Friday, July 24, 2015 + Vol. 19 - No. 004 + 1 of 18



Wells Fargo Bank in downtown Groton recently had new signage installed.

- 1- Mark Malmberg, DDS Ad
- 1 Wells Fargo new signage
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- ProAm Golf Results
- 2- Treeline Tree Service ad
- 4- GHS Class of 1975
- 5- Teeners action shots against Sisseton
- 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

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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Friday, July 24

Jr. Teener State Legion state at Salem PW/Midget League Tourney

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Roger and Pam Rix Birthdays: Christi Swenson • Nathan Loutsch • Nicole Foote • Karen Lane • Harvey Fliehs II •

Macine McGannon

Saturday, July 25

Jr. Teener State Legion state at Salem PW/Midget League Tourney **Anniversary:** Steve and Lori Giedt **Birthdays:** April Woodward • Stan Knudsen • Taylor Holm • Hannah Webb 4:30pm:St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, July 26



Friday, July 24, 2015 • Vol. 19 - No. 004 • 2 of 18

Groton ProAm Golf Tourney Thursday, July 23, 2016 Olive Grove Golf Course

Team Scores

126- Lance Frohling, TJ Sperry, Brett Merkel, Doug Quinones 119- Jake Unzen, Jarod Fliehs, Ryan Barney, Nick Dello 118- Tom Mahan, Tim Bergstrom, Steve Dunker, Brent Baylon 115- Luke Kraft, Alan Heer, Justin Remily, Kirby Pettitt 114- Connor Hanson, Gabe Kjellsen, Ryan Koehler, Nick Latimer 113- Brad Larson, Tyler Sperry, Blake Ronning, Josh Porter 113- Jason Hill, Jay Waage, Eric Moody, Matt Schneider 113- Brad Waage, Roger Colestock, Craig Dunker, Jay Jurecic 112- Randy Stanley, Bob Walter, Mike Siegler, Tim Ailes 111- Dave Frank, Jerry Johnson, Austin Schuelke, Dylan Baker 110- Brad Hanson, Rich Leigh, Sherm Cutler, Ryan Brees 108- Scott Kettering, Matt Locke, Jeremy Smith, Scott Cherry 106- Daniel Osbaldeston, Steven Gouirand, Tarik Can, Kyle Endicott 104- Lorin Fliehs, Arden Gilbert, Terry Gilchrist, Bleu George 103- Joel Guthmiller, Reid Johnson, Ian Rose, Collin Wheeler 103- Tom Opsahl, Justin Monsen, Troy Olson, Aaron Davis 102- Jan Gilchrist, Dave Carlson, Ken Carlson, Andre Bedard 101- Steve Young, Craig Grupe, Jeff Christenson, John McMillen 99- Jackson Waage, Tanner Waage, Brock Hanten, Paul Henderson 97- Lionel Bruemmer, Larry Bohling, Henry Renville, Mikey McGinn



The championship team was Brett Merkel, TJ Sperry and Lance Frohling; not pictured is Doug Quinones.

Treeline Tree Service

Over 30 Years of Combined Experience! TJ Sperry: 380-7915 Tyler Sperry: 216-8431

Stump Removal

Friday, July 24, 2015 + Vol. 19 - No. 004 + 3 of 18

Pro Gross Results

Tim Ailes 67, Nick Dello 68, Doug Quinones 68, Bleu Goerge 70, Jay Jurecic 70, Scott Cherry 71, Nick Latimer 71, Matt Schneider 72, Kirby Pettitt 72, Paul Henderson 72, Brent Baylon 73, Collin Wheeler 74, Mickey McGinn 74, Daniel Osbaldeston 75, Tarik Can 76, Dylan Baker 76, Aaron Davis 76, Ryan Brees 77, Andrew Bedard 77, Josh Porter 77, Steven Gouirand 77, John McMillen 81, Kyle Endicott 81.

Amateur Gross Scores

Gabe Kjellsen 78, TJ Sperry 78, Tim Bergstrom 79, Rich Leigh 80, Jarod Fliehs 80, Blake Ronning 81, Connor Hanson 81, Tyler Sperry 83, Brad Larson 83, Austin Schuelke 83, Reid Johnson 84, Brad Waage 84, Sherm Cutler 84, Joel Guthmiller 84, Brock Hanten 85, Brad Hanson 85, Jeremy Smith 85, Jan Gilchrist 85, Tanner Waage 86, Ian Rose 86, Jackson Waage 87, Steve Dunker 87, Jerry Johnson 87, Roger Colestock 87, Bob Walter 88, Jeff Christenson 88, Craig Grupe 88, Luke Kraft 89, Lorin Fliehs 89, Alan Heer 89, Eric Moody 90, Lance Frohling 90, Craig Dunker 90, Randy Stanley 90, Jason Hill 90, Justin Remily 90, Dave Carlson 91, Dave Frank 91, Scott Kettering 92, Larry Bohling 92, Ryan Barney 92, Jay Waage 93, Troy Olson 93, Arden Gilbert 94, Justin Monsen 94, Brett Merkel 95, Tom Mahan 95, Steve Young 96, Mike Siegler 97, Ryan Koehler 97, Ken Carlson 98, Jake Unzen 99, Lionel Bruemmer 100, Tom Opsahl 100, Henry Renville 102, Terry Gilchrist 103, Matt Locke 114.



TJ Sperry had the net low score while Gabe Kjellsen had the low gross score.

Amateur Net Results

TJ Sperry 69, Steve Dunker 70, Blake Ronning 71, Rich Leigh 72, Jarod Fliehs 72, Gabe Kjellsen 72, Tim Bergstrom 73, Bob walter 74, Connor Hanson 75, Jeremy Smith 75, Jan Gilchrist 75, Brad Larson 76, Lance Frohling 76, Eric Moody 76, Justin Remily 76, Brett Merkel 77, Brad Waage 77, Sherm Cutler 77, Austin Schuelke 77, Troy Olson 77, Dave Frank 77, Luke Kraft 78, Jerry Johnson 78, Randy Stanley 78, Alan Heer 78, Brad Hanson 78, Craig Grupe 78, Ian Rose 78, Joel Guthmiller 78, Tyler Sperry 79, Lorin Fliehs 79, Larry Bohling 79, Roger Colestock 79, Ryan Barney 79, Craig Dunker 80, Dave Carlson 80, Jeff Christenson 80, Reid Johnson 81, Jay Waage 81, Jason Hill 81, Brock Hanten 82, Mike Siegler 82, Tom Mahan 82, Arden Gilbert 83, Scott Kettering 84, Justin Monsen 84, Jackson Waage 85, Tanner Waage 85, Steve Young 85, Ken Carlson 86, Terry Gilchrist 86, Lionel Bruemmer 86, Ryan Koehler 86, Tom Opsahl 88, Jake Unzen 90, Henry Renville 91, Matt Locke 92.

Friday, July 24, 2015 • Vol. 19 - No. 004 • 4 of 18



Pictured in the back row are: Eugene Johnson, Greg Siefkes, Jeff Braun, Beth (Kruse) Wegehaupt, John Ries, Rick Kammerer and Brad Morehouse;

Middle row: Bruce Sippel, Kris (Raap) Schneider, Earleen (Daly) Pope, Sandy (Schuring) Jebbens, Janel (Hanson) Merkel, Dale Abeln, Tami (Erickson) Zimney, and Scott Sueltz;

Seated: Steve Herron, Harvey Fliehs, Yvonne (Larson) Ablen, Carla (Reed) Stahl, and Deb (Hoops) Olson.

Attendees not pictured include Lisa Schelle, Bill Sieh, Sherry (Zimney) Arneson, Carla (McKiver) Ronning, Loren Johnson, David and Connie (Sperry) Nilson.

GHS Class of 1975 hold reunion

Members of the GHS class of 1975 held a 40 year reunion the weekend of July 17 & 18. Friday night's gathering at Deb Olson's home in Groton started, literally, with a bang when a severe thunderstorm moved thru the area just as guests were arriving and some outdoor activities were curtailed. The weather did cooperate for Saturday's golfing event and the afternoon tour of the school involved a lot of reminiscing.

One of the most notable items of remembrance was that 4 members of this class (Deb Olson, Earleen Pope, Carla Stahl and Beth Wegehaupt)were on the first Groton Girl's Basketball team that was formed in 1975. Saturday night's program included a tribute to deceased classmates Michael Ball, Donna (Chell) Meyer, John Luce, Robert McGannon, and Arnold Zoellner. Other memories included mood rings, pet rocks, hip huggers, bellbottoms, leisure suits, 8 tracks, disco, PEZ candy, TV show Saturday Night Live, President Gerald Ford and ten cent postage stamps.

Friday, July 24, 2015 • Vol. 19 - No. 004 • 5 of 18



Luke Thorson (above) hits a double to drive in Truitt Rogers (below) who had a single to get on base.



Korbin Blackmun teamed up with Turner as catcher the first game in Sisseton.



Brandon Keith scores in the loss to Sisseton 10-8.





Turner Webb was the starting pitcher in the first game against Sisseton Wednesday night.



Anthony Sippel came in in relief



Anthony Sippel steals second base.

Friday, July 24, 2015 + Vol. 19 - No. 004 + 6 of 18

Today in Weather History

July 24, 1993: A severe thunderstorm struck southern Hyde County, including the city of Highmore, with winds in excess of 60 mph and heavy rains of two to four inches. Near Stephan, in far southern Hyde County, an estimated of over four inches of rain in 20 minutes caused flooding damage around a bridge. Three to nine inches of rain caused widespread flash flooding and flood damage to Day, Roberts, and southeastern Marshall Counties. Especially hard hit was an area from Webster, northeastward through the Pickerel and Buffalo Lakes area, to Sisseton. A state of emergency was declared in Sisseton. The heavy rains overwhelmed a small creek that flows through Sisseton, swelling it to three blocks wide and up to five feet deep. The rushing water carried lumber, railroad ties, propane tanks, and several vehicles. Flood damage occurred to 70 percent of all buildings in Sisseton, including 100 homes. In Webster, the excessive rain flooded all the sewer lefts that pump water out of low lying areas in town. The sewer system then backed up into homes and businesses. Nine of the 12 main floor rooms at the Super 8 motel in Webster were flooded by the rainstorm. Roads and bridge damage was also extensive in Roberts, Day, and Marshall Counties with about 50 roads and bridges in Day County damaged by the flooding. Areas lakes, including Pickerel, Blue Dog, Enemy Swim, and Buffalo lakes rose over two feet, inundating areas around lake homes and submerging docks. Some estimated storm total rainfall amounts include; 4.60 inches in Webster; 3.91 in Waubay; 3.90 in Britton; and 3.60 inches near Ashton.

July 24, 1997: Over 6 inches of rain fell in the Conde area in far northeast Spink County. Water was over Highway 37 and many town basements were flooded. One basement filled with 5 feet of water. Nearly 7 inches of rain was received at Lake Poinset and over 6 inches of rain was received in Estelline. Hidewood creek in Hamlin County overflowed its banks. Water went into many residences homes and some people were evacuated. A small bridge was taken out by the high water and Highway 28 was closed for an hour.

1886 - Rain fell at Lawrence, KS, for the first time in four weeks. Rain fell over much of the state of Kansas that day relieving a severe drought which began in May. The very dry weather ruined crops in Kansas. (David Ludlum)

1942 - The temperature at Las Vegas, NV, hit 117 degrees to set an all-time record for that location. The record was tied on July 19, 2005.

1947 - One of the most powerful strokes of lightning ever measured yielded 345,000 amperes of electricity in Pittsburgh, PA. (The Weather Channel)

1952 - The temperature at Louisville, GA, soared to 112 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - Claudette, a weak tropical storm, deluged southeastern Texas with torrential rains. The Houston suburb of Alvin received 43 inches, a 24 hour record for the U.S. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Twenty-one cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 91 degrees at Beckley, WV, was their hottest reading in 25 years of records, and marked their third straight day of record 90 degree heat. Bakersfield, CA, dipped to 60 degrees, marking their eighth straight morning of record cool weather. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Oklahoma, and over Nebraska and Wisconsin. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Brainerd, NE. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced some flash flooding in New Mexico. Albuquerque, NM, was deluged with an inch and a half of rain in forty minutes. Evening thunderstorms soaked Whie Pine, PA, with two inches of rain in one hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2008: A tornado fluctuated between the category EF1 and the more destructive ÉF2 strikes Northwood and Pittsfield, as well as nine other towns in New Hampshire. It first touches down in Deerfield, then travels through Northwood, Epsom, Pittsfield, Barnstead and Alton. From there, it rages through New Durham, Wolfeboro, Freedom, Ossipee and Effingham. The storm destroys several homes, damages dozens of others and kills at least one person.



Published on: 07/24/2015 at 4:48AM

Expect dry conditions today, with lower humidity. The humidity returns for Saturday with a chance for severe storms mainly across central and southeast South Dakota.

Friday, July 24, 2015 • Vol. 19 - No. 004 • 8 of 18

Yesterday's Weather

High: 91.0 at 5:09 PM Low: 65.3 at 4:31 AM High Gust: 30 at 10:09 PM Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 108° in 1931

Record High: 108° in 1931 Record Low: 46° in 1905 Average High: 84°F Average Low: 60°F Average Precip in July: 2.43 Precip to date in July: 2.45 Average Precip to date: 13.27 Precip Year to Date: 9.87 Sunset Tonight: 9:11 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:09 a.m.





Friday, July 24, 2015 + Vol. 19 - No. 004 + 9 of 18



THE BEST ADVICE EVER

Derek Jeter, formerly a New York Yankee, is acknowledged by some to be one of the greatest shortstops who ever played baseball. One day a reporter asked him, "What's the best advice your father ever gave you?"

Came the quick reply, "Don't let anyone ever outwork you!"

It was hard, relentless work over many years that led Jeter to the pinnacle of his profession. And it is the same hard work that kept him there and served as a model that many seek to follow. His efforts have rewarded him lavishly and brought him friends, fame and fortune.

There are some of us, however, who work just as hard but get relatively little recognition. No one sees us and no one knows how hard we labor. We may even wonder if what we do really matters to anyone. But it does – at least to God. One day He will reward us personally in front of everyone in heaven for the good we have done for others in His Name.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize that You will reward each one of us for all that we have ever done. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Ephesians 6:7-8 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

Friday, July 24, 2015 • Vol. 19 - No. 004 • 10 of 18

News from the Associated Press

SD man accused of sexually abusing woman on rez indicted

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man who federal authorities accuse of sexually abusing a woman three times on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has been indicted.

Federal court records show Jesse Miller, of Porcupine, is scheduled to appear Friday in the U.S. District Court in Rapid City on three counts of aggravated sexual abuse by force.

A grand jury indictment charges Miller with sexually abusing the woman three times on April 6 near Porcupine.

Miller's attorney did not immediately return a call seeking comment on the case.

Weather service reports 2 tornado touchdowns in eastern SD

HURON, S.D. (AP) — The National Weather Service says at least two tornadoes have touched down in South Dakota.

Meteorologist Kyle Weisser with the weather service's Sioux Falls office says one tornado tracked across part of Beadle County on Thursday night and at least one hit Miner County to the southeast.

He says crews will survey the areas tomorrow.

Beadle County Emergency Management Director Tom Moebing says the storm damaged at least one home in the county, although he says the residents were in the basement at the time and weren't injured. There were no other reports of major damage.

In Miner County, Emergency Management Director Bob Calmus says there are no reports of damage beyond downed power lines. He said late Thursday that no injuries had been reported.

Weisser says the storms were likely to weaken as they moved eastward.

Groups in 4 states lobby against proposed Bakken pipeline

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A group of organizations from Illinois, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota are speaking out as a unified coalition against the proposed Bakken Oil Pipeline project.

The organizations include environmental groups Food and Water Watch and Shawnee Forest Sentinels and social action groups Dakota Rural Action and Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement.

They want each state's utility regulators to consider testimony and evidence from the other affected states and to look at the financial status of Energy Transfer Partners, the parent company behind the pipeline project. The coalition points out that the company self-insures against accidents and declares in its recent annual report it may not have adequate reserves to cover all future liabilities including known contamination.

A spokeswoman for Energy Transfer Partners did not immediately respond to messages.

Capital One closing Sioux Falls office; 750 people affected

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Capital One is pulling its offices out of Sioux Falls, affecting about 750 South Dakota residents it employs here, the Virginia-based credit card company announced Thursday.

Employees were told that the company will close its offices in South Dakota's largest city by the end of the year.

Spokeswoman Julie Rakes said the "difficult decision" will allow Capital One Financial Corp. to move its work to other locations within its network.

"Capital One is shifting our call center strategy to allow us to become nimble, flexible and scalable to meet our customer needs," Rakes said.

Employees can apply for other jobs within the company or it will help them find new jobs, the company said. It will also offer severance packages.

Friday, July 24, 2015 + Vol. 19 - No. 004 + 11 of 18

Most of the employees at the Sioux Falls location are customer service representatives, although there also are positions in the back office or that support human resources, information technology and project staff for the company's operations worldwide.

Bob Barse, who works in the company's specialty operations in the back office, said he and other employees were stunned by the announcement.

"I came into work today and found out we were having some sort of meeting," Barse, 30, told the Argus Leader. "It came out of the blue. A lot of people were shocked."

Capital One said it has had too much turnover and has had a hard time filling open positions, KELO-TV reported.

Barse said he had no ill feelings toward the company, noting that it paid well and was offering a generous severance package.

"Honestly, it's been a great company to work for the last three years," he said. "I can't say anything bad about them.

Affected employees will have at least 90 days left to work.

Armed civilians stand guard outside SD recruiting center BY KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Armed civilians stood guard Thursday outside a busy military recruiting center in South Dakota, a volunteer effort to protect recruiters following last week's killing of four Marines and a sailor in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Twenty-three-year-old Zachary Gallegos and 26-year-old Landon Nohava were among those that have begun stationing themselves outside the Armed Forces Recruiting Center. Both men carried handguns Thursday morning in front of the recruiting center in a Sioux Falls strip mall.

The men join others in the U.S. who have moved to guard recruiting centers where employees are not permitted to be armed.

There's no evidence that such centers are in danger, and the government isn't changing how they're staffed, although some governors have temporarily moved National Guard recruiting centers to armories and several have authorized Guard personnel to carry weapons at state facilities.

Both Gallegos and Nohava said they hope state and federal authorities would move to add protections for recruiting offices.

"I plan on coming out as much as possible until it changes," said Nohava, an army veteran from Chancellor who had a concealed handgun. "Because honestly, it's pathetic."

The men aren't coordinating their efforts with any military branch.

Gallegos said he was inspired to begin guarding the recruiting center after seeing a news report about civilians in Tennessee doing the same.

"After Chattanooga, it seemed more of a responsibility to come out and do something," he said.

Gallegos, who said he stood outside the offices for nine hours on Wednesday, said the public reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. People have brought them food and drinks, he said.

Some men stationed outside the recruiting office Wednesday came equipped with high-powered rifles, but Gallegos, a Tea resident, said they didn't bring those out Thursday so they wouldn't disturb anyone.

"But we are ready to react in case something happens," Nohava said, "but we hope to God not."

Trial of man accused of harassing Native Americans ends

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The trial of a South Dakota man accused of harassing American Indian children with racial slurs and spilling beer on them at a hockey game ended Thursday but a judge said he won't issue a decision for several weeks.

Trace O'Connell pleaded not guilty to a disorderly conduct charge in Rapid City. The January incident spurred protests by Native Americans in South Dakota's second-largest city, with critics saying the charge

Friday, July 24, 2015 + Vol. 19 - No. 004 + 12 of 18

was too lenient.

Magistrate Judge Eric Strawn said Thursday that it may take three to four weeks before he reaches a decision in the case. He said he recognizes the importance of the trial to everyone involved and will write a lengthy decision.

O'Connell was among about 20 people in a suite at the hockey game. Seated directly below the suite was a group of 50 students and seven adult chaperons from American Horse School, which is in the town of Allen on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The trial ended quickly after Michael Butler, O'Connell's attorney, called no witnesses, and both sides proceeded to closing arguments. City Attorney Joel Landeen called 12 witnesses Wednesday.

Butler argued Thursday the city is trying to hold his client accountable for the actions of the entire group he was with. He said there is no evidence that shows O'Connell spoke to a single child in the group.

Landeen told the court that O'Connell did spray beer, that it was not an accident and that, at minimum, it was reckless.

Activists have protested the leniency of O'Connell's disorderly conduct charge under city code. The judge's decision to remove the possibility of jail time as a penalty also spurred anger from activists. Without jail time the maximum penalty is a fine of up to \$500.

Supporters of the American Indian students said they weren't happy with how the trial played out and criticized the prosecution.

"The public certainly doesn't feel that any justice has been served and ... it would be appropriate to either call a mistrial or to have a re-hearing with an independent prosecutor because we just don't feel that justice has been served," Chase Iron Eyes, a Native American attorney and advocate from the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, told KOTA-TV.

Former SD teacher pleads not guilty to shoe cam charges

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former high school teacher accused of using a camera on his shoe to secretly record women has pleaded not guilty.

Dallas Wilkinson is charged with four misdemeanor counts of taking pictures without consent.

Wilkinson was arrested July 8 after security footage at a grocery store showed standing close to women and sticking his foot out to photograph between women's legs with a shoe camera.

Wilkinson was a social studies teacher at Roosevelt High School but resigned after his arrest.

Speed limits to fall during Sturgis rally week

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Transportation says speed limits on some Black Hills highways will be lowered during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

Officials say the speed limits are being lowered for safety reasons.

The weeklong event begins Aug.3 and is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of motorcyclists. The rally is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

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. LOUISIANA MOVIE THEATER SITE OF DEADLY SHOOTING

Police say a 58-year-old man opened fire during a showing of "Trainwreck" in Lafayette, killing three people — including himself— and wounding at least nine others.

2. CLINTON IMPLORES COMPANIES TO BREAK FREE FROM 'TYRANNY'

Hillary Rodham Clinton plans to unveil proposals to hike capital gains taxes, review executive compensation rules and warn that shareholder activism can sometimes go too far.

3. KERRY CONTINUES SELLING IRAN DEAL

Friday, July 24, 2015 + Vol. 19 - No. 004 + 13 of 18

The secretary of state is pitching the accord to top U.S. foreign policy leaders while telling lawmakers this is the best chance to peacefully solve the nuclear standoff with Tehran.

4. TURKEY SAYS FIGHTER JETS STRIKE ISLAMIC STATE TARGETS

Turkish warplanes hit Islamic State group targets across the border in Syria, a day after IS militants fired at a Turkish military outpost, killing a soldier.

5. WHERE OBAMA, AFRICAN POLITICIANS DISAGREE

The U.S. president voices strong support for gay rights in Africa as he begins a trip to the continent, bucking calls from some African leaders to keep his views on such controversial issues to himself.

6. EVIDENCE POINTS TOWARD BLAND SUICIDE

While Sandra Bland's family maintains that the woman found dead in a Texas jail cell would not have committed suicide, authorities are pointing to evidence that they say shows she hanged herself.

7. HOW ONE COULD WARD OFF ALZHEIMER'S

Sleeping better, managing stress and hitting the books may lower the risk of the disease, research suggests.

8. SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS FIGHT SUGGESTIONS THEY COULD STOP TERROR

Twitter, Yahoo, Facebook and Google are pushing back against Senate legislation that would require them to alert federal authorities of any terrorist activity.

9. CHRIS BROWN SAGA CONTINUES

The Grammy award-winning singer's fate remains in limbo in the Philippines, with officials saying he has yet to apply for the emigration clearance needed to leave the country.

10. WHO IS BANKING ON A GOLDEN RETURN

After taking a break from competition, Olympic gold medal gymnast Gabby Douglas is eyeing a championship return at next summer's Rio Games.

AP News in Brief

Police: 3 dead in Louisiana movie theater shooting, including gunman; 9 wounded

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — A lone gunman sitting in a packed movie theater stood up about 20 minutes into the showing of "Trainwreck" and began firing into the crowd, killing two and wounding at least nine others Thursday night before fatally shooting himself, authorities said.

The gunman initially tried escaping by blending into the fleeing crowd, but turned back when he saw police heading inside from the parking lot, authorities said. Officers tailing him back into the theater then heard a single gunshot and found him dead inside, police said.

They described the shooter as a 58-year-old "lone white male" with a criminal history but did not immediately disclose his name. Lafayette Police Chief Jim Craft said the gunman was by himself and started the rampage by shooting the two people sitting in front of him.

At least one theatergoer described the attack, saying an older man stood up about 20 minutes into the 7:10 p.m. showing of the movie "Trainwreck" at the Grand 16 theater in Lafayette and began shooting. "We heard a loud pop we thought was a firecracker," Katie Domingue told The Advertiser.

The Latest: White House: President Obama briefed on deadly Louisiana movie theater shooting

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — The latest on the shooting at a Lafayette, Louisiana, movie theater (times are local):

3:50 a.m.

The White House says President Barack Obama has been briefed on the shooting at a Louisiana movie theater that left three people dead, including the gunman.

Friday, July 24, 2015 • Vol. 19 - No. 004 • 14 of 18

Obama was briefed aboard Air Force One on Thursday by Lisa Monaco, his homeland security adviser, while on his way to Africa for a two-nation visit.

Obama asked his team to keep him updated on the investigation and the status of those wounded in the shooting.

Analysis: Nuke deal that ignores Iran's behavior has precedent in US-Soviet Union agreements

WASHINGTON (AP) — Critics of the Iran nuclear deal claim it is flawed, among many reasons, because it does not demand that Tehran also change its behavior at home and abroad. That complaint ignores the United States' long history of striking arms control agreements with the Soviet Union, a far more dangerous enemy.

Those deals probably made the world a safer place through some of the darkest days of the Cold War and they proved talks could be productive even with a sworn adversary.

Dating as far back as the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963 — less than a year after the Cuban missile crisis — U.S. administrations engaged the Soviet Union in agreements to limit nuclear threats while not linking deals to abhorrent Soviet human rights abuses and the active arming and funding of leftist, anti-American revolutionary movements around the world.

As Cold War brinksmanship moved apace, the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China signed on to the 1963 Nonproliferation Treaty. That agreement was designed to prevent other countries from developing nuclear weapons, while guaranteeing their rights to civilian nuclear technology — the very guarantee that, 47 years later, allows Iran to continue building nuclear facilities for power generation and medical research.

The U.S. and the Soviets moved in the 1970s to a period of "detente" which spawned the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, known as SALT, and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in the early 1970s. The treaties held despite the 1973 Arab-Israeli Yom Kippur War, where conflicting alliances took the superpowers close to military conflict.

In second White House bid, Clinton embraces race as a top issue, denounces 'systemic racism'

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — In her second bid for the presidency, Hillary Rodham Clinton is discussing "systemic racism" and making the issue a hallmark of her campaign as she looks to connect with the black voters who supported rival Barack Obama in 2008.

At multiple stops in South Carolina, Clinton on Thursday bemoaned "mass incarceration," an uneven economy, increasingly segregated public schools and poisoned relations between law enforcement and the black community. She praised South Carolina leaders, including Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, for removing the Confederate battle flag from statehouse grounds after a white gunman's massacre of nine people at a historic black church in Charleston, but she warned that the act is only symbolic.

"America's long struggle with racism is far from finished," the former secretary of state said before a mostly white audience at a Greenville technical college. Hours earlier, with a majority black audience at a West Columbia church, she declared, "Anybody who says we don't have more progress to make is blind."

At both stops, she added some symbolism of her own, trumpeting the mantra "Black Lives Matter," which has become a rallying cry of and name for the activists who have organized protests in several cities amid several high-profile cases of black citizens being killed during encounters with police.

"This is not just a slogan," Clinton said. "This should be a guiding principle."

Friday, July 24, 2015 • Vol. 19 - No. 004 • 15 of 18

Authorities point to new evidence of suicide in Sandra Bland's death in Texas jail

HEMPSTEAD, Texas (AP) — While Sandra Bland's family maintains that the woman found dead in a Texas jail cell would not have taken her own life, authorities are pointing to mounting evidence that they say shows she hanged herself.

Marks around the neck of Bland, 28, neck were consistent with suicide by hanging, Waller County prosecutor Warren Diepraam said. Briefing reporters in Hempstead on Thursday, Diepraam said that Bland's body showed no signs of defensive injuries to suggest a final struggle for survival and that she had about 30 small cuts on her wrist that were probably self-inflicted within the last few weeks.

Some lacerations or abrasions were found on her wrists. Those were consistent with a struggle while being handcuffed, Diepraam said.

Bland was arrested in a traffic stop three days before she was found in her cell on July 13. Her family and friends dispute the official finding that she killed herself using a noose fashioned from a plastic garbage bag.

Texas Rangers and the FBI are investigating. The county district attorney has said the matter will be turned over to a grand jury, which does not meet again until August.

Turkey says warplanes strike IS targets across the border in Syria

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish warplanes struck Islamic State group targets across the border in Syria on Friday, government officials said, a day after IS militants fired at a Turkish military outpost, killing a soldier.

The bombing is a strong tactical shift for Turkey which had long been reluctant to join the U.S.-led coalition against the extremist group.

A government official said three F-16 jets took off from Diyarbakir airbase in southeast Turkey early Friday and used smart bombs to hit three IS targets. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of government rules requiring authorization for comment, said the targets were two command centers and a gathering point of IS supporters.

Turkish media said the targets were the Syrian village of Havar, near the border, but officials would not confirm the location.

The private Dogan news agency said as many as 35 IS militants were killed in the airstrike that targeted the gathering point. The agency did not cite a source for the report and there was no official confirmation.

Suddenly a dominant 2016 force, Donald Trump looms over first Republican presidential debate

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — They have been holding mock debates, hunkering down with advisers and finessing policy answers. But the most pressing concern for many Republican presidential contenders as they prepare for the first debate of the 2016 primary season is one man: Donald Trump.

The billionaire businessman has dominated the 2016 Republican race in recent weeks, and he threatens to do the same when the top 10 Republican candidates — as determined by national polls — face each other for the first time on national television. It's a high-risk, high-reward event for candidates eager to stand out in a packed field in which Trump is playing the ultimate wildcard.

"It's the No. 1 unavoidability," said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a 2012 GOP candidate who had a knack for standing out in debates four years ago.

"Do not try to match him in anger and in aggressiveness. It's not possible," Gingrich warned Trump's rivals. "He's a very instinctively aggressive guy and if you try to dance with him on his strengths he'll run over you."

Indeed, despite his longshot status, the reality television star has commanded attention and seen his poll numbers rise after firing off provocative comments about immigrants, his presidential rivals and critics in both parties. His supporters love him because he's willing to say what others only think. But that makes him dangerous in a debate setting, says Charlie Black, a leading GOP strategist who has worked

Friday, July 24, 2015 • Vol. 19 - No. 004 • 16 of 18

on multiple presidential campaigns.

Obama speaks up for gay rights even though African leaders ask him to keep quiet on issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ignoring calls from some African leaders to leave some of his opinions at home, President Barack Obama spoke favorably of gay rights as he prepared to visit Kenya and Ethiopia.

Asked during a BBC interview about Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto, a critic of gay rights in the U.S., Obama said, "Yeah, well, I disagree with him on that, don't I?"

"Everybody deserves fair treatment — equal treatment — in the eyes of the law and the state," Obama said. "And that includes gays, lesbians, transgender persons."

Obama, who departed Washington late Thursday for Africa, had faced criticism from rights groups and growing calls to press the issue aggressively while in a region known for a bleak record on human rights. In the BBC interview, he said he had been "blunt" with African leaders about gay rights in the past and planned to make it part of his agenda.

The first sitting U.S. president to visit Kenya, Obama will also be visiting his ancestral homeland when he arrives Friday to attend a business summit and meetings with President Uhuru Kenyatta. Obama's late father was from Kenya, and in the interview, Obama cited his relatives still in Kenya to argue he knows how the country's history of mistreating women and girls has held Kenya back.

Defense Sec. Carter: US airstrike kills senior Al-Qaida commander in Afghanistan

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter says a U.S. airstrike has killed a senior Al-Qaida operational commander in eastern Afghanistan.

He said in a statement Friday that the airstrike killed Abu Khalil Al-Sudani on July 11.

Carter called Al-Sudani a senior shura member and head of Al-Qaida suicide and explosive operations, and said he is directly linked to plots to attack the United States.

He said Al-Sudani also directed operations against coalition, Afghan and Pakistani forces, and maintained a close association with Ayman Al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaida.

Carter added that two other "violent extremists" were killed in the airstrike. He did not name the two others.

Olympic champion Gabby Douglas eyeing a golden return — just don't call it a comeback

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Gabby Douglas is exasperated. Again and again and again the defending women's Olympic all-around champion emphatically slaps her right hand on one of the picnic tables that sit just past the front desk at Buckeye Gymnastics, the latest home in her nomadic career.

The 19-year-old isn't angry, exactly. She's just over the skepticism surrounding a "comeback" she insists isn't a comeback at all.

"I took a break," Douglas says between laughs, pounding on that poor table one more time. "It's not like I retired for 30 years. I mean, come on. I'm still young. I'm still fresh."

Competing in next year's Olympics in Rio de Janiero was always part of her plan. The day after she made history in London as the first African-American to reach the top of her sport with a showstopping performance at the 2012 Games, Douglas and then-coach Liang Chow talked about celebrating again four years later.

She just didn't imagine trying to become the first woman to repeat in nearly 50 years like this: in a new gym with a new coach, sky-high expectations and a reality film crew from the Oxygen Network on hand to capture it all.

Friday, July 24, 2015 + Vol. 19 - No. 004 + 17 of 18

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 24, the 205th day of 2015. There are 160 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 24, 1915, the SS Eastland, a passenger ship carrying more than 2,500 people, rolled onto its side while docked at the Clark Street Bridge on the Chicago River; an estimated 844 people died in the disaster.

On this date:

In 1783, Latin American revolutionary Simon Bolivar (see-MOHN' boh-LEE'-vahr) was born in Caracas, Venezuela.

In 1862, Martin Van Buren, the eighth president of the United States, and the first to have been born a U.S. citizen, died at age 79 in Kinderhook, New York, the town where he was born in 1782.

In 1866, Tennessee became the first state to be readmitted to the Union after the Civil War.

In 1923, the Treaty of Lausanne, which settled the boundaries of modern Turkey, was concluded in Switzerland.

In 1937, the state of Alabama dropped charges against four of the nine young black men accused of raping two white women in the "Scottsboro Case."

In 1959, during a visit to Moscow, Vice President Richard Nixon engaged in his famous "Kitchen Debate" with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev.

In 1969, the Apollo 11 astronauts - two of whom had been the first men to set foot on the moon - splashed down safely in the Pacific.

In 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that President Richard Nixon had to turn over subpoenaed White House tape recordings to the Watergate special prosecutor.

In 1975, an Apollo spacecraft splashed down in the Pacific, completing a mission which included the first-ever docking with a Soyuz capsule from the Soviet Union.

In 1980, comedian-actor Peter Sellers died in London at 54.

In 1998, a gunman burst into the U.S. Capitol, killing two police officers before being shot and captured. (The shooter, Russell Eugene Weston Jr., is being held in a federal mental facility.)

In 2002, nine coal miners became trapped in a flooded tunnel of the Quecreek Mine in western Pennsylvania; the story ended happily 77 hours later with the rescue of all nine.

Ten years ago: Lance Armstrong won his seventh consecutive Tour de France (he was later stripped of all his titles after admitting to doping). Sir Richard Doll, the British scientist who first established a link between smoking and lung cancer, died in Oxford, England, at age 92.

Five years ago: A stampede inside a tunnel crowded with techno music fans left 21 people dead and more than 500 injured at the famed Love Parade festival in western Germany. Fourteen-year-old Jim Liu beat Justin Thomas 4 and 2 to become the youngest U.S. Junior Amateur champion at Egypt Valley Country Club in Ada, Michigan.

One year ago: Air Algerie Flight 5017, an MD-83 carrying 116 people, crashed in northern Mali, killing all on board; it was the third major international aviation disaster in a week. A psychiatrist's patient opened fire at a medical complex in Media, Pennsylvania, killing his caseworker and grazing his psychiatrist before the doctor pulled out his own weapon and fired back, wounding the patient. Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice received a two-game suspension from the NFL following his offseason arrest for domestic violence after an altercation with then-fiancee (later wife) Janay Palmer in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Aniston is 82. Political cartoonist Pat Oliphant is 80. Comedian Ruth Buzzi is 79. Actor Mark Goddard is 79. Actor Dan Hedaya is 75. Actor Chris Sarandon is 73. Comedian Gallagher is 69. Actor Robert Hays is 68. Former Republican national chairman Marc Racicot (RAWS'-koh) is 67. Actor Michael Richards is 66. Actress Lynda Carter is 64. Movie director Gus Van Sant is 63. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., is 62. Country singer Pam Tillis is 58. Actor Paul Ben-Victor is 53. Basketball Hall of Famer Karl Malone is 52. Retired MLB All-Star Barry Bonds is 51. Actor Kadeem Hardison is 50. Actress-singer Kristin

Friday, July 24, 2015 • Vol. 19 - No. 004 • 18 of 18

Chenoweth is 47. Actress Laura Leighton is 47. Actor John P. Navin Jr. is 47. Actress-singer Jennifer Lopez is 46. Basketball player-turned-actor Rick Fox is 46. Actor Eric Szmanda is 40. Actress Rose Byrne is 36. Country singer Jerrod Niemann is 36. Actress Summer Glau is 34. Actress Elisabeth Moss is 33. Actress Anna Paquin is 33. Actress Megan Park is 29. Actress Mara Wilson is 28. Rock singer Jay McGuiness (The Wanted) is 25. Actress Emily Bett Rickards is 24. TV personality Bindi Irwin is 17.

Thought for Today: "People who jump to conclusions rarely alight on them." - Philip Guedalla, British writer (1889-1944).