surprise," Lawrence said.

Wisner said Democrats' policies still may pass; she pointed to the successful amendment to raise South Dakota's minimum wage come January.

But she also said she believes one-party rule breeds extremism and closes off government. One clear example is controversy over Rounds' management of the EB-5 visa program when he was governor, which his opponents dogged him on during the campaign.

The program allows wealthy foreigners to obtain visas to live in the United States in exchange for investments in South Dakota job projects. Rounds was ultimately able to shake it off, but the small Democratic minority of state lawmakers plan to chase after ethics legislation this session that they hope will prevent further potential abuses by state employees.

Hunhoff was pragmatic about what the Republican gains meant for the state.

"We've lost the checks and balances some time ago," he said earlier Tuesday. "I don't think that's going to be a big change between yesterday and tomorrow."

Republicans earn clean sweep in South Dakota

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Republicans earned a clean sweep in South Dakota, retaining control of the U.S. House seat, the governor's mansion, and several constitutional offices, as well as claiming the U.S. Senate office being vacated by retiring U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson, South Dakota's lone congressional Democrat.

Issues with absentee ballots delayed results from Sioux Falls being reported. Minnehaha County Auditor Bob Litz said the reason was mismarked or marked-up ballots, and that he couldn't report anything until all absentee ballots were counted.

Pine Ridge and Oglala also had problems when polls had to open late because their election board superintendents didn't show up. The delay pushed back the closing of polls in that area for one hour.

ROUNDS PREVAILS

Rather than eking out a victory, Republican Mike Rounds easily defeated three challengers, overcoming voter concerns about his ethics and conservative chops.

The former governor beat out 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.

Rounds's win put Republicans a step closer in their successful quest for a net gain of six seats to take control of the chamber.

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NOEM'S HOUSE

Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem breezed to a third term as South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House by easily defeating Democratic challenger Corinna Robinson. Noem, who was first elected in 2010, campaigned on issues of agriculture and human trafficking.

Noem has said priorities in her third term will include working on trade agreements that could boost South Dakota's economy.

Robinson, a retired Army veteran, struggled to build name recognition and a strong fundraising base.

DAUGAARD TIMES TWO

Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard, the favorite candidate in the gubernatorial race, has earned another four-year term. He ran on a platform of fiscal responsibility and economic growth, but drew strong criticism from school boards and educators for cutting school aid in 2011 when the sluggish economy limited state tax collections.

Daugaard defeated Democratic challenger state Rep. Susan Wismer, the state's first woman to be nominated for governor by a major party. During her campaign, she was critical of Daugaard's handling of the state budget.

Matt Michels is Daugaard's lieutenant governor.

YOUR OPINIONS PLEASE

There were three measures on the ballot statewide:

— Voters approved the so-called patient choice measure that had split the state's medical community. Under Initiated Measure 17, 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.

— Individuals earning the minimum wage will get a bump of about \$50 a week starting in January after voters approved Initiated Measure 18. The measure will raise the minimum wage from the federal standard of \$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.

— Deadwood casinos may see the number of games they can offer double under the approved Constitutional Amendment Q, which gives the Legislature the authority to add roulette, keno and craps to the historic town's gambling facilities. The additional games also could be offered at the state's tribal casinos under a federal law.

OTHER STATEWIDE RACES

Republicans retained their hold on statewide offices, including Attorney General Marty Jackley, who was re-elected over a Libertarian candidate.

Shantel Krebs beat out three challengers to replace Secretary of State Jason Gant. The open seat of Commissioner of School and Public Lands will be filled by Ryan Brunner.

Steve Barnett will continue to be the state's auditor for another term, while Treasurer Rich Sattgast defeated his Democratic and Libertarian opponents. Voters also re-elected incumbent Gary Hanson for the Public Utilities Commission.

LEGISLATIVE EASE

Republicans will retain control of both chambers of the state Legislature for the next two years. All 70 House and 35 Senate seats come up for re-election every two years, but Republicans needed to win only a handful of contested races to keep control — as they've done for 20 years.

'Hagar' cartoonist discusses kids book about SD

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The cartoonist who publishes the "Hagar the Horrible" comic strip will discuss his first children's book over the state's digital network.

Chris Browne lives in Sioux Falls with his wife. He wrote and illustrated "The Monster Who Ate the State," and it was published by the South Dakota State Historical Society Press.

Browne's presentation starts at 7 p.m. Central time Wednesday at the University Center in Sioux Falls. The program will be broadcast on the state's Digital Dakota Network to the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre and the School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City.

The book is about South Dakota and it's suitable for first- to fourth-grade readers or can be read to younger children.

South Dakota voters approve all ballot issues

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota voters approved all three issues on Tuesday's statewide ballot — bringing an increase to the state's minimum wage, changes to health insurance provisions and likely expansion of gambling options in some state casinos.

Individuals earning minimum wage will see a \$1.25-an-hour bump in their paychecks to \$8.50 starting in January as a result of the approved Initiated Measure 18. The Democratic- and union-backed proposal also will increase the \$2.13 hourly tip wage to half the minimum wage and tie future increases to the cost of living.

The increase would represent about \$50 additional per week for a full-time worker. The federal minimum wage was last increased in 2009.

Jim Plut, a 66-year-old Belle Fourche resident, said he is "pretty far right of center," but voted to increase the minimum wage.

"It's only right. They just don't get paid enough," Plut said Sunday morning as he finished up his weekly post-church breakfast with friends.

Voters also approved Initiated Measure 17, which gives patients more leeway on selecting doctors within their health insurance networks. Doctors who agree to the conditions set forth by insurers, including payments for services provided to patients, could join the insurer's preferred provider list. Preferred providers, also known as in-network, usually are less expensive than those outside of a network.

Well-funded supporters spent more than \$560,000 in advertising to convey to voters that their proposal could provide the state's patients more freedom to choose their doctor.

"If I have to go to a horse doctor because my insurance tells me to, that's not right," said Patricia McEntee, 65, of Sioux Falls.

Opponents had argued that the measure will neither provide more choice nor reduce costs.

The third proposal, Amendment Q, approved by voters gives the Legislature the authority to add roulette, keno and craps to Deadwood's casinos and, under a federal law, tribal casinos. Deadwood casinos currently offer slot machines, poker and blackjack.

Supporters said the new games could help revitalize Deadwood, where casinos have seen stagnant revenues in recent years, in part because of new casinos in Iowa and Colorado.

Larry Groll, a 65-year-old transplant from El Cajone, California, said Sunday that he voted early in favor of allowing more games. The retired police sergeant who moved to the historic town eight years ago, said other gambling towns like Las Vegas and Laughlin, Nevada, already have similar games and said it makes sense for Deadwood to have the same.

Opponents, however, argued that the additional games could bolster the negative effects of gambling, such as increased crime, suicides, addictions and divorce.

Associated Press writers Kevin Burbach in Deadwood and James Nord contributed to this report.

Service set for longtime Mammoth Site director

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — A memorial service is scheduled later this month for Larry Agenbroad, longtime director and principal investigator at The Mammoth Site in southwestern South Dakota.

Agenbroad died Friday at a Hot Springs retirement home. He was 81. Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home says a memorial service is scheduled at the Hot Springs Mueller Civic Center at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15.

Agenbroad was director and principal investigator at The Mammoth Site for nearly four decades, helping transform it into a world-class facility that is home to the highest concentration of mammoth fossils in the world. Sixty-one have been found in the area. About 100,000 people visit the site each year.

Republicans poised to keep control of Legislature

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State Republicans will retain control of both chambers of the South Dakota Legislature for the next two years, incomplete legislative election results showed Wednesday morning.

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

The legislative victories Tuesday were part of a Republican sweep of statewide and congressional offices.

Republicans entered Election Day with a supermajority, holding 81 of the 105 legislative seats. With 29 of 35 races decided, Democrats will have at least seven Senate seats again this biennium.

Craig Lawrence, the chair of the South Dakota Republican Party, said Tuesday that even though South Dakota is maintaining strong majorities in both chambers, Republicans can't relax.

"When you get majorities like that, man, you have to be on your toes to do a good job," he said. "There's no basking in the sun and thinking you've got some mandate."

South Dakota OKs upping minimum wage to \$8.50

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota voters have approved a measure to increase the minimum wage by \$1.25 an hour beginning in January.

Initiated Measure 18 will raise the minimum wage from the federal rate of \$7.25 to \$8.50 an hour. The Democratic- and union-backed proposal also will increase the \$2.13 hourly tip wage to half the minimum wage and tie future increases to the cost of living.

The increase represents about \$50 additional per week for a full-time worker. The federal minimum wage was last increased in 2009.

Proponents argued that a wage hike would boost South Dakota's lagging personal income, but business groups said it could trigger layoffs and higher prices for some goods and services.

A recent study found that the measure could give raises to 34,000 workers.

South Dakota voters OK Deadwood gambling expansion

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota voters have approved a proposal giving the Legislature the authority to add a new batch of games at Deadwood casinos.

Proposed constitutional amendment Q would allow casinos in the historic old west town to offer roulette, keno and craps. Those casinos currently offer slot machines, poker and blackjack.

It also would allow the state's tribal casinos to offer the three new games under federal law.

Supporters say the new games could help revitalize Deadwood. Casinos in that city have seen stagnant revenues in recent years, in part because of new casinos in Iowa and Colorado.

Opponents say the additional games could bolster the negative effects of gambling, such as increased crime, suicides, addictions and divorce.

Lawmakers will take up the proposal at the next session in January.

Republican Rounds wins South Dakota US Senate seat

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Republican Mike Rounds bought his ticket to Washington with a pitch heard around the country: Help the GOP take back the U.S. Senate.

Rounds beat out three opponents for South Dakota's open seat in a race that was once considered close enough for national scrutiny — and money. The former two-term governor had support from men, older voters, those who identified as conservative and those who felt the government is doing too many things that should be left to businesses and individuals, according to preliminary results of an exit poll conducted for The Associated Press and television networks.

"I will not forget the people of South Dakota," Rounds said in his victory speech. "I will not forget our roots right here in the heartland of America."

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

Rounds led late Tuesday night with a more than 20 percent margin over his nearest rival with about a quarter of the vote yet to count.

His Democratic opponent Rick Weiland had a strong showing among those who identified as liberal or Democrats, according to the poll of 886 voters, which includes preliminary results from a telephone survey of 260 who voted early or absentee. And former GOP Sen. Larry Pressler, who ran as an independent, could not draw enough votes from Rounds to affect the outcome.

The race was briefly considered competitive in the final few weeks of the campaign. 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 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.

Matthew Schilling, 19, said he planned to vote for Weiland on Tuesday afternoon in part because of the EB-5 issue.

"It seems like something I wouldn't want our state to be associated with," the Augustana College student said.

Weiland in his concession speech pushed for the liberal policies he championed during the campaign, including the federal health care law, student loan reform and protecting entitlements. He said the fight is just beginning.

"This was supposed to be a walk in the park for the Republican Party, and we turned it into a race,"

Weiland said to a crowd of supporters in Sioux Falls. "It doesn't end tonight. It can't end tonight."

Pressler said in a statement late Tuesday that he's happy to have raised issues important to South Dakota residents and denounced the heavy spending in the campaign, especially from out-of-state groups.

Throughout the race, Rounds attempted to tie his opponents to President Barack Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, both of whom he predicted voters in this Republican-heavy state would reject.

Headed into his first term in Washington, Rounds said he would move forward with efforts to repeal and replace the health care act, push forward on the Keystone XL pipeline and remove bureaucracy and regulatory burdens for farmers and businesses. With Republican control of the House and Senate, many of those positions will likely advance to Obama's desk.

Sioux Falls resident Josh Mans, 29, said that giving the GOP control of the Senate "excites" him and is one of the reasons why he headed to the polls, calling it "a step in the right direction" to end Washington gridlock.

Rounds will join Republican John Thune on South Dakota's Senate delegation.

Daugaard re-elected as South Dakota governor

KEVIN BURBACH

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard won re-election handily Tuesday, beating out state Democratic Rep. Susan Wismer in a wave of Republican victories in South Dakota.

Daugaard had largely been considered a shoo-in to win a second term as Wismer, a six-year state legislator and accountant who campaigned on the idea that state government needed a diversity of opinions, struggled to gain name recognition with voters.

Daugaard swept to victory — up 3 to 1 on Wismer with most of the vote counted late Tuesday — with strong support among both men and women and in all areas of the state, according to preliminary results of an exit poll conducted for The Associated Press and television networks.

Wismer ran strong among voters who approved of President Barack Obama's performance and those who identified as Democrats. She was the first woman to run for governor with a major party in South Dakota, but she largely downplayed that significance, choosing to focus instead on her blueprint for the state.

Daugaard campaigned lightly, making the occasional campaign stop and public debate, but mostly depended on his record of limited government that he established during his first term in office.

"Through this election, the voters have spoken and they believe South Dakota is on the right track," Daugaard said Tuesday night in his victory speech in Sioux Falls.

Daugaard said his administration had been very successful in its first four years, but said there is more to be done — touching on workforce development and transportation infrastructure.

"In overcoming obstacles, we don't merely survive," Daugaard said. "We prosper and we achieve beyond expectations."

Under Daugaard, the state balanced its budget in 2011 and saw surpluses each following year. It reformed how it treats nonviolent drug offenders and brought its unemployment rate to second-lowest in the nation behind only North Dakota. The governor pledged to cut government spending in all areas by 10 percent when he entered office and, in most cases, succeeded.

Wismer had campaigned on the idea that South Dakota government needed a "competition of ideas." She said Republicans have controlled state government for too long, which she believes has led to cor-

ruption and a lack of funding for key areas, such as teacher's salaries, nursing homes and transportation infrastructure.

In her concession speech Tuesday night, Wismer said her supporters have "no reason to hang our heads in defeat. There is still so much to be done."

Wismer, who didn't rule out vying for public office again in the future, vowed to the Sioux Falls crowd that Democrats will come back to prominence in South Dakota.

"I am pleading with you," she said. "Don't give up on us. We will return."

South Dakota voters haven't elected a Democratic governor since sending Dick Kneip to Pierre in 1974, and they've elected only four in South Dakota's 125-year history.

The survey of 848 voters, conducted for AP and television networks by Edison Research, includes preliminary results from a telephone survey of 260 who voted early or absentee. Results were subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

South Dakota GOP Rep. Noem re-elected to US House

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Republican Rep. Kristi Noem breezed to a third term as South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House on Tuesday by soundly defeating Democratic challenger Corinna Robinson.

Noem's victory was anticipated as Robinson, a retired Army veteran, struggled to build name recognition and a strong fundraising base. Noem, who was first elected in 2010, took a low-key approach to campaigning, airing few television ads and only in the race's final weeks.

"Ronald Reagan once said 'As government expands, liberty contracts,'" Noem said during her acceptance speech in Sioux Falls. "Well, I say it's time for us to expand liberty and contract the government. It's time that Washington do more with less and it's time that they start working for you, not the other way around."

Republicans will control of Congress after netting crucial six U.S. Senate seats, including South Dakota's lone spot.

Noem has focused on issues such as agriculture and human trafficking during her time in Washington. She said her priorities for her newly earned term will include working on two trade agreements being negotiated with nations in the Asian-Pacific region and with the European Union that could increase the state's agricultural exports.

"In South Dakota, we have over 20,000 jobs that rely on agriculture," Noem recently told The Associated Press. "If we were able to expand our exports, South Dakota's economy would go crazy."

Noem's campaign ads focused on her work in Congress, including one about her efforts to assist South Dakota ranchers after an October 2013 blizzard that killed off and dispersed thousands of cattle.

Although Noem coasted to victory, not all voters believed she deserves another term.

Research scientist Mary Kinkel, who said she sees herself as a moderate, said she voted for Robinson because she believes Noem "does nothing" in Congress.

"She didn't do anything during the blizzard last year," said the 41-year-old Sioux Falls resident. "I think she's an obstructionist."

Robinson's campaign promises included working on increasing teacher salaries and promoting equal pay for equal work. But she struggled to reach voters as her fundraising efforts did not allow her to air TV ads. Noem raised more than \$350,000 between July 1 and Sept. 30, while Robinson's supporters contributed nearly \$30,000 during the same period.

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.

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Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

VOLLEYBALL

District 1AA District Semifinal

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Brookings, 25-7, 25-18, 25-17

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Watertown, 29-31, 25-22, 25-20, 25-17

District 2AA District Semifinal

Harrisburg def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 8-25, 27-25, 25-27, 25-16, 17-15

Yankton def. Brandon Valley, 25-22, 25-22, 12-25, 25-18

District 3AA District Semifinal

Aberdeen Central def. Mitchell, 25-17, 25-14, 25-14

Huron def. Pierre, 25-14, 25-19, 25-15

District 4AA First Round

Rapid City Stevens def. Rapid City Central, 25-19, 25-14, 25-17

Spearfish def. Sturgis, 25-19, 25-6, 25-14

Region 1A First Round

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Britton-Hecla, 25-17, 25-10, 25-9

Groton Area def. Webster, 24-26, 25-22, 14-25, 25-16, 15-10

Sisseton def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-5, 25-7, 25-13

Region 2A First Round

Clark/Willow Lake def. Hamlin, 25-16, 23-25, 25-23, 12-25, 15-7

Deubrook def. Deuel, 25-18, 25-17, 25-17

Region 3A First Round

Dell Rapids def. Flandreau Indian, 25-11, 25-6, 25-19

Flandreau def. Garretson, 25-8, 21-25, 25-18, 25-17

Region 4A First Round

Beresford def. Lennox, 25-23, 25-18, 22-25, 25-13

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Canton, 25-22, 25-17, 25-6

Tea Area def. Vermillion, 25-15, 25-21, 25-18

Region 5A First Round

Parkston def. McCook Central/Montrose, 25-21, 25-13, 25-21

Tri-Valley def. Bon Homme, 18-25, 25-19, 25-21, 25-17

Wagner def. West Central, 25-16, 25-15, 25-14

Region 6A First Round

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Chamberlain, 25-16, 18-25, 26-24, 25-21

Winner def. Crow Creek, 25-13, 25-7, 25-8

Region 8A First Round

Custer def. Hill City, 17-25, 25-14, 25-14, 25-23

St. Thomas More def. Hot Springs, 25-11, 25-19, 25-13

District 1B First Round

Grant-Deuel def. Waverly-South Shore, 22-25, 25-12, 25-16, 20-25, 15-12

Great Plains Lutheran def. Rosholt, 7-25, 25-22, 25-13, 25-11

District 2B First Round

Leola/Frederick def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-11, 25-14, 25-9

Waubay def. Langford, 25-19, 25-15, 22-25, 26-24

District 3B First Round

Faulkton def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-22, 25-15, 25-14

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Herreid/Selby Area def. Edmunds Central, 25-13, 25-7, 25-13
District 4B First Round
Sunshine Bible Academy def. Lower Brule, 25-0, 25-0, 25-0
District 5B First Round
Castlewood def. Florence/Henry, 25-22, 25-20, 25-9
Estelline def. Lake Preston, 25-9, 12-25, 20-25, 25-21, 17-15
Semifinal
Arlington def. Estelline, 25-13, 25-16, 25-7
DeSmet def. Castlewood, 19-25, 25-9, 25-18, 25-10
District 6B First Round
James Valley Christian def. Iroquois, 25-15, 25-10, 25-12
District 7B First Round
Baltic def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-13, 25-18, 25-17
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Colman-Egan, 25-20, 25-22, 25-19
District 8B First Round
Bridgewater-Emery def. Canistota, 25-20, 25-12, 25-16
Mitchell Christian def. Howard, 25-16, 25-16, 25-14
District 9B First Round
Marion def. Menno, 25-15, 25-17, 25-13
Scotland def. Freeman, 25-10, 26-24, 25-12
District 10B First Round
Centerville def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-8, 25-9, 16-25, 25-8
Semifinal
Gayville-Volin def. Centerville, 25-5, 25-11, 25-12
Viborg-Hurley def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-23, 25-22, 21-25, 25-27, 15-6
District 11B First Round
Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-9, 25-9, 25-12
District 12B First Round
Andes Central def. Marty Indian, 25-9, 25-7, 25-10
Colome def. Avon, 23-25, 25-23, 25-22, 20-25, 15-13
District 13B First Round
Lyman def. Crazy Horse, 25-4, 25-0, 25-2
Stanley County def. Kadoka Area, 25-20, 19-25, 25-27, 25-23, 17-15
District 14B First Round
New Underwood def. Oelrichs, 25-11, 25-18, 24-26, 23-25, 15-7
Philip def. Edgemont, 25-8, 25-18, 25-16
District 15B First Round
Dupree def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-17, 25-14, 25-11
District Semifinal
McLaughlin def. McIntosh, 17-25, 29-27, 26-24, 25-17
Timber Lake def. Dupree, 25-14, 25-19, 25-21
District 16B First Round
Bison def. Takini, 25-7, 25-20, 25-9
Newell def. Faith, 25-19, 25-17, 25-13

South Dakota OKs measure to increase doctor choice

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota voters have approved a ballot measure that could give medical patients more freedom to choose doctors within their health insurance networks.

Under Initiated Measure 17, doctors who agree to the conditions set forth by insurers could join the insurer's preferred provider list. Preferred providers, or in-network, usually are less expensive than those outside of a network.

Proponents said the measure would give residents the freedom to choose their doctor, while opponents argued it will neither provide more choice nor reduce costs.

The measure was the most costly of the three on the ballot this election cycle, thanks to well-funded supporters and opponents. The proposal split the state's medical community with specialty hospitals and many doctors in favor, while insurers and large health care hospital systems were against it.

Mismarked ballots delays Minnehaha County vote

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Problems with absentee ballots delayed the reporting of vote results from Sioux Falls in Tuesday's election.

Minnehaha County Auditor Bob Litz says the reason was mismarked or marked-up ballots. He says some people scribbled outside the lines, made comments on ballots and even spilled food on them.

Earlier in the day in Sioux Falls, some voters were confused about where to vote. The city for its local election in April had used voting centers, where voters from any precinct could cast ballots. Those centers weren't in use Tuesday.

Krebs among Republicans to win statewide seats

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakotans are keeping Republicans in charge of statewide offices, including both incumbents and two open seats.

For secretary of state, Republican Shantel Krebs defeated Democrat Angelia Schultz, Libertarian Emmett Reistroffer and Lori Stacey with the Constitution Party. Krebs replaces Jason Gant, who didn't seek re-election.

Deputy commissioner of school and public lands Ryan Brunner, a Republican, was elected to that office's top spot, beating out Libertarian John English.

For attorney general, Republican incumbent Marty Jackley won re-election over Libertarian Chad Haber.

GOP Auditor Steve Barnett defeated Libertarian challenger Kurt Evans.

Republican Treasurer Rich Sattgast earned another term by defeating Democrat Denny Pierson and Libertarian Ken Santema.

And Republican incumbent Gary Hanson was re-elected to the Public Utilities Commission over Democrat David Allen and Wayne Schmidt with the Constitutional Party.

Exit poll: Men, women strongly support Daugaard

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Exit poll results show Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard swept to victory in his quest for a second term with strong support among men and women and in all areas of the state.

Daugaard's strong showing came in a state that hasn't elected a Democrat as governor since 1974, and where a majority of voters said they were worried about the national economy.

Preliminary results of an exit poll conducted for The Associated Press and television networks indicate

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Democratic challenger, state Rep. Susan Wismer, ran strong among voters who approved of President Barack Obama's performance and those who identified as Democrats.

The survey of 848 voters was conducted by Edison Research. Results were subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Exit poll: Men, conservatives supported Rounds

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Exit poll results indicate Mike Rounds pulled out a win in the South Dakota race for Senate with support from men, older voters and those who identified as conservative.

Preliminary results of the exit poll conducted for The Associated Press and television networks found that those who felt the government is doing too many things that should be left to businesses and individuals also supported the former Republican governor.

Democratic opponent Rick Weiland ran strong among those who identified as liberal or Democrats.

Independent Larry Pressler, who spent 18 years in Congress as a Republican, could not draw enough votes from Rounds to affect the outcome.

The survey of 848 voters was conducted for AP and television networks by Edison Research.

Obama: Dems Senate challenge worst since 1950s

JIM KUHNHENN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama compared the political landscape for the midterm election Tuesday to the 1958 elections during the presidency of Republican Dwight Eisenhower when his party suffered severe losses in the Senate.

One-third of Senate seats are up for election this year and Obama says many states with contested races tilt to the Republican Party.

"In this election cycle this is probably the worst possible group of states for Democrats since Dwight Eisenhower," Obama said Tuesday on WNPR, a Connecticut public radio station. "There are a lot of states that are being contested where they just tend to tilt Republican, and Democrats are competitive but they tend to tilt that way."

In the 1958 election, Eisenhower's second midterm, the Republican Party lost 13 Senate seats to the Democrats and Democrats gained two seats from the newly admitted state of Alaska. It was the biggest party shift in Senate history.

Obama's downbeat assessment came the same day that Vice President Joe Biden predicted Democrats would lose seats but retain control of the Senate.

Of 10 of the closest Senate contests this year, seven are in states that Obama lost in 2012. And Republicans are heavily favored to replace retiring Senate Democrats in Montana, South Dakota and West Virginia.

Republicans need to pick up six seats to gain a Senate majority for the first time since 2006.

The White House said Obama conducted 14 radio interviews over the past two days, virtually all of them with urban radio stations with largely African-American audiences. The chats were designed to get voters to cast their ballots and aired in some of the main battleground states, including Pennsylvania, Florida, Illinois and Michigan.

He gave interviews to four stations in North Carolina where Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan faces a difficult re-election. He also spoke to two Wisconsin stations where Democrats are seeking to defeat Republican Gov. Scott Walker and two in Baltimore, aiming for Maryland voters in the tightening governors' race.

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Biden said in a separate radio interview that he foresees Democratic victories in closely contested races in Alaska, North Carolina, New Hampshire and Georgia and in a runoff election in Louisiana.

He did not mention Colorado and Iowa, two other neck-and-neck races.

Biden also suggested that Kansas independent Greg Orman could beat Republican Sen. Pat Roberts. Orman has not said whether he would join Republicans or Democrats in the Senate, only that he would caucus, or meet with, the party that has a clear majority.

Biden, predicting a Democratic majority, says Orman "will be with us."

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. WHERE A NEW REALITY HAS BEGUN

Washington wakes up to a Republican-controlled Congress that will shape America's government in the last two years of the president's term.

2. WHAT THE NEW SENATE LEADER'S PRIORITIES WILL BE

A veteran senator, Mitch McConnell is determined to force a showdown over President Obama's health care overhaul and environmental and financial regulation.

3. ALL EYES ON 2016 AS MIDTERMS CHANGE LANDSCAPE

Republicans waste no time in attacking their next target: Hillary Clinton.

4. WHO IS MASTERMINDING IRAQ'S WAR AGAINST THE ISLAMIC STATE

Iranian general Ghasem Soleimani is credited with engineering a number of victories that the Iraqi army has achieved in fighting the terrorist group.

5. LOW-KEY SCION AWAITS TURN TO RUN SAMSUNG

South Korea's business world is wondering whether the 46-year-old son of the company's chief can lead it to more profits in a rapidly changing technology market.

6. MEXICO'S MOST-WANTED COUPLE CAPTURED

A mayor and his wife are accused of running their town as a drug fiefdom — and of ordering deadly attacks on students.

7. HBO BIDS FAREWELL TO 'THE NEWSROOM'

The show about a struggling cable-news network is coming to an end in its third season after mixed reviews and faltering ratings.

8. PRINCES RELEGATED TO LESSER ROLES

Where romance was once the goal of Disney's cinematic princesses (think "Cinderella" and "Sleeping Beauty"), the moviemaker is shifting its lens toward independent female protagonists.

9. TIBET'S EXILES MOURN LOST FAMILY TIES

Many of the Buddhist region's emigres left were smuggled out when they were children and have never really known their families.

10. VIKINGS' ADRIAN PETERSON AVOIDS JAIL IN CHILD ABUSE CASE

The All-Pro running back pleads no contest to a misdemeanor. It's not clear how the plea deal will affect his playing status.

AP News in Brief

Midterm election: High stakes, flipped seats and key players on GOP's big night

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans rolled in a series of races Tuesday to seize control the Senate, the biggest prize in the midterm elections.

This, while seeing two vulnerable GOP governors defeat their challengers in marquee races in Wisconsin and Florida and building an even stronger majority in the House.

Altogether, Republicans needed to gain six seats to win back the Senate majority they lost in 2006. They achieved that and much more.

Analysis: Republicans deal Obama devastating blow, gain greater influence in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — With sweeping victories that exceeded their own sky-high expectations, the GOP has dealt President Barack Obama and Democrats the most devastating electoral defeat of his presidency. Their prize is full control of Congress, and with it, the power to shape the direction of America's government in the next two years.

Both parties talked Tuesday about need to compromise, but they will face tough obstacles in following through. The list is long: the already looming 2016 elections, persistent divisions within the Republican Party, and the frosty relationship between Obama and Sen. Mitch McConnell, who won re-election in Kentucky and is likely to ascend to majority leader.

"I don't expect the president to wake up tomorrow and view the world any differently than he did this morning," McConnell said at his victory party Tuesday night. "He knows I won't either."

The election puts Republicans back in power in the Senate for the first time in eight years, and alongside a GOP-led House, the party will set a legislative agenda unlike anything that would come from Obama's White House. The president's top advisers have spent weeks planning for how to deal with a Republican-led Senate, and Obama and congressional leaders plan to meet Friday at the White House.

In the rosier of scenarios, McConnell and Obama can look for common ground in areas where their parties have overlapping interests: overhauling the nation's complicated tax code, repairing crumbling roads and bridges, and inking free-trade agreements with the European Union and Asia-Pacific nations.

Kentucky's Mitch McConnell, capping 30-year Senate career, set to become next majority leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — As a child, Mitch McConnell contracted and largely beat polio. He was student president in high school, the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky law school. He's never lost a general election and has spent 30 years in the Senate scaling Republican leadership ranks.

Half a century after his first Washington stint as an intern, the methodical Kentucky Republican is now poised to achieve his long-cherished goal: becoming Senate majority leader.

McConnell was re-elected to a sixth term Tuesday as his party gained at least seven Senate seats — enough to control the chamber in next year's Congress. McConnell, 72, is certain to be chosen by his GOP colleagues for the Senate's most powerful job and will join House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, in confronting Barack Obama with his presidency's first Republican-controlled Congress.

"He's right at the doorstep of the position he's aspired to all his life," said former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss.

For McConnell, who's been Senate minority leader for eight years, his ascension comes just in time. The 2016 election cycle looks tough for Republicans, who will defend 24 of 34 Senate seats.

On a big night for Republicans, the party wastes no time and turns its attention toward 2016

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — And so it begins.

Even before the polls had closed on Election Day, Republicans had shifted their focus to 2016 and the party's top target: Hillary Rodham Clinton. And by the end of the night, the GOP had claimed victories in Senate contests and governor races that will serve as a White House launch pad for the party's most ambitious.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who has acknowledged presidential aspirations, won his third election in four years, while Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder earned second terms amidst White House whispers of their own.

The governors and their Senate allies won with the backing of high-profile Republicans thinking about the next election: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

And lest there be any doubt what those Republicans were thinking about on this Election Day, Paul offered an analysis that pointed firmly to the next.

Ballot measures: Oregon, DC voters approve measures to legalize recreational marijuana use

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Voters in Oregon and the District of Columbia legalized the use of recreational pot, elating marijuana activists who hope to extend their winning streak across the country.

Oregon will join the company of Colorado and Washington state, where voters approved the recreational use of marijuana two years ago. The District of Columbia is on the same path unless Congress, which has review power, blocks the move.

Another marijuana-legalization measure in Alaska was maintaining a steady lead in early returns.

Other volatile issues on state ballots on Tuesday include gambling and abortion. Voters in Washington state, faced with two competing measures on gun sales, approved an expansion of background checks. And several states including Arkansas and South Dakota approved minimum wage increases.

The District of Columbia's marijuana measure would make it legal to possess up to two ounces of pot and up to three mature marijuana plants for personal use, but it does not provide for the legal sale of marijuana, leaving that matter up to the D.C. Council. That's different from the measures in Oregon and Alaska, which would follow the example of Colorado and Washington state in setting up systems for regulating and taxing retail sales of marijuana.

Iran general, Shiite militants at the forefront of Iraq ground war against IS group

BAGHDAD (AP) — When Islamic State militants retreated from the embattled town of Jurf al-Sakher last week, the Iraqi military was quick to flaunt a rare victory against the extremist group, with state television showing tanks and Humvees parading through the town and soldiers touring government

buildings that had been occupied by the militants since August.

However, photos soon emerged on independent Iraqi news websites revealing a more discrete presence — the powerful Iranian general Ghasem Soleimani — whose name has become synonymous with the handful of victories attributed to Iraqi ground forces. Local commanders said Lebanon's powerful Shiite Hezbollah group was also on the front lines.

Shiite militias have played a key role in driving the Islamic State group out of the so-called Baghdad Belt of Sunni villages ringing the capital. But the sectarian militias have long been implicated in brutality against the country's Sunnis, and while they have benefited from U.S.-led airstrikes, their advance could undermine efforts to knit the troubled country together.

Militia commanders told The Associated Press that dozens of advisers from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the Lebanese Hezbollah were on the front lines in Jurf al-Sakher, providing weapons training to some 7,000 troops and militia fighters, and coordinating with military commanders ahead of the operation.

One commander, who agreed only to be identified by his nickname, Abu Zeinab, said Soleimani began planning the Jurf al-Sakher operation three months ago. The cleared town, 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of the capital, lies on a road often used by Shiite pilgrims, who will be heading in droves to the holy city of Karbala this week to commemorate the death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Imam Hussein, in a 7th century battle that marked the beginning of the Sunni-Shiite divide.

Kurdish fighters help Islamic State group militants in battle for key Syrian town of Kobani

BEIRUT (AP) — Ethnic Kurds are helping members of the Islamic State group in the battle for the key Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani, sharing their knowledge of the local terrain and language with the extremists, according to Iraqi and Kurdish officials.

It is not clear how many Kurds are aiding the estimated 3,000 Islamic State militants in the Kobani area — and fighting against their own Kurdish brethren — but activists say they are playing a major role in the 7-week-old conflict near the Turkish border.

A top military commander for the extremists in the town is an Iraqi Kurd, known by the nom de guerre of Abu Khattab al-Kurdi, helping them in the battle against fellow Kurds.

Officials with the main Syrian Kurdish force known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG, say they became aware of the Kurds among the mostly Sunni Muslim extremists early in the fighting.

As Kurdish fighters were defending the nearby Syrian village of Shiran in September, two Kurdish men with different accents and wearing YPG uniforms infiltrated their ranks, Kurdish officials said. Upon questioning, however, they were captured and admitted to fighting for the Islamic State group, the officials added.

Mother posts cheery YouTube videos a year before police say she threw her son off a bridge

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — Nearly a year ago Jillian McCabe was posting cheery videos on YouTube of her 6-year-old son, London, holding a stuffed toy lion while tossing coins in a fountain to make a wish, and her husband, Matt, lying in a hospital bed talking about his sudden struggle to walk and even talk.

As darkness was falling Monday, according to a police affidavit, Jillian McCabe, 34, parked her car at the north end of the picturesque Yaquina Bay Bridge in Newport, Ore., took her son in her arms, carried

him to the middle of the span, and threw him to his death in the water below.

Then she dialed 911 on her cellphone.

"I just threw my son over the Yaquina Bay Bridge," McCabe told the dispatcher, according to a probable cause affidavit filed by police Tuesday.

She described her son, London Grey McCabe, and the clothes he was wearing, saying he was in the water and gone. Later that night, a body was reported in the water at a bayside resort about a mile from the bridge, and police said they confirmed it was the kindergartener. Attorneys appointed to represent her did not return calls for comment.

Survey finds most people aware of dangers of texting and driving, yet many do it anyway

Nearly everyone agrees that texting and driving is dangerous. Most people do it anyway.

In a new survey, 98 percent of motorists who own cellphones and text regularly said they were aware of the dangers, yet three-quarters of them admitted to texting while driving, despite laws against it in some states. Two-thirds said they have read text messages while stopped at a red light or stop sign, while more than a quarter said they have sent texts while driving.

More than a quarter of the texting drivers believed they "can easily do several things at once, even while driving."

The telephone survey of 1,004 U.S. adults was released Wednesday by AT&T Inc. as part of an anti-texting-and-driving campaign. AT&T designed the survey with David Greenfield, founder of The Center for Internet and Technology Addiction and a professor at the University of Connecticut's School of Medicine.

The survey came as AT&T expanded availability of a free app that silences text message alerts and activates automatically when a person is moving 15 miles per hour or faster. (Passengers can turn it off.) The DriveMode app is coming to iPhones after being previously available on Android and BlackBerry phones for AT&T users only. The iPhone version will be available to customers of competing carriers as well, but some functions will work only on AT&T devices.

US ambassador hits the road in Mustang to support contested free trade deal with EU

COIMBRA, Portugal (AP) — The American diplomat turns heads when he rides into rural Portuguese towns on a roaring Harley Davidson or behind the wheel of a vintage Ford Mustang, bringing what he says is an important message: the free trade deal being negotiated between the United States and the European Union is nothing to be afraid of.

Robert Sherman, the U.S. Ambassador to Portugal, is using his showmanship and sense of humor on road trips to spread the word about the potential benefits of a project President Barack Obama wants to leave as his legacy in international commerce. The ambassador tells businesses here that doing away with tariffs and red tape will boost their exports to the U.S., create jobs and help propel listless European economies like Portugal's.

The hope is it will create wealth for more than 800 million people on each side of the Atlantic.

But many Europeans remain skeptical. They worry a deal may erode their cherished laws on environmental protection or labor security. Some say it will open the door to genetically modified “Frankenfood,” surrender power to big corporations, strip away workers’ rights and industry subsidies, and endanger public services. The EU’s new trade chief said recently she was struck by the “intense concern” felt in Europe about what would be the world’s single largest free trade agreement.

Add to that a backlash over U.S. spying and the initial coyness of EU officials in disclosing what was on the negotiating table, and the battle for public opinion is on.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 5, the 309th day of 2014. There are 56 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Nov. 5, 1914, Britain and France declared war against the Ottoman Empire; Britain also annexed Cyprus.

On this date:

In 1605, the “Gunpowder Plot” failed as Guy Fawkes was seized before he could blow up the English Parliament.

In 1781, the Continental Congress elected John Hanson of Maryland its chairman, giving him the title of “President of the United States in Congress Assembled.”

In 1872, suffragist Susan B. Anthony defied the law by attempting to cast a vote for President Ulysses S. Grant. (Anthony was convicted by a judge and fined \$100, but she never paid the fine.)

In 1912, Democrat Woodrow Wilson was elected president, defeating Progressive Party candidate Theodore Roosevelt, incumbent Republican William Howard Taft and Socialist Eugene V. Debs.

In 1938, Samuel Barber’s “Adagio for Strings” and “Essay for Orchestra” made their world debuts on the NBC Blue radio network as they were performed by the NBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Arturo Toscanini.

In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented third term in office as he defeated Republican challenger Wendell L. Willkie.

In 1964, NASA launched Mariner 3, which was supposed to fly by Mars, but the spacecraft failed to reach its destination.

In 1968, Republican Richard M. Nixon won the presidency, defeating Democratic Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and American Independent candidate George C. Wallace.

In 1974, Democrat Ella T. Grasso was elected governor of Connecticut, becoming the first woman to win a gubernatorial office without succeeding her husband.

In 1989, death claimed pianist Vladimir Horowitz in New York at age 86 and singer-songwriter Barry Sadler in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, at age 49.

In 1990, Rabbi Meir Kahane (meh-EER’ kah-HAH’-nuh), the Brooklyn-born Israeli extremist, was shot to death at a New York hotel. (Egyptian native El Syyed Nosair (el sah-EED’ no-sah-EER’) was convicted of the slaying in federal court.)

In 1994, former President Ronald Reagan disclosed he had Alzheimer’s disease.

Ten years ago: The Kremlin announced that Russia had given final approval to the Kyoto Protocol on global warming. In a surprise reversal, the Chilean army for the first time assumed institutional responsibility for widespread human rights violations during the dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet.

Five years ago: A shooting rampage at the Fort Hood Army post in Texas left 13 people dead; Maj. Nidal Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, was later convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

One year ago: Republican Gov. Chris Christie won a resounding re-election victory in Democratic-leaning New Jersey, while Democrat Terry McAuliffe prevailed in Virginia’s gubernatorial contest. Toronto Mayor Rob Ford acknowledged for the first time that he had smoked crack “probably a year ago” when he was in a “drunken stupor,” but he refused to resign despite immense pressure to step aside as

leader of Canada's largest city. India launched its first spacecraft bound for Mars; the Martian Orbiter Mission, or MOM, reached the red planet in Sept. 2014.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Actor Chris Robinson is 76. Actress Elke Sommer is 74. Singer Art Garfunkel is 73. Actor-playwright Sam Shepard is 71. Singer Peter Noone is 67. TV personality Kris Jenner is 59. Actor Nestor Serrano is 59. Actress-comedian Mo'Nique is 56. Actor Robert Patrick is 56. Singer Bryan Adams is 55. Actress Tilda Swinton is 54. Actor Michael Gaston is 52. Actress Tatum O'Neal is 51. Actress Andrea McArdle is 51. Rock singer Angelo Moore (Fishbone) is 49. Actress Judy Reyes is 47. Actor Seth Gilliam (TV: "Teen Wolf") is 46. Rock musician Mark Hunter (James) is 46. Actor Sam Rockwell is 46. Country singers Jennifer and Heather Kinley (The Kinleys) are 44. Actor Corin Nemec is 43. Rock musician Jonny (cq) Greenwood (Radiohead) is 43. Country singer-musician Ryan Adams is 40. Actor Sam Page is 38. Actor Jeremy Lelliott is 32. Actress Annet Mahendru (MAH'-hehn-droo) (TV: "The Americans") is 29. Rock musician Kevin Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 27. Actor Landon Gimenez (TV: "Resurrection") is 11.

Thought for Today: "The line of least resistance was always the most difficult line in the long run."
- Peter Cheyney, English author (1896-1951).