

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, July 9, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 341 ♦ 1 of 19



Fog appeared in the low lying areas on the west side of Groton this morning.

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Thursday, July 9

Senior Menu: Roast beef, potatoes, carrots and onions, gravy, honey dew melon or peaches, dinner roll.

Birthdays: Jordan Voss • Jocelyn Peterson • Ty Lerew • Marlene Coon

- 8:00am:Elementary Library open
- 5:30pm:U10 Blue host Milbank Blue (DH)
- 5:30pm:U10 Red hosts Webster (DH)
- 5:30pm:U8 Blue PW at Britton (Britton at 5:30, Sisseton 1 at 6:30)
- 5:30pm:U8 Softball practice at Elementary
- 6:00pm:Jr. Teeners host Redfield
- 6:00pm:T-Ball Scrimmage
- 6:30pm:U10 Softball Practice at Elementary
- 6:30pm:U8 Red PW at Webster (Sisseton-2 at 6:30, Webster at 7:30)
- 7:30pm:U12 Softball practice at Elementary

Friday, July 10

Legion at Dell Rapids

Senior Menu: Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rice and raisins, whole wheat bread.

Birthday: Loren Osterman

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431

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TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

Langford's Planteen on SDHSAA Board of Directors

The votes have been tabulated for the Small School Group Board of Education position on the SDHSAA Board of Directors. All SDHSAA member schools were entitled to vote in the election. The Small School Group Board of Education position is to be filled by a school board member from any member school with a 2012-2013 average daily membership from 458.989 to 7.000.

The Small School Group Board of Education position did not produce any candidate with a majority of the votes cast. A runoff election for this position was conducted between David Planteen of Langford Area School District and Bryan Skinner of West Central School District with David Planteen being declared the winner. David Planteen will fill a five year term on the SDHSAA Board of Directors commencing on July 1, 2015.

The votes have also been tabulated for the East River At-Large position on the SDHSAA Board of Directors. All SDHSAA member schools were entitled to vote in the election. The East River At-Large position is to be filled by an athletic/activities director from a member school east of the Missouri River.

The East River At-Large position did not produce any candidate with a majority of the votes cast. A runoff election for this position was conducted between Moe Ruesink of Sioux Valley High School and Mike Schmidt of Wilmot High School with Moe Ruesink being declared the winner. Moe Ruesink will fill a five year term on the SDHSAA Board of Directors commencing on July 1, 2015.



HEAD START Education-Purchasing Coordinator

The Northeast South Dakota Head Start Program in Aberdeen is seeking a candidate who is highly motivated and will be responsible for supervising/mentoring teaching staff, developmental screening of children ages 3 to 5, monitoring federal regulations, and purchasing consumable and classroom items for entire program. Must be able to lift 30 lbs. and occasionally heavier items. Extensive driving is required, company vehicle is provided.

Qualifications: A minimum of a BS/BA Degree in Early Childhood Education or a Degree in a related field with a minor in Early Childhood Development. Applicant must possess good leadership/mentoring skills, have a working knowledge of the developmental and educational needs of children; and be able to work closely as a team with Head Start staff, parents and volunteers; must have adequate computer knowledge and skills.

Starting date is July 27, 2015.

Annual salary is \$29,215 DOQ. Excellent benefits. For a complete job description and an application form, visit: www.nesdhs.org/careers/



By **Richard P. Holm M.D.**



Curiosity and Rabies

The sum of all the world's knowledge in medical Science comes from people with open minds who look with curious eyes at the messy world about them. Louis Pasteur, born in rural France late in 1822, grew up to become one of those scientists whose curiosity made all the difference.

Starting with a knowledge of chemistry and a new tool

called the microscope, Pasteur showed how different kinds of microorganisms were present when beer and wine ferment, when milk turns sour, and when meat decays.

He helped the French beer and wine industry understand why their beverages sometimes turned bad, how to prevent contamination, and how to culture the right organisms for the best beer and wine. He showed how to heat milk in order to extend time before souring, which is still called pasteurization.

Not long after that, Pasteur rescued the French silkworm industry from a bacterial worm disease that had been decimating the silk producing worm crop.

Pasteur came to understand a method for vaccination almost by accident. Overworked while studying how chicken cholera can be given from one chicken to another, he took a week off, leaving his vials of infected chicken feces in the window. When he returned he used the old and weakened material to infect more chickens. When this didn't make the chickens very sick, he had to start over with newly infected material, and discovered that the chickens already exposed to the weakened material were resistant to infection.

This and another experiment with anthrax in cattle brought Pasteur to refine the process of vaccination, which protects by stimulating the individual immune system.

He is most known for his "vaccination rescue" from rabies and certain death when in 1886 he first saved a young man and then countless people from the bites of rabid animals.

Louis Pasteur, a great and curious man, indeed.

Dr. Rick Holm wrote this Prairie Doc Perspective for On Call with the Prairie Doc, a weekly program where medical professionals discuss health concerns for the general public. On Call with the Prairie Doc is produced by the Healing Words Foundation in association with the South Dakota State University journalism department. The program airs Thursdays on South Dakota Public Broadcasting Television at 7 p.m. Central, 6 p.m. Mountain, and streams live at www.PrairieDoc.org.

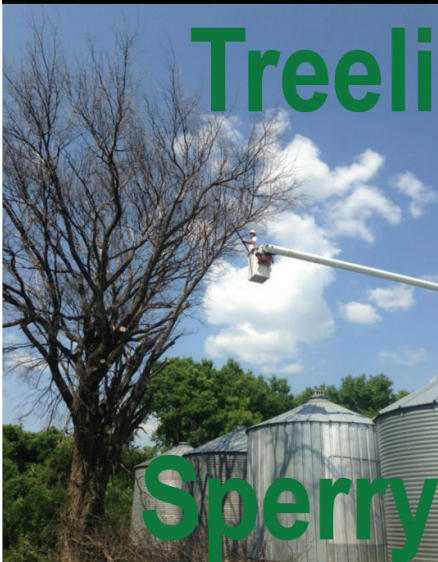
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Sperry Stump Removal





The Dakota Shockers are pictured after their Harrisburg tournament win, front row, left to right, Josie Clemens, Reilly Fuhrman, Charlie Tisdall; back row, coach Mikayla Barondeau Arechigo, Alyssa Haberer, Audrey Wanner, Elizabeth Grabowska, and Carly Wheeting. Team members not present for that tourney were Angela Heinz, Jamie Tebben, and Alexis Boesl. (Photo courtesy of Bryan Haberer)

Wanner, Wheeting on traveling team

Dakota Shockers under 18 girls traveling basketball team has put together a team that has seen some success in their first two tournaments.

The players on the team are Angela Heinz #12 and Elizabeth Grabowska #24 from Ipswich, Alyssa Haberer #26 from Gettysburg, Carly Wheeting #52 and Audrey Wanner #11 from Groton, Josie Clemens #21 from Northwestern, Jamie Tebben #34 from Redfield, Charlie Tisdall #13 from Selby, Alexis Boesl #20 and Reilly Furhman #33 from Warner. The girls are coached by Mikayla Barondeau Arechigo, former player from Northern State University and former IHS teacher.

The first tournament was held in South Sioux City, Neb. on June 6 and 7. Six games were played over the course of two days. The girls placed second in the tournament losing to the home team, the South Sioux City Varsity Cardinals, with a score of 37 to 35 decided in the last few seconds of the game.

Their second tournament was played in Harrisburg June 20 and 21. The girls played four games the first day and two games the second day and took home a first place finish after some hard fought games. They topped Dakota Valley 30 to 29 for the championship.

The Shockers' next tournament will be in Sioux Falls this weekend, July 11 and 12.

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Melodee and Jim Lane, along with Bentley, were out early this morning doing their walk around town. Melodee said she likes the cool mornings. You better enjoy the cool as the temperature is expected to climb into the 90s for several days ahead.

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America's Top 250 ~~\$84⁹⁹~~ BEST DEAL! 10-MONTH SPECIAL **\$39⁹⁹** OVER 290 CHANNELS
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Feature must be enabled by customer. Monthly fees apply: Hopper, \$12; Joey, \$7; Super Joey, \$10.

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Additional Requirements: Hopper: Monthly fees: Hopper, \$12; Joey, \$7; Super Joey, \$10. Commercial skip feature is available at varying times, starting the day after airing, for select primetime shows on ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC recorded with PrimeTime Anytime. **Premium Channels:** Premium offer value is \$135; after 3 months, then-current everyday monthly prices apply and are subject to change unless you call or go online to cancel prior to the end of 3 months. **Installation/Equipment Requirements:** Free Standard Professional Installation only. Leased equipment must be returned to DISH upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Upfront and additional monthly fees may apply. **Miscellaneous:** Offers available for new and qualified former customers, and subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. Taxes or reimbursement charges for state gross earnings taxes may apply. Additional restrictions and taxes may apply. **Offers end 10/30/15.**

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Today in Weather History

July 9, 1938: A deadly, estimated F4 tornado moved ESE across the eastern edge of Andover to north of Bristol. Seventeen buildings were destroyed at Andover, and at least one home was completely swept away. Seven homes and a church also suffered damage. An elderly person was killed at the western edge of Andover and a couple died in a home at the southern edge of town. About two hours later, another estimated F4 tornado moved ENE from 2 miles northeast of White, South Dakota in Brookings County to Hendricks, Minnesota. Only one person was injured from this storm.

July 9, 1972: Wind gusts up to 89 mph caused considerable damage in the Pierre and Oahe Dam area. A drive in movie screen was destroyed. A camper trailer was turned over pinning 7 members of a family inside. Five of them were hospitalized. Numerous trees were uprooted at the Oahe Dam campground. A tourist information building was caved in. Hail broke out car windows on ten vehicles.

July 9, 2009: Severe storms developed over Fall River County and moved eastward across southwestern and south central South Dakota. The storms produced large hail and strong wind gusts. Two tornadoes were observed in Todd County and two tornadoes touched down in southern Tripp County. A small EF-1 tornado tracked across Dog Ear Township from 311th Avenue to near the intersection of 289th Street and 312th Avenue, or a little over one mile track. The tornado blew down large cottonwood trees.

July 9, 2013: A pair of severe storms moved across northeastern South Dakota during the evening hours of the 9th. These storms caused extensive damage to crops, especially west of Frederick in Brown County where beans and corn fields were completely destroyed. As the storms moved from Barnard, through Columbia and into the Groton area, the hail increased to baseball size. There was also some structural damage to siding along with broken windows.

1860 - A hot blast of air in the middle of a sweltering summer pushed the mercury up to 115 degrees at Fort Scott and Lawrence, KS. (David Ludlum)

1882 - Ice formed on the streets of Cheyenne, WY, during a rare summer freeze. (David Ludlum)

1936 - The temperature hit an all-time record high of 106 degrees at the Central Park Observatory in New York City, a record which lasted until LaGuardia Airport hit 107 degrees on July 3rd in 1966. (The Weather Channel)

1968 - Columbus, MS received 15.68 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Michigan. A tornado near Munising, MI, destroyed part of a commercial dog kennel, and one of the missing dogs was later found unharmed in a tree top half a mile away. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Twenty-three cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Alpena, MI, and Buffalo, NY, suffered through their sixth straight day of record heat. The percentage of total area in the country in the grips of severe to extreme drought reached 43 percent, the fourth highest total of record. The record of 61 percent occurred during the summer of 1934. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms produced very heavy rain in southern Lower Michigan and northern Indiana. Up to 5.6 inches of rain was reported in Berrien County, MI. Sioux Falls SD reported a record high of 108 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Sunny

High: 83 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 58 °F

Friday



Mostly Sunny

High: 84 °F

Friday Night



Partly Cloudy then Chance T-storms

Low: 66 °F

Saturday



Chance T-storms

High: 88 °F

Saturday Night



Slight Chance T-storms

Low: 66 °F

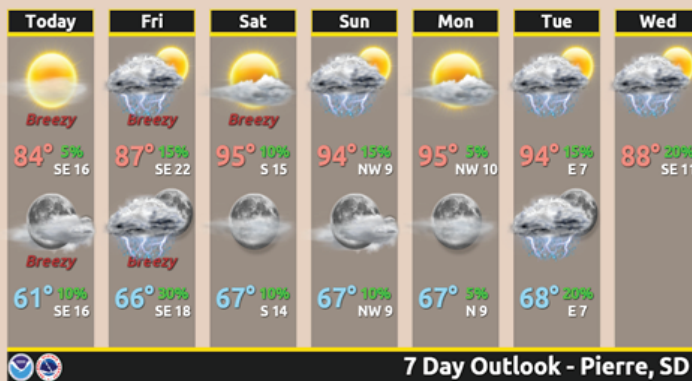
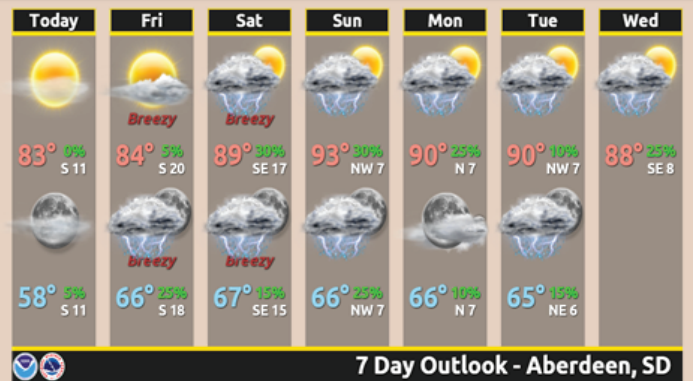
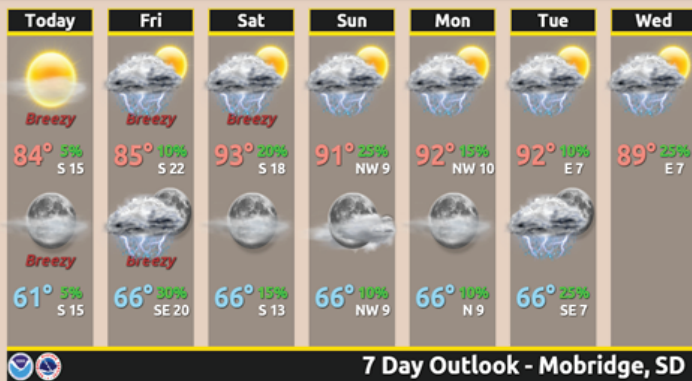
Sunday



Slight Chance T-storms

High: 93 °F

Warmer Temperatures on the Way



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 07/09/2015 at 5:32AM

Today will feature sunny skies along with seasonal temperatures. Much warmer temperatures are on the way for the weekend with highs climbing into the 90s for most locations.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 77.6 at 6:42 PM

Low: 54.8 at 4:20 AM

High Gust: 21 at 9:44 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 115° in 1936

Record Low: 42° in 1981

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 0.96

Precip to date in July: 1.77

Average Precip to date: 11.80

Precip Year to Date: 9.17

Sunset Tonight: 9:22 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:55 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Jul 09, 2015, issued 4:47 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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GIVE THEM A PUSH!

While a teenager, Jean Nidetch enjoyed walking through a park near her home. Day after day she saw children sitting in swings as mothers enjoyed themselves talking and laughing. While the mothers seemed to be enjoying one another, the children appeared to be neglected. One day she started to push them gently. Then she taught them how to pull on the ropes to set their swings in motion. Soon the children were able to swing on their own and enjoy themselves while their mothers visited.

It brought her much satisfaction to see the children having so much fun. It was from that experience that she found her role in life. She once said, "My role in life is giving others a push." Ms. Nidetch went on to become the founder of Weight Watchers.

One day Andrew found his brother Peter and gave him a "push" toward the Lord. It took someone's "push" for Peter to become a powerful leader. We must always look for opportunities to "push" people toward our Savior and Lord.

Prayer: Father, may we constantly look for ways to "give others a push" toward Jesus our Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 1:34-43 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

News from the Associated Press

Judge refuses to lower bond for Rapid City murder suspect

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A judge has refused to lower bond for a man charged in the fatal Memorial Day shooting of his cousin in Rapid City.

The attorney for 20-year-old Sean Marshall had asked that Judge Heidi Linngren reduce bond from \$1 million to \$20,000, but she denied the request on Wednesday.

Marshall is accused of killing 22-year-old Charles Metcalf on May 25. He also faces drug charges.

Authorities say Marshall admitted to shooting Metcalf but also said he feared for his life because Metcalf had come at him with broken glass. Police say Metcalf was shot in the back multiple times.

Native American youth gather in DC for inaugural summit

SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, Associated Press

More than 875 Native American youths from across the nation are gathering Thursday in Washington, D.C., for a first-of-its-kind summit called by the White House.

The teens, who represent 230 tribes, will meet with First Lady Michelle Obama and cabinet members to discuss a range of topics, including economic opportunity, education and cultural issues.

It's part of Generation Indigenous, or Gen-I, a White House initiative that kicked off earlier this year with a brainstorming session in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The initiative stems from a visit last year by the Obamas to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, which straddles the border between North Dakota and South Dakota. Meetings followed, cabinet members conducted listening tours, tribal youth were chosen as ambassadors, and a national network was formed.

The goal: to remove barriers that stand in the way of tribal youth reaching their potential.

Cecilia Munoz, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, said the president was moved after hearing about the challenges faced by children in North Dakota.

"He knows that the issues that he heard about are not isolated to Standing Rock," Munoz said. "He was also really inspired by the talent and the courage of the Native youth he met to overcome their circumstances."

Munoz said the event is about the teens and making sure they have an opportunity to be heard since they represent the next generation of leaders.

Participants are coming up with ideas to combat problems in their communities. For Miguel Wambli, 16, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, it's creating a newspaper that will be fueled by Native students' writings.

A string of seven suicides by teenagers in recent months has shaken the Pine Ridge Reservation, and close to 1,000 suicide attempts were recorded on the reservation over nearly 10 years. Some students have projects aimed at raising awareness, while Wambli believes a newspaper would give teens an outlet.

"I want to try just to help them find their voice and be able to express themselves and be knowledgeable about what's going on in their community," he said.

From New Mexico's pueblos to Midwest reservations, federal statistics show nearly one-third of Native youth live in poverty. They have the highest suicide rates of any ethnicity in the U.S. and the lowest high school graduation rates.

Those are difficult issues, said Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who will be among those partaking in the gathering. Reforming Indian education has been a focal point of her tenure. She said the system is broken, noting Indian schools often are among the nation's worst-performing.

Jewell on Thursday will announce federal grants for seven tribes to develop their education departments and funding for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to build a pipeline from Native communities to college.

The Interior Department also will release a report on the progress of reforms within the Bureau of Indian Education.

State board to take up polygamist's request for more water

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Water Management Board is set to consider a polygamist group's application to access more water at its remote South Dakota compound.

The board is scheduled Thursday to take up the application, which has faced opposition from nearby landowners.

Attorneys for the group and a concerned landowner are sparring over whether evidence about the group's faith and background is relevant to whether regulators should grant the request.

Seth Jeffs, the brother of imprisoned sect leader Warren Jeffs, has asked to double the amount of water available at the compound. His attorney has asked the state board to block discussion of its faith.

Attorney Michael Hickey, who represents the concerned landowner, says the group's practices are relevant to see whether it's in the public's interest to grant the application.

Prehistoric Indian Village in SD showcasing archaeology

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Students from the University of Exeter in England will be excavating at the Prehistoric Indian Village in Mitchell this week to raise awareness about archaeology.

The village is hosting its annual Archaeology Awareness Days Saturday and Sunday. Archaeologists and primitive technologists will give presentations during the event.

The Prehistoric Indian Village is a 1,000 year-old Native American village being excavated by students from the University of Exeter and Augustana College. Excavations take place each summer from mid-June to mid-July.

Mike Marshall is a consultant to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian and a well-known Lakota artist and historian. Marshall is expected to demonstrate the games played by the ancestors of his people during the event.

The event will also feature pottery making exhibits and spear throwing lessons.

ACLU: Public workers can't refuse to issue marriage licenses

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — County officials have a duty to impartially administer the law and cannot choose to opt out of issuing licenses to same-sex couples if they have religious objections, the American Civil Liberties Union said Wednesday in a letter to the state attorney general.

In the letter sent to Attorney General Marty Jackley, the ACLU of South Dakota takes issue with comments he made in a July 2 interview with The Associated Press. The attorney general said it would be a "commonsense solution" for a county employee with religious objections to have someone else issue a license.

"We recognize that religious liberty is a fundamental American value protected by the First Amendment," the ACLU wrote, "but that liberty has never meant that government officials can rely on their personal religious beliefs to discriminate against citizens seeking vital government services."

Jackley made the comments last week while discussing the impacts the ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court could have on religious liberties. Along with 14 other attorneys general, Jackley sent a letter to congressional leaders urging them to protect religious freedoms in light of the ruling.

Jackley said one county employee had asked him hypothetically what would happen if a public employee was morally opposed to issuing a marriage license to a same-sex couple. He said Wednesday the issue has not yet come up in South Dakota and that his stance merely reflects "established law."

"It is disappointing that the ACLU has chosen to place certain constitutional rights ahead of other constitutional rights," Jackley said Wednesday. "As South Dakota's attorney general, I do not have the luxury of ignoring the law requiring constitutional rights to coexist or ignoring the federal law requirements to make reasonable accommodations to protect the constitutional rights of all involved."

If another employee wasn't available, Jackley said last week the state or another county could issue a license. He said it's not unusual for other government offices to step in when there's a conflict elsewhere.

The ACLU said Jackley's suggestion that the state's duty to issue marriage license to same-sex couples is met if couple's must go elsewhere for a license "misses the mark."

"To state the obvious, forcing same-sex couples to drive to a separate county to obtain services that heterosexual couples can access in their home county is not equal treatment," the organization wrote.

Dale Carpenter, a constitutional law scholar at the University of Minnesota, said county employees act on behalf of the state government, which now cannot discriminate against same-sex couples when issuing marriage licenses.

"These are not private employees of businesses. These are representatives of the government," he said. "It's not their business to act on their conscience, it's their business to enforce the law."

Carpenter, who has filed briefs in support of same-sex marriage in the past, said even if a couple didn't have to travel anywhere else for a license, an official's refusal to issue a license would still raise a "serious constitutional question" under the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Hundreds of agricultural agents to gather in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Hundreds of people who provide education to farmers across the nation will be gathering in southeast South Dakota this month.

The National Association of County Agricultural Agents is hosting its annual meeting from Sunday through Thursday in Sioux Falls.

Association president Mike Hogan says the event will focus on ways that agricultural extension and the land grant university system can continue to spur changes in rural America.

The event will include workshops, seminars and tours to provide participants opportunities to network and develop professional skills.

The tours will take place in South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. They will focus on various topics including bio-energy production and conservation practices.

This year's gathering marks the association's 100th anniversary. South Dakota last hosted the annual gathering in 1979 in Rapid City.

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Traveling Vietnam memorial to stop in southeast South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall will stop in southeast South Dakota next month.

The American Veterans Traveling Tribute Traveling Wall will be at the Sanford Pentagon Sports Complex in Sioux Falls Aug. 5.

The traveling wall is a scaled-down version of the memorial in Washington, D.C., that has the names of more than 58,000 Americans who died or are missing in Vietnam.

The replica also includes all the names as the original. It was completed in 1988 and tours the nation each year, making multiple stops across the nation.

House panel subpoenas Kerry on Keystone XL documents

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House panel has issued a subpoena to Secretary of State John Kerry for department documents, reports and letters related to the contentious push to build the Keystone XL pipeline.

Republicans on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee announced the subpoena on Wednesday.

The \$8 billion pipeline would transport oil harvested from Canada's tar sands to pipelines linked to refineries on the Gulf of Mexico.

Earlier this year, Congress approved legislation to build the pipeline and sent the measure to President Barack Obama. The president vetoed the bill and the GOP-run Senate failed to override the veto in March.

Obama has said that the bill circumvented the well-established process for approving cross-border pipelines, which must be determined to be in the national interest.

Motor home fire shuts down traffic on I-29 near Great Bend

GREAT BEND, N.D. (AP) — Fire has destroyed a motor home on Interstate 29 in North Dakota, causing traffic to back up for miles.

The blaze started around 12:15 p.m. Wednesday near the Great Bend exit south of Wahpeton. Traffic was shut down on the southbound lane near mile marker 18.

KFGO-AM reports two unidentified people from Parker, South Dakota, were inside the motor home when the fire began and got out safely.

The station reports authorities haven't determined what caused the motor home to catch on fire.

Measure in SD attempts to legalize possessing 1 ounce of pot

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley has released an explanation for an initiated measure to legalize the possession of 1 ounce or less of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia.

Jackley's filing with the office of Secretary of State Shantel Krebs is another step in the process for the proposal's supporters to get it on the November 2016 ballot.

Supporters must collect 13,871 signatures by Nov. 9 and have them certified by Krebs to put the measure up for public vote.

Jackley's explanation is required by law. It includes a title, an objective, a summary of the purpose and effect of the proposed measure and a description of legal consequences.

Jackley in the explanation warns that the purpose and effect of many provisions of the measure are unclear and will require legislative or judicial clarification if it is approved.

Sioux Falls-based call center expanding to North Sioux City

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A call center that employs 200 people in Sioux Falls is expanding to a second South Dakota city.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard says Lawrence & Schiller TeleServices will be creating up to 100 full-time jobs this summer in North Sioux City.

Sales and marketing officer Joel Sylvester says the second location will ensure the company is large enough to meet all of its clients' needs.

Rapid City man accused of defrauding Social Security

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man is accused of stealing more than \$376,000 in Social Security funds by misrepresenting the level of his disability and outside income.

The Social Security Administration alleges that 56-year-old Terry Henrikson fraudulently obtained benefits over a period of 24 years.

Henrikson, a paraplegic, is charged in federal court with theft of government property, making false statements and concealing events affecting benefits. He's been released on a personal recognizance bond.

Henrikson declined comment to The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Man on quest to carry Confederate flag to Washington by foot

MIKE CASON, AI.com

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Johnny Cooper says America is losing its way, a message he intends to carry along the highways from Alabama's capital to the nation's capital.

Toting a Confederate battle flag to help make his point, Cooper is walking from Montgomery to Washington to push back against what he considers abandonment of the U.S. Constitution.

The 60-year-old from Hazel Green, Alabama, opposes the efforts to purge the battle flag from public places, as well as the Supreme Court ruling legalizing gay marriage.

"All pillars of our society are just coming off," Cooper said.

He left the State Capitol in Montgomery on the Fourth of July and was just outside Moreland, Georgia, on Tuesday night when he took a few minutes for an interview on his cellphone.

Cooper said his goal is to preserve for his children some of the heritage of the country, "the greatest country the world has ever seen."

He said those who consider the battle flag a symbol of racism and hatred don't know its history.

Dylann Roof, the white man accused of killing nine black worshippers in a South Carolina church, should not define that history, he said.

"If I had been there, I would have shot him myself," Cooper said.

Cooper said the South had the right to secede under the Constitution. As for vilification of the battle flag, he notes that atrocities have happened under the U.S. flag, too, mentioning, for example, the massacre of Indians by the Army at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.

"If we go around taking down every symbol that offends everybody" there will be no symbols left, Cooper said.

Cooper, a retired electronics technician and maintenance man, sees an inconsistency in the crusade against offensive symbols - what he says was the lack of media outcry against illumination of the White House in rainbow colors to celebrate the gay marriage decision.

Groton Daily Independent

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"There's 200 million Christians in this country," Cooper said. "Where is the media on that?"

Cooper opposed Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley's decision to take the Confederate flags from the monument at the state Capitol in Montgomery. He hopes the South Carolina Legislature will reject the bill to remove the flag from its capitol grounds.

"I'd like to think that South Carolina, being one of the strongest representatives of the South, would have enough common sense to resist the political correctness and inanity of it all," Cooper said.

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. FLAG'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED IN SOUTH CAROLINA AFTER HISTORIC VOTE

After 54 years flying over the state Capitol, the Confederate battlefield standard will be pulled down after the House passed a bill that it should be removed.

2. DEADLINE DAY FOR GREECE

Athens is racing to finalize a plan of reforms for its third bailout, hoping to stave off a potentially catastrophic exit from the euro.

3. POPE HALFWAY THROUGH SOUTH AMERICA PILGRIMAGE

Francis will celebrate his first Mass in Bolivia and meet with indigenous groups and other grassroots organizations that work with the poor.

4. JOINT CHIEFS NOMINEE SAYS HE WILL ASSESS IS STRATEGY

Gen. Joseph Dunford says the U.S. and its coalition partners are making moderate progress in the fight against the extremist group.

5. WHO IS BEING HELD IN GAZA

Israeli authorities say two Israeli citizens are being detained, at least one of them by Hamas, but the circumstances remain murky.

6. BALTIMORE FIRES POLICE COMMISSIONER

Anthony Batts is let go by the mayor amid the worst crime spike in the city since the 1970s and plummeting morale among officers.

7. BIG GOP FIELD SEEKS FACETIME ON FOX NEWS

The political ad wars have begun, and the overflowing Republican presidential field means big demand for time on the cable news channel.

8. COSBY ACCUSER ASKS FOR TESTIMONY TO BE MADE PUBLIC

The comedian's first accuser asks a judge to release his full deposition in her sex-assault lawsuit, saying his legal team broke the confidentiality agreement that sealed the 2006 court settlement.

9. AC/DC DRUMMER SENTENCED

Phil Rudd is sentenced to eight months of home detention for threatening to kill a man who used to work for him and drug possession.

10. SERENA MARCHES TOWARD TENNIS HISTORY

Now it's Maria Sharapova's turn at Wimbledon to try to put an end to Williams' bid for the third leg of the Grand Slam — and a fourth consecutive major title.

AP News in Brief

After 54 years flying over the Capitol, Confederate flag's days are numbered in South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — More than 50 years after South Carolina raised a Confederate flag at its Statehouse to protest the civil rights movement, the state is getting ready to remove the rebel banner.

A bill pulling down the flag from the Capitol's front lawn and the flagpole it flies on passed the South Carolina House early Thursday morning. It should get to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk before the end of the day.

The governor promised to sign it quickly, but didn't say exactly when. That's important, because the bill requires the flag be taken down within 24 hours of her pen hitting the paper and shipped to the Confederate Relic Room.

There were hugs, tears and high fives in the House chamber after the vote. Members who waited decades to see this day snapped selfies and pumped their fists. But even among the celebrations, there was more than a bit of sadness.

After the Civil War, the flag was first flown over the dome of South Carolina's Capitol in 1961 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the war. It stayed as a protest to the Civil Rights movement, only moving in 2000 from the dome to its current location.

Greek government seeks to finalize reform proposals, with danger of euro exit looming

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's government was racing Thursday to finalize a plan of reforms for its third bailout, hoping this time the proposal will meet with approval from its European partners and stave off a potentially catastrophic exit from Europe's joint currency, the euro, within days.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras was meeting with finance ministry officials a day after the government requested a new three-year aid program from Europe's bailout fund and promised to immediately enact reforms, including to taxes and pensions, in return.

Details of Greece's reforms are to be submitted Thursday, giving time for creditors to review them ahead of a summit of the European Union's 28 members set for Sunday.

Thursday is "a decisive day" for Europe, EU Economics Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said on France-Inter radio, adding he was hopeful a new Greek bailout deal was possible, in exchange for "concrete, complete" reform proposals.

"I have the sense that the dialogue is established, or restored, and that there is a way out," Moscovici said. Failure to reach a deal could be the first step toward Greece leaving the shared euro currency.

The Latest: European stocks rise as Greece finalizes plan of reforms by end of day

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The latest from the Greece's financial crisis (all times local):

12:50 p.m.

European markets are posting solid gains amid hopes Greece will finalize a plan of reforms and following a rebound in Asia.

Among major indexes, Germany's DAX was up 1.4 percent while France's CAC 40 rose 1.6 percent. The euro, however, was down 0.4 percent at \$1.1035. The Athens stock market remained closed, alongside the banks.

Pope to meet with worker cooperatives, grass-roots groups during Bolivia leg of SAmerica trip

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia (AP) — Pope Francis reaches the halfway mark of his South American pilgrimage Thursday, celebrating his first Mass in Bolivia and meeting with workers' cooperatives and other grass-roots groups representing the poor whose causes have long been championed by history's first Latin American pope.

When Francis headlined the first such summit of grass-roots groups at the Vatican last October, he issued a remarkable, off-the-cuff monologue on the injustice of unemployment, the scandal of poverty and the obligation to care for the Earth.

"Terra, Techo, Trabajo," was his mantra then. "Land, Roof, Work."

"I talk about this some people think the pope is a communist," he told the gathering of miners, indigenous leaders and "cartoneros" who sift through garbage looking for recyclable goods. "They don't realize that love for the poor is at the center of the Gospel."

Francis arrived in Bolivia from Ecuador on Wednesday, embraced by President Evo Morales on the tarmac of La Paz where Francis praised Bolivia for taking "important steps" to include the poor and marginalized in the political and economic life of South America's poorest country.

Israeli defense officials: 2 Israeli citizens held in Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP) — Two Israeli citizens are being held in the Gaza Strip, at least one of them by the Hamas militant group, Israeli authorities said Thursday.

Avraham Mangisto crossed the border fence into the Gaza Strip on Sept. 7 last year, nearly two weeks after the end of the Israel-Gaza war, the Israeli defense body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs said.

The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories said that "according to credible intelligence," Mangisto is being held "against his will" by Hamas. It said "Israel has appealed (to) international and regional interlocutors to demand his immediate release and verify his well-being."

A spokesman for Hamas, Salah Bardawil, declined comment. "We don't have any information about it. Even if is true, we don't have instructions to talk about it," he said.

Israel's military lifted a gag order Thursday to reveal details of the matter. It is unclear why it decided to publicize the issue months after the incident. Israeli officials declined immediate comment.

More than 4 million refugees have fled Syria since outbreak of civil war, UN says

ISTANBUL (AP) — The number of Syrians who have fled abroad since the outbreak of civil war in their country has risen to more than 4 million, the largest number from any crisis in almost 25 years, the United Nations said Thursday.

A recent wave of people leaving Syria and an update of Turkish statistics confirm the tragic milestone, according to the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR. The agency said in a statement that 7.6 million additional people are displaced from their homes within Syria.

The 4 million refugees are the most to flee a conflict since the Afghan civil war forced 4.6 million out of their country beginning in 1992.

"This is the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation," said U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres in a statement. "It is a population that needs the support of the

world but is instead living in dire conditions and sinking deeper into poverty.”

The new figure shows that the flow of refugees is accelerating only 10 months after the agency recorded more than 3 million Syrians fleeing their country.

Srebrenica women tell story of loss through objects belonging to massacred loved ones

SREBRENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Twenty years ago Saturday, Bosnian Serb troops led by Gen. Ratko Mladic carried out Europe’s worst carnage since the end of World War II — a massacre of 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys that a United Nations court calls a genocide. As Dutch peacekeepers stood helplessly by, the Serbs stormed the Srebrenica safe haven, separating men and boys from women. They drove the males away in trucks and massacred 2,000 on the spot. About 15,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys fled into the woods; the Serbs hunted 6,000 of them down and killed them one by one — some 8,000 in all. The bodies were dumped in mass graves that were bulldozed to hide the evidence, causing remains to be jumbled up into a jigsaw puzzle that has yet to be fully solved. About 1,000 victims remain to be found. Many families have reburied a few bones identified as belonging to their loved-ones through DNA testing.

Two decades later, Srebrenica’s women still grieve. Here are some of their stories told through cherished objects.

HUSBAND’S SHIRT

Fazila Efendic, 64, keeps her husband Hamed’s old terracotta-color shirt in the closet. He was 46 when the Bosnian Serb troops shot him dead in the forest. “When I miss him, I open the closet, touch the shirt and I can’t say if I feel better or worse then,” she says. “But I must touch it.” It’s the same thing with the school diplomas of her only son Fejzo, who was 20 when he was killed in the Srebrenica massacre. “He won several regional competitions in math and physics. He was a very good child.” She showed a white handkerchief with blue stripes that her son gave her before Srebrenica fell. “I carry it around wherever I go,” she said. She found the remains of both men years ago and buried them at the Srebrenica Memorial Center, where they lay with nearly 7,000 other victims. She found Hamed in 2003 in one mass grave and Fejzo — or rather two of his leg bones — in 2013 in another.

Separate slayings unite Detroit father, suburban grandfather as they help launch foundation

DETROIT (AP) — Residents and activists fanned out at a busy intersection on Detroit’s east side, blocks from where a suburban high school girl was gunned down in a car.

Chris Samuel was among those distributing posters about the December killing. He didn’t know Paige Stalker, but a similar tragedy ended up connecting him to the 16-year-old and her family: Just days after Paige’s slaying, Samuel’s 22-year-old daughter, Christina Samuel, was shot and killed in a car a few miles away.

Days after the shootings, Samuel was attending an event in his daughter’s memory when Paige’s grandfather, Dave Lawrence, approached him. The two men walked away from the crowd, shared words and a hug, and have supported each other since.

They have done more than console each other. They have launched a foundation with others aimed at establishing neighborhood groups and developing safety education programs.

Paige was white and from the affluent Detroit suburb of Grosse Pointe Farms. Christina was black and from a poorer area in the city of Detroit. But Paige's grandfather and Christina's father are focused on what their loved ones had in common and working to unite their communities in the wake of the deaths.

Baltimore police commissioner fired weeks after riots linked to death of Freddie Gray

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore's mayor fired the troubled city's police commissioner Wednesday, saying that a recent spike in homicides in the weeks after an unarmed black man died of injuries in police custody required a change in leadership.

Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake thanked Police Commissioner Anthony Batts for his service — and praised the job he had done — but said growing criticism of his performance had become a “distraction” that was preventing the city from moving ahead.

Deputy Police Commissioner Kevin Davis, who has only been with the department since January, will serve as interim commissioner, Rawlings-Blake said.

“We need a change,” the mayor told a news conference, which was attended by Davis. “This was not an easy decision but it is one that is in the best interest of Baltimore. The people of Baltimore deserve better and we're going to get better.”

The firing comes 2 1/2 months after the city broke out in riots following the death of Freddie Gray, who died in April of injuries he received in police custody. Six police officers have been criminally charged in Gray's death.

Former FIFA official Chuck Blazer expelled from football by ethics committee for bribery

GENEVA (AP) — Chuck Blazer was banned for life by FIFA's ethics committee on Thursday for widespread corruption, finally ending the career of the longtime most senior American in world football.

The expulsion from football duty was a formality after Blazer's guilty plea to racketeering and tax evasion charges was unsealed in May by United States federal agencies.

FIFA's ethics panel made its ruling using evidence from the American federal case which has plunged FIFA and international football into crisis.

“(Blazer) was a key player in schemes involving the offer, acceptance, payment and receipt of undisclosed and illegal payments, bribes and kickbacks as well as other money-making schemes,” the FIFA ethics committee said in a statement.

Blazer pleaded guilty to 10 counts including racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering conspiracies and income tax evasion.