

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 11, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 343 ♦ 1 of 19



Kellie Jones makes the dive into the pool Friday evening as a line of jumpers await.

- 1- Cutting Edge Lawn Care
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- State ranks high in Mercatus Fiscal Condition
- 2- Head Start Help Wanted
- 3- Lions Club installs new officers
- 4- Olde Bank Floral Crazy Days Ad
- 5- Gov. Daugaard's Weekly Column
- 5- Treeline Tree Service ad
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Local Weather Forecast
- 8- National Weather Map
- 8- Local Weather
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- News from the Associated Press

Saturday, July 11

- 3-Rivers PeeWee Tourney in Andover
- Game 1: Andover vs. Claremont at 9 a.m.
- Game 2: Westport/Frederick vs. Langford at 10:30 a.m.
- Game 3: Columbia vs. Leola at noon
- Game 4: Losers of Game 1 and 2 play at 2 p.m. Legion at Augustana Field

Anniversaries: Roger & Marjorie Overacker • Anniv: Rick & Sherry Koehler

- Birthdays:** Rebecca Clocksene • Rhonda Fliehs • Richard Nehls
- 10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Rosewood Court
 - 3:00pm: Amateurs at Mobridge (DH)
 - 4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, July 12

- 3-Rivers PeeWee Tourney in Andover

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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South Dakota Receives High Ranking In Mercatus Fiscal Condition Study

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota ranks third in the nation for fiscal condition according to a Mercatus Center study on state solvency released on Tuesday.

“Ranking just behind Alaska and North Dakota in fiscal solvency is something to be proud of,” said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. “While Alaska and North Dakota derive a large percentage of their revenues from oil production, we have to be diligent about keeping our state on a firm financial footing. In South Dakota, we don’t spend money we don’t have, we keep our budget structurally balanced and we seize opportunities to spend in the short-term where it can lead to savings.”

The study conducted by Eileen Norcross compares states by their abilities to pay short-term bills, meet long-term spending obligations and increase spending. The study also takes budget and trust fund solvency into account.

Norcross based her research on the comprehensive annual financial reports from each state for fiscal year 2013.

To read the Mercatus study, go to mercatus.org/statefiscalrankings.



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/

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 11, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 343 ♦ 3 of 19



Groton Lions Officers

Dave Pigors, outgoing president; Justin Olson, first vice president; Michelle Nuilenberg, second vice president, Larry Wheeting, treasurer; Nancy Larsen, secretary; and the District Governor, Jerry Voss from Beresford. Missing was the new president, Chris Frost, incoming president, who is away at Guards.

The Groton Lions Club held its annual Governor's night with a potluck supper preceding the meeting. The district governor, Jerry Voss, Beresford, addressed the group, installed new officers and inducted new members into the club.

The club also voted to have a gun raffle and to give a fourth scholarship to Taylor Gustafson.



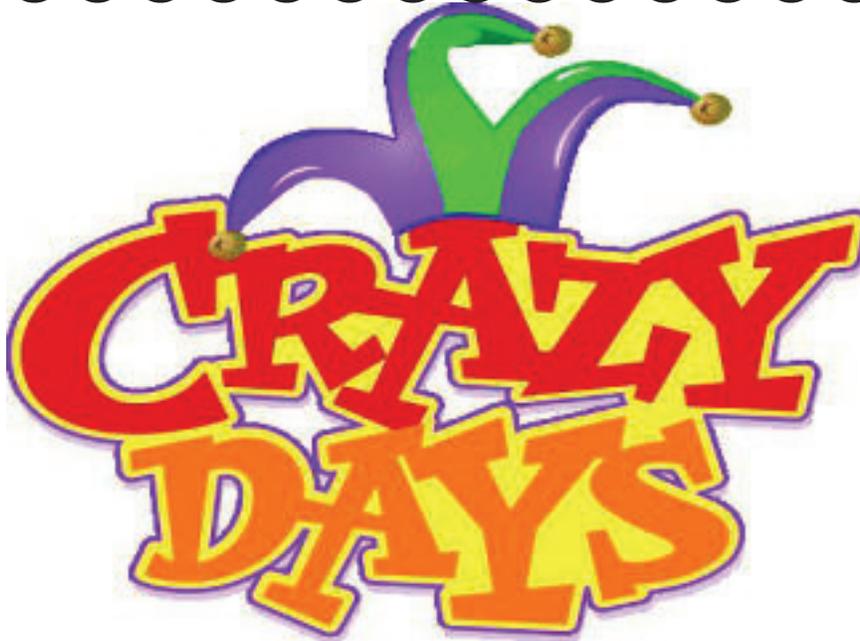
Two new members were inducted into the Groton Lions Club. Lee Schinkel, far left, sponsored both Troy Lindberg and Jessica Lindskov. District Governor Jerry Voss is pictured on the right.



Topper Tastad was awarded the Lion of the Year away by District Governor Jerry Voss.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 11, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 343 ♦ 4 of 19



July 16-17-18

Thursday - 9-7, Friday 9-5, Saturday 10-3

20-50% off All Outdoor Pottery
& select Wrought Iron
50% off All Kids Merchandise

Select Coffee and
Wines on Sale

Additional Discounts
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Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 11, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 343 ♦ 5 of 19

Protecting Against West Nile Virus

A column by Gov. Dennis Daugaard

It used to be mosquitoes weren't much cause for concern. We considered them a nuisance, but otherwise mostly harmless. It wasn't until 13 years ago when West Nile Virus emerged in South Dakota that the nuisance became a formidable health concern.

Just weeks ago, at the end of June, the South Dakota Department of Health reported the state's first West Nile case of the year in Brown County. Though there has only been one human case reported thus far, mosquito pools in two counties have tested positive for the virus. History tells us the peak transmission for West Nile in South Dakota is in August – so we can expect to see more cases.

There is no vaccine or specific anti-viral treatment for people who become infected with West Nile. Mild symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, rash and stomach sickness. Less than one percent of those who contract the illness develop serious neurological infections which can be fatal. Still, of 2,168 human cases reported in South Dakota since 2002, 677 individuals have been hospitalized and 32 people have died.

From the first detections of West Nile in South Dakota the state has worked closely with local mosquito control programs, offering educational opportunities and funding support. Over the years the state has provided cities, counties and tribes with more than \$6 million in either direct funding or control chemicals. Just a week ago the Department awarded \$490,000 in grants to 180 programs across the state to help control mosquitoes and reduce the threat of West Nile.

There are a number of ways to protect yourself from contracting the virus. Use mosquito repellent. Wear long sleeves and pants outside. Limit your time outdoors from dusk to midnight when mosquitoes are most active. Get rid of any standing water in your yard. And support local mosquito control efforts.

Those who are over 50, pregnant women, transplant patients, and individuals with diabetes, high blood pressure, or a history of alcohol abuse should take extra precautions because they may be at greater risk of developing severe symptoms.

The spread of West Nile isn't inevitable. Let's do what we can this summer to protect ourselves and others from this harmful virus.



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Sperry Stump Removal

Today in Weather History

July 11, 1909: A deadly, estimated F2 tornado moved ESE across the Simpson Park section of Big Stone City in South Dakota. A bus was thrown from the road and the driver was killed. Two homes and several barns were destroyed. As the tornado crossed the foot of Big Stone Lake, it tore apart a railroad yard and killed four of the 26 Armenian laborers who were living in box cars at Ortonville, Minnesota. Nineteen were injured.

July 11, 1981: Severe thunderstorms moved eastward across the entire length of the South Dakota along the northern portion of the state. Hail, with the largest up to nine inches in circumference, resulted in 100 percent crop loss, damage to numerous buildings and loss of livestock. Trees were stripped and large limbs broken. High winds also accompanied these storms. Crop and property damage was so extensive, total cost of damage was not estimated. Storms lasted into the early morning hours on the 12. Thunderhawk in Corson County had estimated winds of 70 to 75 mph that destroyed a machine shop and seven metal grain storage bins. In and around Pollock, a silo was moved three off the foundation. Power and telephones lines were down. Rainfall measured 2.28 inches in two hours in Pollock.

1888 - Heavy snow reached almost to the base of Mt. Washington, NH, and the peaks of the Green Mountains were whitened. (David Ludlum)

1936: From July 5-17, temperatures exceeding 111 degrees in Manitoba and Ontario claimed 1,180 Canadians (mostly the elderly and infants) during the longest, deadliest heat wave on record. Four hundred of these deaths were caused by people who drowned seeking refuge from the heat. In fact, the heat was so intense that steel rail lines and bridge girders twisted, sidewalks buckled, crops wilted and fruit baked on trees. Some record temperatures include; 112 degrees at St. Albans and Emerson, Manitoba, 111 at Brandon, Manitoba, 108 at Atikokan, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

1987 - Early morning thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Parkston, SD, and wind gusts to 87 mph at Buffalo, MN. Later in the day strong thunderstorm winds at Howard WI collapsed a circus tent injuring 44 persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

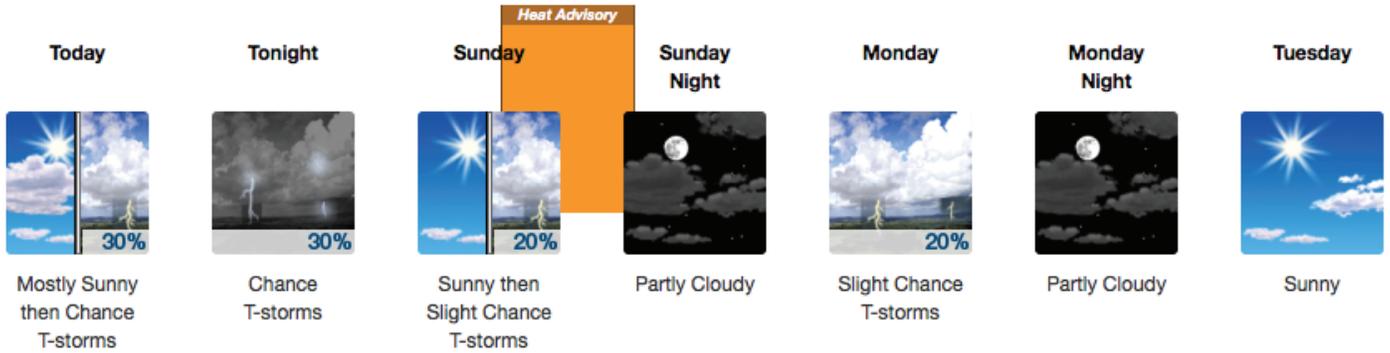
1988 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in southern Texas, with totals ranging up to 13 inches near Medina. Two men drowned when their pick-up truck was swept into the Guadalupe River, west of the town of Hunt. Ten cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Baltimore, MD, reported a record high reading of 102 degrees for the second day in a row. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from North Dakota to Indiana. Thunderstorms in North Dakota produced tennis ball size hail at Carson. Thunderstorms in Indiana produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Fort Wayne. Five cities in the Southern Atlantic Coast Region reported record high temperatures for the date, including Lakeland, FL, with a reading of 100 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990: The costliest hailstorm in U.S. history occurred along the Front Range of the Colorado Rockies. (Denver, Colorado): Softball-sized hail destroyed roofs and cars, causing more than \$600 million in total damage.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 11, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 343 ♦ 7 of 19



Hot Weekend Ahead




Highs Today

Highs on Sunday

Marginal Risk for Severe Thunderstorms

NWS Heat Index		Temperature (°F)														
		80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity

■ Caution
 ■ Extreme Caution
 ■ Danger
 ■ Extreme Danger

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

Published on: 07/11/2015 at 5:41AM

Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms are possible today. Severe storms are possible with large hail being the main threat. Very hot and humid conditions are likely on Sunday with highs climbing into the 90s. Some locations in central South Dakota could see 100 degrees. Stay hydrated, stay cool and limit your time outdoors! Do NOT leave children or pets unattended in vehicles!

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 11, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 343 ♦ 8 of 19

Yesterday's Weather

High: 85.8 at 2:58 PM

Low: 60.4 at 3:20 AM

High Gust: 25 at 3:24 PM

Precip: 0.02

Today's Info

Record High: 110° in 1930

Record Low: 45° in 1941

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 1.20

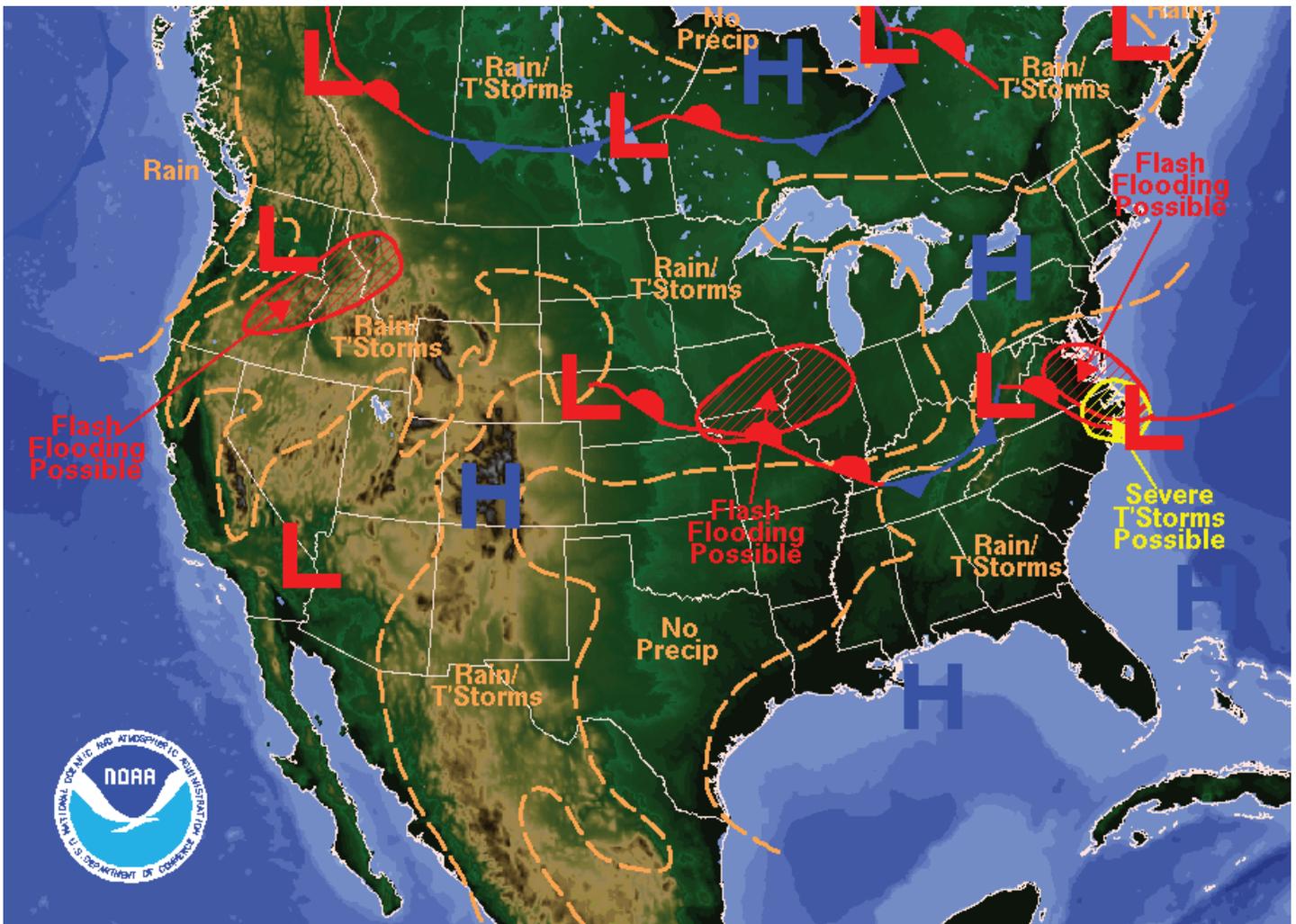
Precip to date in July: 1.77

Average Precip to date: 12.02

Precip Year to Date: 9.19

Sunset Tonight: 9:21 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:56 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Jul 11, 2015, issued 4:44 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 11, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 343 ♦ 9 of 19



"GOODBYE. WE'RE MOVING!"

The discussion at dinner centered on the family's move to New York. That evening as she was saying her bedtime prayers with her mother, little Suzanne concluded them by saying, "Goodbye, Jesus. I guess we won't be talking anymore. We are moving to New York and I'm not sure you can hear me from there."

Our Heavenly Father is not confined to any city or church. He has no set hours or days off. We do not need an appointment and He has no secretary to screen His calls. He's always there when we need Him for anything and everything. In fact, it is almost beyond belief that we have direct and immediate access to the Creator of the Universe.

When He encourages us to "call upon me," He concludes this invitation by saying that He will personally "answer us." What a gracious and generous guarantee from a loving and faithful Father. Wherever we are and whenever any need arises, He's there waiting and listening for our call.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for the promise that You listen, hear and answer when we call for help. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Jeremiah 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota prison inmate placed on 'escape' status

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota prison inmate at a minimum-security unit in Sioux Falls has been placed on "escape" status.

The South Dakota Department of Corrections says inmate Clint Eldeen was last seen leaving the minimum-security unit at the State Penitentiary at 6:45 p.m. Friday.

The 46-year-old Eldeen is serving two sentences for no account check, the first 30 years with 15 years suspended and the second, a consecutive 30 year sentence with 25 years suspended.

Both sentences were imposed on June 2000 in Lincoln County.

Eldeen is described as a white male with brown hair and blue eyes. He is 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs approximately 170 pounds.

Rattlesnake bites 19-year-old SD man who kept reptile as pet

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Animal control authorities in southeast South Dakota have seized three rattlesnakes after one of the reptiles bit a 19-year-old who kept them as pets.

The animal control officers with the Sioux Falls Police Department say the man was bitten Friday. Officers became aware of the poisonous snake bite after the man sought treatment at a local hospital.

As part of the investigation into the bite, officers learned the man kept various poisonous reptiles at his Sioux Falls home and secured a search warrant. Officers then seized the three rattlesnakes.

Police did not immediately release the man's identity.

New South Dakota Highway Patrol office opening in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — State officials will be gathering in Rapid City next week to celebrate the opening of a new district office for the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, state Highway Patrol officials and others will participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Thursday. They will also tour the building.

The new district office is located in the 2200 block of Elgin Street.

SD man dies when car hits bridge pillar supporting I-29

BALTIC, S.D. (AP) — An 89-year-old man is dead after crashing his vehicle into a bridge pillar that supports a portion of Interstate 29 in southeast South Dakota.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the Dell Rapids man died Friday afternoon. The agency is withholding the man's name pending notification of his family.

The Highway Patrol says the incident happened at 4:40 p.m. Friday when the man was driving a 2015 Dodge Charger heading east on 250th Street near Interstate 29 west of Baltic. Authorities say the vehicle went off the roadway and hit the bridge pillar. The pillar supports the southbound lane of I-29.

The Highway Patrol says the crash remains under investigation.

Little people group targeting 'midget' mascots across US

ALAN SCHER ZAGIER, Associated Press

FREEBURG, Ill. (AP) — As with many small towns, the biggest source of bragging rights in this agrarian outpost in southern Illinois are its high school athletes — the Freeburg Midgets.

Though town lore traces the mascot's origin to a local reporter who was impressed by the school's short basketball team beating larger opponents nearly a century ago, the school faces public pressure to drop the nickname — just like some college, pro and high school teams that still cling to terms once considered acceptable but now viewed as derogatory.

"We recognize that it's not intended to have a negative impact," Little People of America President Gary Arnold said. "But with all the history and baggage that comes with the word, it still does."

Arnold and other group leaders delivered a 4,400-signature petition to the school this week asking to phase out the nickname within two years and to stop selling "Midget" merchandise to people from outside the community 25 miles east of St. Louis. The 7,000-member nonprofit, which represents people with dwarfism, held its annual convention in St. Louis this month.

The word "midget" is derived from midge, a sand fly, and emerged in the 1800s to describe circus performers, according to a Little People of America flier.

Arnold said the group is targeting Freeburg — four years after visiting to discuss concerns — in hopes that a half-dozen other schools in Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin with similar nicknames will also agree to the change.

Freeburg superintendent Andrew Lehman said that while he is sympathetic to the concerns, the district has no plans to change the mascot. Supporters have organized a dueling petition and Facebook page.

"People's perspective on what is a good mascot or a bad mascot, that's a subjective issue," he said. "The name stuck. The town liked it. It ought to be the decision of the people who run the school." Still, he'll share the group's request at the next school board meeting.

Already, some college teams have made the change to comply with NCAA rules, including the University of North Dakota, which has yet to replace its Fighting Sioux mascot. And the NFL's Washington Redskins lost a federal court battle this week when a judge ordered its trademark registration be canceled because the name may disparage Native Americans.

High school officials elsewhere suggested they may be more receptive to dropping the "midget" nickname.

"We're probably going to have that conversation," even though there've been no complaints, said Scott Lepke, superintendent of the McLaughlin School District in South Dakota. "It's kind of embarrassing to have that nickname. It's not a positive."

Arnold said his group is particularly concerned that "midget" nicknames could expose students of short stature, whether dwarves or not, to bullying and ridicule.

"It sends a signal to youth that the use of the word 'midget' to describe a small person is acceptable and humorous," he said.

The linguistic battle was waged within the ranks of the nonprofit, which was initially known as the "Midgets of America" when founded by actor Billy Barty in 1957, Arnold said. The name change came several years later.

The group now says preferred nomenclature is a "personal decision"; accepted terms include short stature, dwarfism, little person and dwarf.

"The word has evolved," Arnold said. "And we feel that it's time for a change."

Winter wheat crop expected to be down 34 percent this year

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Federal agriculture officials are forecasting South Dakota's 2015 winter wheat crop to finish with more than a third fewer bushels than last year.

Based on July 1 conditions, the National Agricultural Statistics Service says this year's crop is forecast at 39.4 million bushels. That's a 13 percent drop from the forecast on June 1 and a 34 percent decline from last year's crop.

The average yield is forecast at 41 bushels per acre, down 14 bushels from last year. The acreage to be harvested for grain is estimated at 960,000 acres, an 11 percent decline from last year.

Avera McKennan hospital in Sioux Falls buys 69 properties

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Officials at Avera McKennan Hospital say they've acquired almost 70 residential properties south of their Sioux Falls campus in case they want to expand further.

The hospital purchased 69 residential properties south of the hospital campus between 23rd and 26th Streets and 7th and Cliff Avenues in Sioux Falls. It acquired the properties from Sioux Falls Surgical Physicians LLC.

Officials say they do not have any immediate plans to expand their campus.

Thomas Bosch is the vice president of hospital at Avera McKennan Hospital and University Health Center. Bosch says it's important to own property for future expansion when a hospital campus is located in the middle of a city.

Fifty-four of the properties are rentals of which Avera McKennan will assume management. Fifteen others are vacant lots.

Rapid City police position to enhance cultural understanding

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Police in Rapid City are creating a new part-time position to increase cultural understanding between law enforcement and the community.

Chief Karl Jegeris announced Friday the creation of a Cultural Advisory Coordinator position.

Twenty-nine-year-old Vaughn Vargas has been appointed as the first coordinator. Vargas is a student at the South Dakota School of Mines and a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

As the coordinator, Vargas will head the department's new Cultural Advisory Committee. The goal of the committee is to represent all races and cultures, with an emphasis on representing Native Americans in the community.

The committee is expected to be up and running by the end of the year. It will meet regularly to provide recommendations to advance the department's relationship with the community.

Hundreds of Midwest lawmakers to meet at Bismarck conference

JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Hundreds of lawmakers from the Midwest and Canada are meeting in Bismarck to discuss challenges, opportunities and cooperation in the region, the group's chairman said.

"States are 'laboratories of democracy' and this is a chance to come together and share ideas on everything from economic development and education to health care and criminal justice," said North Dakota Sen. Tim Flakoll.

The Midwestern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments, which begins Saturday and wraps up Wednesday, will include tours of North Dakota agriculture facilities and the state's flourishing oil patch in the west of the state.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 11, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 343 ♦ 13 of 19

Flakoll, the chairman of the conference, said participants are especially curious about North Dakota's unprecedented oil bonanza that has made it the economic darling of the nation.

"There is tremendous interest in us as an energy leader," Flakoll, R-Fargo, said.

Speakers at the event include astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second person to walk on the moon, and former Secret Service agent Clint Hill, who is known for leaping aboard President John F. Kennedy's limousine after he was shot in Dallas. Hill is a native of Larimore, North Dakota.

The conference presents a chance to showcase the state, said Sheri Grossman, Bismarck-Mandan Convention and Visitors Bureau's chief operating officer.

Riverboat rides on the Missouri River are planned, as is a pitchfork fondue cookout, where chunks of meat are skewered on long-handled pronged hand tools and thrust into large vats of boiling oil. Participants will tour North Dakota's Heritage Center that recently underwent a \$52 million upgrade and features dinosaur fossil and antique farm machinery exhibits.

The event is expected to inject about \$300,000 into the local economy, Grossman said.

Flakoll said more than 550 lawmakers are slated to attend from the Dakotas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin. The Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan will also participate.

The conference is in its 70th year. Bismarck hosted the event once before, in 1992 and Fargo was the host city in 2002.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is slated to host the event next year.

Group of South Dakota legislators calling for special session to address teacher shortage

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A group of South Dakota legislators are calling for a special legislative session to address the state's teacher shortage.

State Rep. Elizabeth May joined five fellow legislators Thursday in Rapid City to officially call for a session on August 17. May tells KCCR-AM the teacher shortage is a "crisis" that needs to be addressed.

The policymaker from Kyle says they're sending letters to all state legislators asking if they support a special session.

May says they will allow 15 days for the letters to be returned. If they're not returned in that time, she says they'll be counted as a "no" vote.

The governor can order a special session but May says if two-thirds of legislators agree they can approve one themselves.

Sioux Falls Storm playing for 5th consecutive IFL crown

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls Storm is going for a five-peat on Saturday.

The four-time defending Indoor Football League champion plays the Nebraska Danger for this year's United Bowl title in the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls.

It's the third straight year the two teams have met for the IFL crown. The Storm won 43-40 in 2013 and 63-46 last year.

Marion man killed in motorcycle-car crash near Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Marion man is dead after the motorcycle he was driving was struck by a car on state Highway 42.

The Highway Patrol says the car crossed the highway's center line Thursday afternoon about 11 miles west of Sioux Falls and collided with the motorcycle driven by 60-year-old Roger Waltner. He was pronounced dead at a Sioux Falls hospital.

The patrol says the 58-year-old driver of the car and a 14-year-old passenger suffered injuries that are not considered life-threatening. Charges are pending.

AP News in Brief

Greeks enter Brussels talks with parliament's backing; creditors see 'basis' for discussion

BRUSSELS (AP) — Greek government negotiators headed into weekend talks with their international creditors with the backing of their parliament and in the knowledge that their reform plan held enough concessions to be a basis for negotiations.

The Greek parliament early Saturday passed the bailout proposals package with 251 votes in favor and 32 against.

In Brussels, a source close to the negotiations said the international creditors saw the Greek package "under certain conditions ... as a basis for discussion" at Saturday's meeting of the 19 eurozone finance ministers.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks, says creditors were still looking stronger commitments, tighter deadlines and more urgent action on several issues highlighted in the Greek proposals.

Italian FM says country 'not intimidated' by deadly blast at Cairo consulate

CAIRO (AP) — Italy's foreign minister vowed that his country would not be intimidated after a deadly explosion Saturday morning killed one person and heavily damaged the Italian Consulate in the Egyptian capital.

In a message on his official Twitter feed, Paolo Gentiloni wrote, "Our thoughts are with the people affected and with our personnel. Italy will not let itself be intimidated."

The blast went off Saturday morning after 6 a.m. Heath Ministry official Hossam Abdel-Ghaffar told The Associated Press that at least one person was killed in the blast, and four others injured. Abdel-Ghaffar said the victim had not been identified but that his limbs were severed, suggesting the victim was close to the explosion.

An Italian diplomat said the consulate was closed at the time and no staff members were wounded in the blast.

A security official said the exact cause of the explosion was still unclear and there has been no claim of responsibility yet. However Egypt is in the midst of a rising wave of violence in recent weeks between government forces and Islamic militants. Less than two weeks ago, the country's chief prosecutor was killed in an explosion near his home in Cairo as he was heading to work. Days later, militants waged a coordinated and protracted attack on military installations in the restive northern Sinai province, leaving at least 17 soldiers dead in one of the most brazen attacks on troops in the area.

South Carolina's Confederate flag is gone, but vestiges of the Civil War-era South remain

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The Confederate battle flag no longer flies at South Carolina's Statehouse, now relegated to a room filled with other relics of the state's secession. Other vestiges of the Civil War-era South are unlikely to vanish so soon.

Several states have taken or are considering action to remove the flag and other Confederate symbols and monuments since the massacre of nine people at a Bible study inside a black church; police have charged a man shown in pictures with the flag who they say was motivated by hate. It has been banished from Alabama's Capitol and federal cemeteries, and Memphis officials are working to move the remains and a statue of slave trader and Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest out of a prominent park.

Still, the region is full of monuments to key players in the Confederacy and even the Ku Klux Klan. Confederate flags remain a common sight on license plates in the South, and the flag is a part of Mississippi's own state flag. Georgia's state flag is based on the national flag of the Confederacy known as the stars and bars.

The response in South Carolina and other states is encouraging after 15 years of no activity but was prompted only by a "massacre," said Mark Potok, a senior fellow at the Southern Poverty Law Center. "We need a kind of mental cleansing down here," Potok said. "It's 150 years overdue."

Thousands await pope at Caacupe shrine beloved to Paraguayans and to the pope from days in BA

CAACUPE, Paraguay (AP) — When Marta Noella was a girl, she says she was frequently beaten by her strict father. At 14, she was so depressed she planned to kill herself by stepping in front of a car.

What happened next she attributes to a miracle from the Virgin of Caacupe, whose shrine is the most important pilgrimage site in Paraguay and will be the site of Pope Francis' Mass on Saturday.

"I felt the presence of God and right then I decided I wanted to live," said Noella, now a 23-year-old university student who spent the night standing near the basilica in hopes of getting a look at Francis when he arrives.

The Caacupe shrine, which houses a little wooden statue of the Virgin Mary, is close to Francis' heart. When he was archbishop of Buenos Aires, he often visited the Villa 21 slum where many Paraguayan immigrants live, joining them in their religious processions and celebrating baptisms at their church, Our Lady of Miracles of Caacupe. On Saturday, he'll celebrate Mass at the original Caacupe shrine. Hundreds of thousands are expected to attend.

On Friday night, tens of thousands had already arrived. Many brought chairs and blankets, sitting and lying down in the square and along the street where Francis is to arrive. Youth groups chanted "Pope Francis, Paraguay is with you!" Elderly Paraguayans periodically knelt on the cement to pray. During periodic bursts of rain, the faithful pulled out plastic ponchos and umbrellas, passing around sweets and sipping on mate tea to stay warm.

As Donald Trump shifts campaign to Western states, immigration stance divides GOP in Arizona

PHOENIX (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is drawing larger crowds as he continues to criticize immigration policies in stark language that has revealed a deep divide between immigration hawks and moderates who are trying to avoid alienating Hispanic voters.

On Saturday, Trump was scheduled to campaign in Nevada and then in Arizona, a hub of immigrant and drug smuggling where the real estate developer and reality TV star has developed a large following. A rally in Phoenix was first planned at a posh resort that could handle about 1,000 guests, but organizers moved it to the city's convention center.

Trump's descriptions of Mexican immigrants bringing drugs and crime to the U.S. and being rapists have been roundly denounced as offensive. But his message about the broken border has resonated with many in the GOP, especially after an immigrant who was deported multiple times was accused of killing a woman on a San Francisco pier.

In Los Angeles for a rally Friday evening, Trump brought together people who said their relatives had been killed by immigrants in the U.S. illegally. "The illegals come in and the illegals killed their children," he said. "And we better get smart in the United States."

Arizona's major Chamber of Commerce group, both U.S. senators and a host of other GOP backers heaped their ire on Trump as the visit to Phoenix drew near. Republican Gov. Doug Ducey, who met presidential hopefuls Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker when they were in the state, is snubbing Trump. Protesters like the ones who greeted Trump in Los Angeles were expected.

Tens of thousands pour into Srebrenica to mark the 20th anniversary of the massacre

SREBRENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Tens of thousands of people poured into Srebrenica Saturday, by buses, cars, motorcycles and on foot, to mark the 20th anniversary of Europe's worst massacre since the Holocaust and to attend the funeral of 136 newly found victims.

Dozens of foreign dignitaries — including former U.S. President Bill Clinton, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, Britain's Princess Anne and Jordan's Queen Noor — came for a ceremony mourning the 8,000 Muslim men and boys killed in the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica by Bosnian Serb troops. The crime was later defined as genocide by two international courts.

At the end of the ceremony families will lay the remains of 136 victims to rest at a memorial center next to the graves of over 6,000 previously found in mass graves.

During the 1992-95 war, the United Nations declared Srebrenica a safe haven for civilians. But on July 11, 1995, Serb troops overran the Muslim enclave. Some 15,000 men tried to flee through the woods toward government-held territory while others joined the town's women and children in seeking refuge at the base of the Dutch U.N. troops.

The outnumbered Dutch troops could only watch as Serb soldiers rounded up about 2,000 men for killing and later hunted down and killed another 6,000 men in the woods.

Typhoon Chan-hom hits Chinese coast as nearly 1 million people are evacuated, flights canceled

BEIJING (AP) — Typhoon Chan-hom hit the Chinese coast south of Shanghai on Saturday with winds of up to 160 kilometers (100 miles) per hour, as nearly 1 million people were evacuated and hundreds of airline flights canceled, state television reported.

The storm made landfall in Zhoushan, a city just east of the port of Ningbo in Zhejiang province, China Central Television reported. There was no word of injuries, but the broadcaster showed its reporter standing in knee-deep water in a flooded street.

More than 960,000 people were evacuated from coastal areas ahead of the storm, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The provincial flood control bureau said 28,764 ships had been ordered back to port by late Friday.

The national weather service said earlier the typhoon might be the strongest to strike China since the communist government took power in 1949. It initially was deemed a super-typhoon but was downgraded at midday Saturday to a strong typhoon.

The country's railway service said more than 100 trains between the region's cities were canceled through Sunday.

Film sparks scandal for portraying family life of assassinated Israeli prime minister's killer

JERUSALEM (AP) — A new documentary has set off an uproar in Israel for its peek into the family life of the country's most reviled prisoner — the man who assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin nearly 20 years ago.

Despite an effort by Israel's culture minister to sideline the film, audiences packed a hall this week for back-to-back screenings of "Beyond the Fear." The film explores the thorny drama of a Moscow-born intellectual who married assassin Yigal Amir after he was sentenced to life in prison and, following a court battle for a conjugal visit, gave birth to their son in 2007.

The late filmmaker Herz Frank, who died two years ago, spent about 10 years following Amir's wife, Larisa Trembovler, receiving unprecedented access to her and their son, Yinon. The film paints a non-judgmental portrait of the family, never directly confronting Trembovler over what her husband did, even as she talks of him as a hero. It documents mesmerizing tape recordings of the bedtime stories Amir tells his young son in telephone conversations from his maximum security cell, stories that, critics say, seem to serve as a lesson that his actions were noble.

Israeli filmmakers tend not to shy away from picking at their society's most festering wounds, but painting an open-minded portrait of Amir's family has long been a no-go zone.

"I do think it really is one of the last remaining taboos," said Shmulik Duvdevani, a scholar of Israeli documentary film at Tel Aviv University.

Taylor Swift brings US women's soccer team onstage to honor them during New Jersey concert

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Taylor Swift was a true all-American girl at her concert as she honored the U.S. women's soccer team by bringing them onstage.

Fresh off their World Cup championship, the players joined Swift on Friday night during "Style" at the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Four of the players are from New Jersey.

Concertgoers screamed loudly for the players, who waved two American flags and sang along to Swift's hit song. They also brought their trophy and let the singer hold it.

"I wanna hold it one more time," Swift said.

They huddled like a team at the end of the performance, and the audience chanted "U.S.A." after they exited.

Wimbledon Lookahead: 'Serena Slam,' true Grand Slam at stake for Williams against Muguruza

LONDON (AP) — Turn back the calendar more than a year, to June 28, 2014, when Serena Williams lost to Alize Cornet in the third round at Wimbledon.

It was Williams' earliest exit from the All England Club in nearly a decade. It also marked the fourth time in five Grand Slam tournaments she was beaten before the quarterfinals.

Now examine what Cornet, who was seeded 25th and only once previously had been as far as the fourth round at a major, said afterward: "It might be a bit premature to talk about her decline, but when she plays someone who finds the right tactics, she looks a bit lost on the court. In my opinion, there are more and more players understanding how to play her."

Oh, really? Where are they hiding? Since that day, Williams has not lost a Grand Slam match, winning 27 in a row — on the hard courts of the U.S. Open and Australian Open, then the red clay of the French Open, and now the grass of Wimbledon — heading into Saturday's final against 21-year-old Garbine Muguruza of Spain.

It will be the No. 1-seeded Williams' 25th career Grand Slam title match — she is 20-4 in the others — and the 20th-seeded Muguruza's first.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2015. There are 173 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 11, 1955, the U.S. Air Force Academy swore in its first class of cadets at its temporary quarters at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado.

On this date:

In 1767, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts.

In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.

In 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, New Jersey.

In 1864, Confederate forces led by Lt. Gen. Jubal Early began an abortive invasion of Washington

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 11, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 343 ♦ 19 of 19

D.C., turning back the next day.

In 1915, the Chicago Sunday Tribune ran an article titled, "Blues Is Jazz and Jazz Is Blues." (It's believed to be one of the earliest, if not the earliest, uses of the word "jazz" as a musical term by a newspaper.)

In 1922, the Hollywood Bowl officially opened with a program called "Symphonies Under the Stars" with Alfred Hertz conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

In 1937, American composer and pianist George Gershwin died at a Los Angeles hospital of a brain tumor; he was 38.

In 1952, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower for president and Richard M. Nixon for vice president.

In 1960, the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee was first published by J.B. Lippincott and Co.

In 1979, the abandoned U.S. space station Skylab made a spectacular return to Earth, burning up in the atmosphere and showering debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

In 1989, actor and director Laurence Olivier died in Steyning, West Sussex, England, at age 82.

In 1995, the U.N.-designated "safe haven" of Srebrenica (SREH'-breh-neet-sah) in Bosnia-Herzegovina fell to Bosnian Serb forces, who then carried out the killings of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys. The United States normalized relations with Vietnam.

Ten years ago: A top al-Qaida lieutenant and three other terror suspects escaped from a U.S. military jail in Afghanistan. (The identity of Omar al-Farouq wasn't acknowledged by the U.S. until November 2005; he was shot and killed by British forces in Basra, Iraq, in October 2006.)

Five years ago: Over the din of vuvuzela horns in Johannesburg, South Africa, Spain won soccer's World Cup after an exhausting 1-0 victory in extra time over the Netherlands. Police in the Bahamas arrested 19-year-old Colton Harris-Moore, the American fugitive known as the "Barefoot Bandit." The Rev. Robert H. Schuller, founder of Southern California's Crystal Cathedral megachurch, announced he would retire after 55 years in the pulpit. Paula Creamer won her first major tournament, shooting a final-round 2-under 69 for a 3-under 281 at the U.S. Women's Open in Oakmont, Pennsylvania.

One year ago: House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers, R-Ky., said that President Barack Obama's \$3.7 billion emergency request to deal with tens of thousands of unaccompanied children arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border was too big to get through the House, as a growing number of Democrats rejected policy changes Republicans were demanding as their price for approving any money. Tommy Ramone, 65, a co-founder of the seminal punk band the Ramones and the last surviving member of the original group, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Tab Hunter is 84. Actress Susan Seaforth Hayes is 72. Singer Jeff Hanna (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 69. Ventriloquist-actor Jay Johnson is 66. Actor Bruce McGill is 65. Singer Bonnie Pointer is 65. Actor Stephen Lang is 63. Actress Mindy Sterling is 62. Boxer Leon Spinks is 62. Actress Sela Ward is 59. Reggae singer Michael Rose (Black Uhuru) is 58. Singer Peter Murphy is 58. Actor Mark Lester is 57. Jazz musician Kirk Whalum is 57. Singer Suzanne Vega is 56. Rock guitarist Richie Sambora (Bon Jovi) is 56. Actress Lisa Rinna is 52. Rock musician Scott Shriner (Weezer) is 50. Actress Debbe (correct) Dunning is 49. Actor Gred Grunberg is 49. Wildlife expert Jeff Corwin is 48. Actor Justin Chambers is 45. Actress Leisha Hailey is 44. Actor Michael Rosenbaum is 43. Pop-rock singer Andrew Bird is 42. Country singer Scotty Emerick is 42. Rapper Lil' Kim is 40. Rock singer Ben Gibbard is 39. Rapper Lil' Zane is 33. Pop-jazz singer-musician Peter Cincotti is 32. Actress Serinda Swan is 31. Actor Robert Adamson is 30. Actor David Henrie is 26. Actor Connor Paolo is 25. Tennis player Caroline Wozniacki is 25.

Thought for Today: "Life is a lot like jazz - it's best when you improvise." - George Gershwin (1898-1937).