

Groton Daily Independent

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The Gerald and June Ackman home at 405 N Main was chosen as last week's Yard of the Week by the Groton Garden Club.

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Monday's State Legion Scores

West Central 11, Spearfish 1
McCook/Minor 5, Vermillion 4
Championship Game today at 1 p.m.
McCook/Minor vs. West Central

Tuesday, July 28

Legion state at Salem

Senior Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, parsley buttered carrots, apple sauce, Molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Bob & Carolyn Snyder

Birthdays: Craig Weber • Blake Ronning • Jasmine Schaller • Julianna Kosel

8:00am:Elementary Library open (Mrs. Swisher reading at 10 am)

10:00am:United Methodist Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, July 29

Teener Regions

Senior Menu: Hamburger with multigrain bun, coleslaw, baked beans, ice cream sundae.

Birthdays: Amber Falk Odde • Jarod Flihs • Mike Imre • Desiree Giedt • Brenda Waage

7:00am:United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm:Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

Thursday, July 30

Teener Regions

Senior Menu: Lasagna rotini, tossed salad

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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Dr. Geoffrey Rath - Optometrist

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Doctor here Mondays Only - Office open Thursdays.
701-349-3223 to make appointments & adjustments

Hours at Ellendale, N.D. are:

Monday 9 - 12 & 1 - 5 Thursday 1:00 - 4:00



Jodi Bull has Yard of the Week

This vintage house and yard were chosen as this week's Yard of the Week by the Groton Garden Club. It is located at 307 E 4th Ave. This month is the first full year that Jodi has lived in this house. It used to be owned by Suzy McNamara and when Suzy moved to Minnesota, she put the house up for sale. Jodi said that she was visiting with Suzy one night and the realtor happened to be there. "I asked about the price and they dropped it by \$10,000." Jodi had no intentions of leaving her home on West Fifth Avenue, but something about this house was calling her name. "I think I'd be interested in buying it," she told Suzy. "I had never done anything spontaneous like this in my life." A little while later the realtor called Jodi to find out if she was serious about buying the house. "If I could sell my house, I would definitely buy this one," she said. "In 24 hours, my house was sold."

The house was built in 1895, but it sports permanent siding, new windows and a smaller yard compared to her previous house. "I haven't regretted buying it," Jodi said. "Suzy even left me pictures of remodeling that was done to the house."

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A pair of young Purple Martins tried to spread their wings and fly through the air, but were grounded on their quest. Julianna and Jeslyn Kosel took the two birds and tried to get them to fly by tossing them in the air. They would fly a small distance, but ended up back on the ground. The birds were then put back in the birdhouse where the parents could take care of them for one or two more days.

Groton Garden Club News

The Groton Garden Club met July 18 at the home of Linda Gengerke with Beverly Sombke assisting. Eleven members answered roll call with what they did on the 4th of July. One invitation was read from the Milbank Garden Club inviting us to the District 1 meeting. It will be Aug 1, at 11:30 at the Pizza Ranch in Aberdeen. There will be a sale table. Yard of the week was discussed. Mari Overacher handed out the 2015-2016 program books. The groups reviewed the club constitution, by-laws, and standing rules. Changes will be voted on at the Sept. meeting. The August 17, meeting will be held with Eunice McCollister and Elda Stange at 5:30 p.m. Linda Anderson will have the program. Following the meeting the group went to the city park to weed the circle.

Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915**

**Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal



Hilger's Gulch Getting A New Look

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard is embarking on an initiative to bring back the native landscape of South Dakota to Hilger's Gulch and save taxpayer money.

"This is a planned transformation and it's going to save us time and money," Gov. Daugaard said. "On average the state has spent around \$36,000 annually for irrigation and \$23,000 annually for mowing, fertilizing and weed treatment. In dry years, the water bills have approached \$50,000. We're taking this project on as an effort to be better stewards of that money."

For the project, the Governor selected vegetation that can thrive in the natural climate of central South Dakota. The new plant life is expected to save money over time because it will require less maintenance and will not necessitate the use of chemical herbicides.

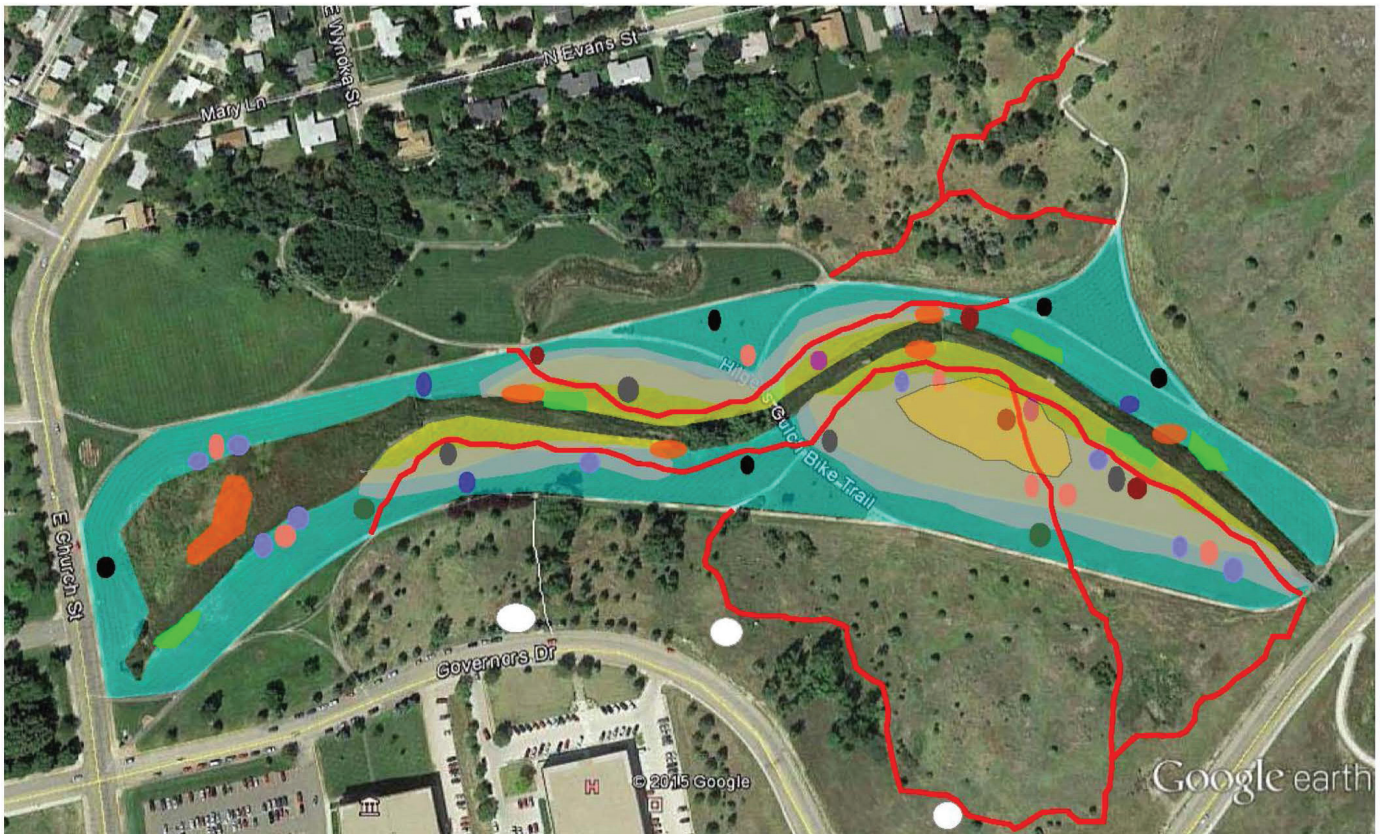
The renovation will also serve to restore habitat in the area. Working with the South Dakota Bureau of Administration, Gov. Daugaard has strategically

mapped out the placement of the various plants, trees and a meadow with purple, yellow and red wildflowers.

As part of the project, the Bureau of Administration will be developing hiking trails throughout the area. The Bureau will also continue to mow and water the outer perimeter of the gulch, including "Sled Hill" and Governor's Grove.

"By returning to native plants, we will not only be save taxpayer dollars but also beautify the entire area. With the new gravel hiking trails, walkers will be able to see the plum trees, prairie roses, blue asters and cone flowers up close," Gov. Daugaard said.

The Bureau of Administration began the Hilger's Gulch renovations this month by planting willow trees. More work will be undertaken this fall. The project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2017.



- Blue Grama – Buffalo Grass – Wildflower mix
- Taller Warm Season Grass Mix
- Native grass mix overlap
- Phragmites
- Willow Trees (125)
- Plum Trees (2)
- Apricot Trees (2)

- Sand Cherry (11)
- Choke Berry (14)
- Buffalo Berry (27)
- Prairie Rose (34)
- Wild Plum (11)
- Smooth Sumac (36)
- Wildflower Patch

- Future Expansion
- 262 Total New Plantings

10 Ways to Become Financially Independent

By Nathaniel Sillin

After the 2008 economic crisis, many people assumed they would never be able to reach true financial independence – the ability to live comfortably off one’s savings and investments with no debt whatsoever.

However, individuals willing to use their time horizon to plan and adjust their spending, savings and investment behaviors might just find financial independence is possible. Here are 10 ideas to get started.

1. Visualize first, then plan. Start by considering what your vision of financial independence actually looks like – and then get a reality check. Qualified financial experts can examine your current financial circumstances, listen to what financial independence means to you and help you craft a plan. The path to financial independence may be considerably different at age 20 than it is at age 50; the more time you have to save and invest generally produces a better outcome. But at any age, start with a realistic picture of your options.

2. Budget. Budgeting (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting/>) – the process of tracking income, subtracting expenses and deciding how to divert the difference to your goals each month – is the essential first task of personal finance. If you haven’t learned to budget, you need to do so.

3. Spend less than you earn. It might be obvious, but it’s one of the most difficult financial behaviors to execute. Adhering to a lower standard of living and expenses will help you put more money into savings and investments sooner.

4. Build smarter safety nets. Emergency funds and insurance are rarely discussed in combination. The traditional definition of an emergency fund is a separate account for cash that can be used instead of credit to repair a broken appliance or other expense that may run a few hundred dollars. However, many people keep insurance deductibles high to keep premiums low. Would you have enough cash on hand to cover an insurance deductible if you had a sudden claim? If not, build your deductible amounts into your emergency fund.

5. Eliminate debt. Though consumer debt levels have generally fallen since the 2008 financial crisis, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported in February that home, student loan, auto and credit card debt began creeping up again in 2014. Getting rid of revolving, non-housing debt (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/costofcredit>) is one of the most effective ways to free up money for savings and investment.

6. Consider your career. Financial independence doesn’t require you to quit a career you love, but you really can’t get to financial independence without steady income to fuel savings and investments that will build over time. Speak with qualified advisors about your income, benefits and retirement picture first, and see if you might be able to expand your sources of work-related income, such as consulting part time. Also keep in mind that over the age of 50, the Internal Revenue Service allows you to make catch-up contributions (<http://www.irs.gov/Retirement-Plans/Plan-Participant,-Employee/Retirement-Topics-IRA-Contribution-Limits>) to both 401(k) and IRA accounts.

7. Downsize. You’ll generally reach wealth financial goals faster if you can cut your overall living expenses. For some, that means selling your home and moving to a smaller one or to an area with lower living costs and taxes. You can also sell or donate property you don’t need and use those proceeds to extinguish debt or add to savings or investments.

8. Invest frugally. Become a student (<http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/undrstndgrtrmnt.html>) of investment fees and commissions because they can cut significantly into your principal. Make a full evaluation of fees you are paying on every investment account you have and if you’re working with a licensed professional who sells you financial products, know what fees they’re charging for their investment and advisory services.

9. Buy assets that generate income. Stocks, real estate, collectibles or cash investments all have up and down markets. But do your homework and focus on investments bought at attractive prices that are likely to appreciate over time. Also, don’t forget to study the tax ramifications of any investment transaction you make.

10. Always know where you are financially. Financial planning isn’t about making one set of financial

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decisions and assuming you're set. Lives and situations change and your financial planning must be flexible enough to withstand both positive and negative changes without derailing your hopes for financial independence. If your forte is not investment, financial planning or tax matters, by all means bring in qualified experts to help. But financially independent people generally have their money issues at their fingertips not only for their own use, but for estate purposes as well.

Bottom line: Financial independence involves diligence and a bit of sacrifice, but even the smallest moves can yield big outcomes.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

Become the Next "Dacotah Star" at the South Dakota State Fair

HURON, S.D. – Make your voice heard at the South Dakota State Fair! Become the next "Dacotah Star" at the Dacotah Star Talent Competition presented by Dacotah Bank. More than \$2,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to Dacotah Star division winners.

Applications for the 13th Annual Dacotah Star Talent Competition presented by Dacotah Bank are now available online at www.sdstatefair.com or at the State Fair office. The deadline for entering the talent competition is Friday, Aug. 21, at 5 p.m.

The grand prize winner in the adult division wins the title of "2015 Dacotah Star," along with a cash prize of \$1,000 and the opportunity to star in his/her own commercial promoting Dacotah Star on KTTW Fox. The winner will also have the opportunity to perform on the NorthWestern Energy Freedom Stage during the 2016 South Dakota State Fair and emcee the 2016 Dacotah Star talent competition.

The 2014 Dacotah Star is Tyler Halverson from Canton, S.D.

There are three age divisions for Dacotah Star – Children (up to 11 years), Junior (12 through 17 years) and Adult (18 and older).

Preliminary competition begins on Friday, Sept. 4, and ends on Sunday, Sept. 6. Dacotah Star finals will be held on Monday, Sept. 7. The talent competition is held daily on the NorthWestern Energy Freedom Stage.

Sponsors of the 2015 Dacotah Star are Dacotah Bank and KTTW-FOX. Dacotah Bank serves dozens of hometowns across South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota, providing banking, insurance, mortgage and trust services to over 60,000 customers at local branches and online at dacotahbank.com.

The 2015 South Dakota State Fair will run from Thursday, Sept. 3, through Monday, Sept. 7. Channel Seeds Preview Night will be Wednesday, Sept. 2. This year's theme is "Sew it. Grow it. Show it." For more information on State Fair events, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900, visit www.sdstatefair.com or find them on Facebook or Twitter.

Agriculture is South Dakota's No. 1 industry, generating over \$21 billion in annual economic activity and employing more than 122,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Today in Weather History

July 28, 1986: Very intense thunderstorms developed in South Dakota and Nebraska and moved into Iowa. The first of these storms produced a tornado that crossed into Iowa south of Sioux City and slammed into a coal-burning power plant. This tornado caused between 25 and 50 million dollars damage to the plant. The tornado continued across farmland, then damaged a store and flattened a motel in Sloan before lifting up.

1819 - A small but intense hurricane passed over Bay Saint Louis, MS. The hurricane was considered the worst in fifty years. Few houses were left standing either at Bay Saint Louis or at Pass Christian, and much of the Mississippi coast was desolate following the storm. A U.S. cutter was lost along with its thirty-nine crew members. The storm struck the same area that was hit 150 years later by Hurricane Camille. (David Ludlum)

1898: A severe thunderstorm produced considerable hail (some stones to 11 ounces) in Chicago, Illinois business district. A number of people were hurt, not by hail, but by several hundred runaway horses spooked by the hailstones.

1930 - The temperature at Greensburg, KY, soared to 114 degrees to set a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1934 - The temperature at Grofino, ID, climbed to 118 degrees to establish a record for Idaho. (The Weather Channel)

1952 - A severe storm with hail up to an inch and a half in diameter broke windows, ruined roofs, and stripped trees of leaves near Benson, AZ. The temperature dropped to 37 degrees, as hail was three to four inches deep, with drifts 46 inches high. (The Weather Channel)

1976: At 3:42 a.m., an earthquake measuring between 7.8 and 8.2 magnitude on the Richter scale flattens Tangshan, a Chinese industrial city with a population of about one million people. An estimated 242,000 people in Tangshan and surrounding areas were killed, making the earthquake one of the deadliest in recorded history, surpassed only by the 300,000 who died in the Calcutta earthquake in 1737, and the 830,000 thought to have perished in China's Shaanxi province in 1556

1986 - Severe thunderstorms moving out of South Dakota across Iowa produce high winds which derailed eighteen piggyback trailer cars of a westbound freight train near Boone, IA. Sixteen of the cars fell 187 feet into the Des Moines River. The thunderstorms also spawned a number of tornadoes, including one which caused twenty-five to fifty million dollars damage at Sloan, near Sioux City, IA. (Storm Data)

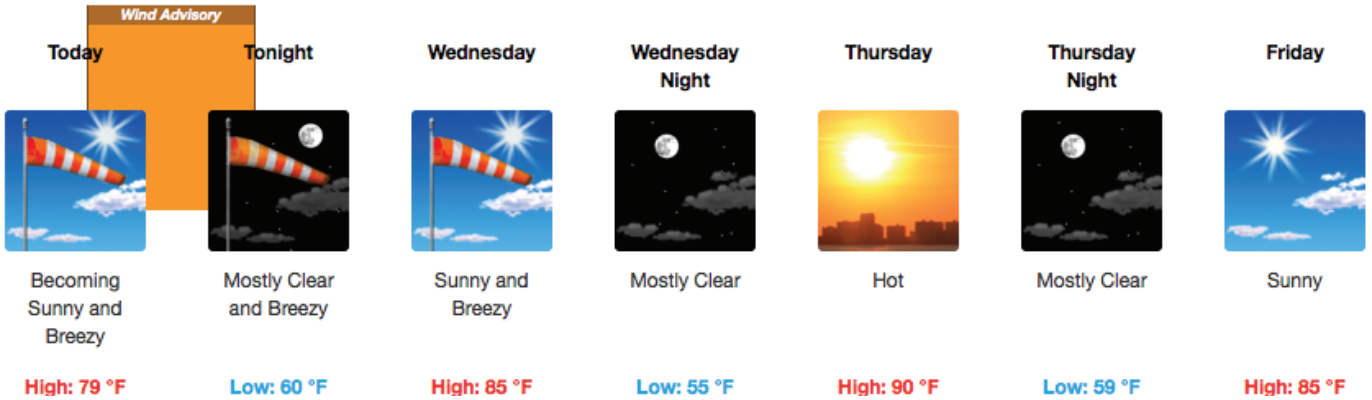
1987 - Thunderstorms in Nevada produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Searchlight, reducing visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Thunderstorms in Montana drenched Lonesome Lake with 3.78 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms drenched Wilmington, NC, with 3.33 inches of rain, bringing their monthly total 14.46 inches. Seven cities in Michigan and Minnesota reported record high temperatures for the date. Marquette, MI, hit 99 degrees, and the record high of 94 degrees at Flint MI was their tenth of the month. (The National Weather Summary)

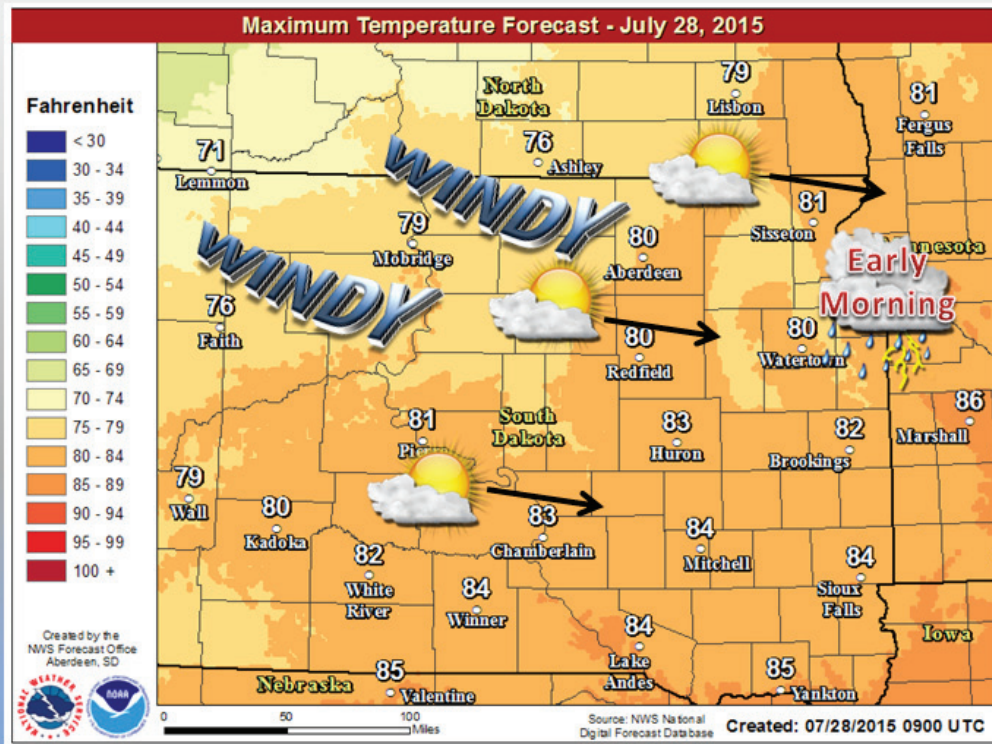
1989 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Massachusetts. Early evening thunderstorms over Florida produced wind gusts to 68 mph at Fort Myers, and evening thunderstorms in South Dakota produced nearly two inches of rain in twenty minutes at Pierpoint. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Windy - Dry & Mild Today



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 7/28/2015 4:53 AM Central

Published on: 07/28/2015 at 4:55AM

Rain and thunder will continue to move out of the Dakotas and into Minnesota this morning. Winds will shift around to the west today, with much cooler air and much lower humidity on strong west winds.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 92.3 at 3:43 PM

Heat Index: 108 at 1:45 p.m.

Low: 66.6 at 3:49 AM

High Gust: 25 at 3:14 PM

Precip: 1.45

Today's Info

Record High: 109° in 1975

Record Low: 40° in 2013

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 2.77

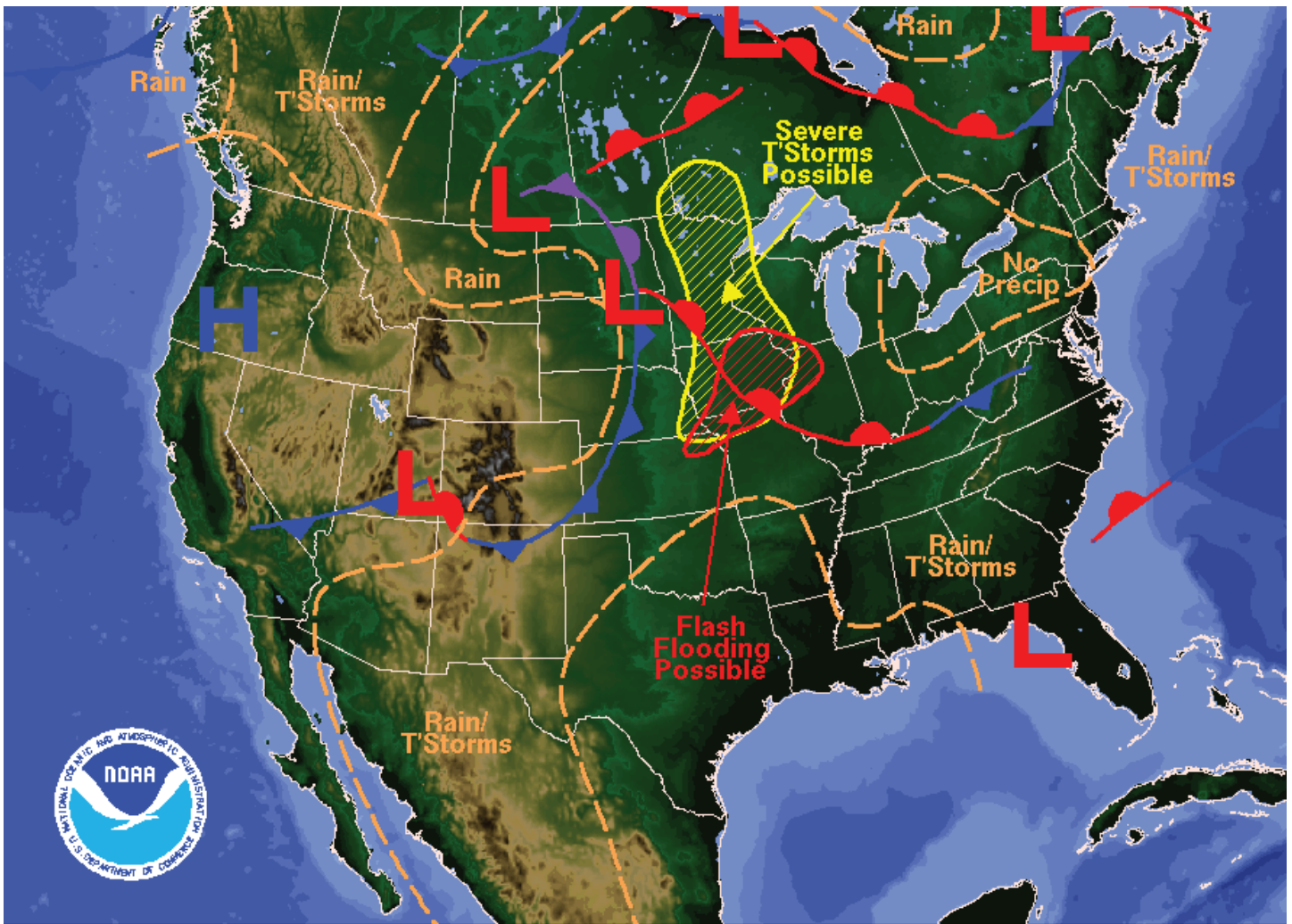
Precip to date in July: 3.15

Average Precip to date: 13.61

Precip Year to Date: 11.57

Sunset Tonight: 9:06 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:14 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Jul 28, 2015, issued 4:41 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



WHAT WOULD HE THINK?

A mother lectured her daughter about how important it was to keep family secrets private. One day she got in trouble in school and the principle called her mother to give her the information.

After scolding the girl, she said, "Now you must go to your room and ask God to forgive you."

Later, when the family sat down for dinner she asked, "Sara, did you ask God to forgive you?"

"No, Mom, I didn't," said Sara. "I knew that you wouldn't want Him to know about our family scandals!"

He had no doubt that everything he did and everything he said – whether good or bad – was seen or heard by God.

True for Job. True for us. Nothing that we have done or will ever do will escape His notice because nothing can be hidden from Him. As Job was speaking of the life he lived in the presence of God, he was able to say, "I have not committed any sin in my heart against God or my neighbor."

Prayer: Help us to realize, Lord, that we cannot hide anything from You and to live lives free of sin. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Job 31:3-4 Is it not destruction for the wicked, And disaster for the workers of iniquity? Does He not see my ways, And count all my steps?

News from the Associated Press

Ground broken for \$10.9 million Spanish immersion school

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Public school leaders in Sioux Falls have broken ground for a \$10.9 million school for Spanish immersion students.

The district's growing Spanish immersion program serves more than 400 elementary school-age students. It currently operates out of two elementary schools.

The new school is being built on the site of an old elementary school. It's slated to open in the fall of 2016. Funding for the school was jeopardized earlier this year when state lawmakers proposed limits on school property taxes dedicated to capital projects. Legislators couldn't agree on the terms of the proposal, and the measure failed.

Nebraska trial set over land seizures for oil pipeline

O'NEILL, Neb. (AP) — A judge has scheduled an Oct. 19 trial date on a Holt County lawsuit aimed at keeping TransCanada Corp. from seizing land to build the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

District Judge Mark Kozisek set the date during a hearing on Monday in O'Neill.

In January TransCanada filed legal papers in nine Nebraska counties to invoke eminent domain for the land that's needed to construct, operate and maintain the pipeline. It would go from Canada through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Pipeline opponents also want to overturn a state law that allowed then-Gov. Dave Heineman to approve the pipeline's route through the state in 2013.

Triathlon in central South Dakota scheduled for Saturday

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Triathletes will converge in central South Dakota on Saturday for the Farm Island's Riverman/Riverwoman Sprint Triathlon.

Event coordinator Jessica Carr says the competition's course will be the same as in previous years. It will involve just under a half-mile swim, an 18-mile bike ride on Highway 34 and a three-and-a-half mile run on the island trail.

The triathlon will be divided into several divisions with separate categories for men, women and teams. A triathlon for children ages 6 to 14 is scheduled for Aug. 8.

City of Pierre flushing some fire hydrants, water still safe

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The city of Pierre is flushing fire hydrants in residential sectors on East Fourth Street.

The city announced Monday that water flowing from taps may be discolored because of the flushing, but that it's still safe to drink. The city flushes the fire hydrants to make sure there's adequate flow for fire protection, and it's expected to happen this week.

The water returns to a normal color. The city says the water meets or exceeds drinking water standards at the state and federal levels.

Opposing sides face off at Keystone XL pipeline hearing

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Opposing sides in the debate over the Keystone XL oil pipeline faced off on Monday in front of the state regulatory panel that is considering for the second time in just over five years whether to approve the construction of the South Dakota portion of the long-delayed project.

TransCanada Corp. and other interested parties offered opening statements and witness testimony began before the Public Utilities Commission in the hearing process that is scheduled to stretch until Aug. 4. The

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state initially authorized TransCanada's project in 2010, but permits must be revisited if construction doesn't start within four years. The commission is now considering the firm's guarantee that it can complete the project while meeting the conditions of the 2010 approval.

William Taylor, an attorney for TransCanada, said that the project continues to meet the conditions on which the permit is based, and he said witness testimony will demonstrate that. He said the proceedings are not a "retrial" of the pipeline's merits.

"The time to contest whether the pipeline is a good or a bad idea was in the initial hearing" in 2010, he said.

Robin Martinez, an attorney with opposition group Dakota Rural Action, said the organization's witnesses will show that TransCanada shouldn't be permitted to construct the pipeline because it poses a risk to South Dakota land and water. He said that testimony will reveal that the company "has a corporate culture of valuing profits over safety."

Commission Chairman Chris Nelson has said it's likely the panel will take some time to come to a final decision after the hearing process concludes.

The project has prompted opposition from Native American tribes, some landowners and environmental groups who are concerned the pipeline could contaminate water supplies and contribute to pollution.

John Harter, a Tripp County landowner whose property is crossed by the pipeline, said the project endangers the public for monetary gain.

"TransCanada has no answer to how they will clean up a spill into our aquifer," Harter said. "The permitting for this route is ignorant, greed-filled and for this I hold you ... liable."

Supporters argue that the pipeline will be a boon for the country and will create construction jobs and boost tax collections in South Dakota. Corey Goulet, president of Keystone Projects for TransCanada, said in a Monday statement that "Keystone XL was a good project for South Dakotans in 2010 and it is an even better project today."

South Dakota is one of several fronts where TransCanada is stalled in getting approval for the pipeline, which would go from Canada through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day to refineries along the Gulf Coast. It could also transport some crude from the Bakken oil field.

The pipeline proposed in 2008 has not received the required approval from President Barack Obama and is also delayed by a Nebraska court case from landowners who oppose it.

Authorities identify woman who drowned in South Dakota lake

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement authorities in eastern South Dakota have identified the 25-year-old woman who drowned in Lake Madison over the weekend.

The Lake County sheriff's office says friends of Briana Moulton reported that she fell out of a boat and into the lake about 4:30 p.m. Sunday. The body of the Sioux Falls woman was found around 8:30 p.m.

Lake County Sheriff Tim Walburg says the woman wasn't wearing a lifejacket. Authorities would not release additional details of the incident.

Lake Madison is about 50 miles northwest of Sioux Falls.

CDC studying USD building that's source of health complaints

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — A crew from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is at the University of South Dakota this week to evaluate a building that has been the source of health complaints from employees.

USD believes the building is safe, but officials asked the CDC to conduct a "scientific appraisal" of Noteboom Hall after some employees filed injury reports with the state.

Former USD employee Nancy Andresen has said working in the building caused her health problems including hives and hair loss. She attributed her problems to mold in the building.

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A 2013 analysis concluded the Communications Sciences and Disorders Department should move out of the 70-year-old Noteboom Hall, but the school says obtaining state funding has been a stumbling block. USD says two CDC industrial hygienists are testing the building.

Vegetation at SD park being changed in cost-cutting move

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The vegetation at a park in South Dakota's capital is being changed in a move that officials say could save the state thousands of dollars.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Monday announced the changes to Hilger's Gulch Park, which boasts a 1.1-mile lighted walking trail, flower gardens and a scenic view of the state Capitol.

Daugaard says the state every year spends about \$36,000 for irrigation and \$23,000 for mowing, fertilizing and weed treatment. The park's water bills have reached \$50,000 during dry years.

Daugaard selected the new vegetation for the Pierre park. It will require less maintenance and won't need the use of chemical herbicides.

The new plants, including plum trees, prairie roses, blue asters and cone flowers, are expected to thrive in the natural climate of central South Dakota.

Teen who ran away from youth rehabilitation academy arrested

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — One of two teenagers who authorities say ran away from a youth rehabilitation facility in western South Dakota earlier this month has been arrested.

The state Department of Corrections on Monday said the 16-year-old boy was arrested during a traffic stop Friday in Rapid City.

The teenagers ran away shortly before 10:30 p.m. July 2 from the State Treatment and Rehabilitation Academy near Custer.

A third teenager who took off from the facility that night was apprehended near the academy hours after the escape.

The teenager who remains at large is described as a 17-year-old Native American male. He is 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighs 150 pounds and has black hair and brown eyes.

Minimum wage levels in Midwestern states as of Aug. 1

The Associated Press

Minnesota's minimum wage for all but the smallest employers rises to \$9 per hour on Aug. 1. It will give Minnesota the highest rate of any state in middle America.

Here are the minimum wages of nearby states as of Aug. 1:

Illinois - \$8.25

Indiana - \$7.25

Iowa - \$7.25

Michigan - \$8.15

Missouri - \$7.65

Nebraska - \$8.00

North Dakota - \$7.25

South Dakota - \$8.50

Wisconsin - \$7.25

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

With new bump, Minnesota ushers in region's top minimum wage

BRIAN BAKST, Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota will vault past Illinois, Michigan and South Dakota this week to gain the highest minimum wage in the Midwestern region at \$9 an hour, which also will rank among the most-generous state wage floors in the country.

The dollar-per-hour bump taking effect Saturday for some 288,000 of Minnesota's lowest-paid workers is the second of a three-stage increase adopted in 2014, when the state had one of the lowest minimum wages in the region. Next August, the wage will rise again to \$9.50 and it will go up automatically with inflation in following years.

For now, this step gives Minnesota the highest minimum wage of any state away from the east or west coasts. The next closest in the region are South Dakota's \$8.50, Illinois' \$8.25 and Michigan's \$8.15.

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, a Democrat who signed the new wage law last year, said Monday the higher wage is about "allowing people to earn a better living through their work. We're not talking about handouts here. We're talking about rewarding people who work with a better income, which makes them better citizens."

Someone working full time at the minimum wage could earn \$2,000 more per year, but Dayton said their overall income would still leave them too close to the federal poverty line.

"People aren't flying out to New York to spend this money. They're spending it in their local economy," Dayton said in an interview with The Associated Press. "That's what drives our economy forward. It's not trickle-down economics. It's consumer spending."

Dan McElroy, who leads the restaurant and lodging trade group Hospitality Minnesota, said consecutive years with steep minimum wage increases has forced businesses to adjust with big spikes to labor costs. Minnesota's minimum wage before the 2014 law had been \$6.15 per hour, although most employers with those workers had to comply with a \$7.25 federal minimum.

To compensate, McElroy said some restaurants have introduced technology that allows servers to handle more tables or customers order at tables through tablets. Others have shortened service hours, he said. One border-town cafe owner gained widespread attention for tacking a 35-cent minimum wage fee onto customer tabs.

"It has had challenges, and they're frustrating but they're not dire," McElroy said. "We will know more when we see how many fewer jobs we have per establishment. But those things take time to happen."

Small Minnesota employers — those with annual gross revenue below \$500,000 — still will be permitted to pay workers less, with their minimum wage matching the federal minimum. Businesses can also pay trainees at the lower rate for 90 days, and teens can be paid less, too.

Washington and Oregon currently have the nation's highest minimum wages at \$9.47 and \$9.25 per hour, with five others at or just above \$9. The wages in California and Massachusetts will rise to \$10 per hour in January.

Minnesota's latest increase leaves a wider gap between its wage floor and that of neighboring Wisconsin, a peer state in many regards.

Wisconsin state Sen. Jennifer Shilling, a Democrat whose district is just across the Mississippi River from Minnesota, bemoaned the lack of interest from Gov. Scott Walker and Republicans in Madison to raise that state's \$7.25 per hour minimum wage.

"While states like Minnesota are raising family wages and growing their middle class, Republicans in Wisconsin have taken our state in the opposite direction," Shilling said in an email. "Despite the national economic recovery, working families in Wisconsin continue to struggle as a result of declining wages, a shrinking middle class and massive cuts to schools and local communities."

When Walker announced his presidential campaign two weeks ago, he ridiculed Democrats pushing for minimum-wage increases.

"The left claims they're for American workers, and they've got lame ideas, things like minimum wage," Walker told Fox News in an interview. "We need to talk about how we get people skills and qualifications they need to get jobs that go beyond minimum wage."

NDSU favored over Illinois St in Missouri Valley poll

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The two teams that gave the Football Championship Subdivision a thrilling finish last season were tabbed Monday by Missouri Valley Football Conference followers to once again decide the league title — and maybe more.

A poll of league coaches, media and sports information directors gives four-time defending FCS champ North Dakota State a slight edge over the Illinois State Redbirds, who took the Bison down to the final seconds of January's title game before falling 29-27. The two teams had tied for the conference crown.

NDSU earned 32 of a possible 40 first-place votes for 389 points. Illinois State received the other eight first-place votes and 366 points. Northern Iowa was picked to finish third in the league, followed by Youngstown State, South Dakota State, Indiana State, Southern Illinois, Western Illinois, Missouri State and South Dakota.

Bison coach Chris Klieman, who was an assistant coach during NDSU's first three titles before taking over for Craig Bohl last season, said his team and Illinois State were separated by one play. The Bison rallied to win when quarterback Carson Wentz scored a touchdown with 37 seconds left. It still took an interception by Esley Thornton in the final seconds to seal the victory.

"Obviously, they're a team that we think will be around at the end and have every opportunity to compete for a national championship," Klieman said of the Redbirds.

Patty Viverito, who is entering her 31st year as league commissioner, would be fine with another Bison-Redbirds finale.

"I had so much fun I wouldn't mind at all having a little deja vu and going through that again. It was really an incredible experience," she said. "I also know from past experience that this league throws some curves and creates some challenges for even the best teams."

The Bison have relied heavily on defense the last several seasons, but most of the returning standouts this season are on offense, including Wentz. The Bison lost two four-year starting safeties and the FCS player of the year in defensive end Kyle Emanuel.

Like NDSU, the Redbirds have the luxury of a standout quarterback in Tre Roberson, who along with running back Marshaun Coprich gives them perhaps the most explosive backfield punch in FCS.

Illinois State coach Brock Spack said the perspective has changed for his team, which was predicted last year to finish in the middle of the pack.

"Now the roles are going to change a little bit," Spack said. "You're not going to sneak up on people. You're going to get folks' best effort every Saturday. So it will be a little different."

The league also released its preseason all-conference team. Northern Iowa led the way with six first-team selections, followed by five for South Dakota State, four each for Illinois State and Indiana State, three each for NDSU and Youngstown State, two for Western Illinois and one for Missouri State.

The Missouri Valley has six national titles in its 30 years as a conference. Last year was the first time two teams from the same league played for the national championship.

Madison to be honorary Capital for a Day on Aug. 19

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has chosen Madison to be the state's honorary Capital for a Day on Aug. 19.

Activities that Wednesday will include a Main Street walk, business tours, and a community social and coffee hour. Daugaard also will hold a lunch with community leaders to discuss local issues.

Madison Mayor Roy Lindsay says hosting the governor, first lady, Cabinet members and staff will be "a wonderful day."

A complete agenda will be released later.

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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. NATO MEETS IN EMERGENCY SESSION

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Turkey is asking the alliance to be prepared to help his country as it battles Islamic State militants in Syria and Kurdish rebels in Iraq.

2. GADHAFI SON SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR 2011 KILLINGS

The Tripoli court hands down the sentence for Seif al-Islam, who is currently being held by a militia that refuses to hand him over to the central government.

3. WHAT OBAMA IS DOING ON LAST DAY OF AFRICA TRIP

He is closing out a historic return to the land of his father's birth with a speech to the African Union.

4. SUMMER CAMP FOR IRAQI SHIITE BOYS

From Baghdad to Basra, teenagers are training to fight against the Islamic State group after the country's top Shiite cleric called on students to use their summer vacations to prepare for battle.

5. NO RED FLAGS REPORTED AT TIME OF GUN SALE TO THEATER SHOOTER

John Russell Houser's mental problems were well known to many, though perhaps not the store that sold him the .40-caliber handgun used in the deadly attack in Louisiana.

6. TRUMP DANGLES 3RD PARTY PROSPECT

The possibility that the billionaire might run for president on his own starts to cast a shadow on the race, reviving memories of Ross Perot and Ralph Nader.

7. BOY SCOUTS LIFT BAN ON GAY ADULT LEADERS

The new policy takes effect immediately, but allows church-sponsored troops to maintain the exclusion for religious reasons.

8. PRISON EMPLOYEE ACCUSED OF HELPING 2 KILLERS ESCAPE TO APPEAR IN COURT

Joyce Mitchell, who faces charges of first-degree promoting prison contraband and fourth-degree criminal facilitating, hopes for a plea agreement.

9. WHERE "THE BOOK OF MORMON" FINALLY PREMIERES

The satirical musical is coming to the heart of Mormonlandia, starting a two-week run at a Salt Lake City theater two blocks from the Mormon church's flagship temple.

10. U.S. URGED TO COME UP WITH ANOTHER BID CITY FOR 2024 GAMES

Two-time Olympic host Los Angeles could fit the bill perfectly, according to several IOC board members.

AP News in Brief

NATO holding rare emergency meeting at Turkey's request

JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO declared its "strong solidarity" with Turkey on Tuesday as ambassadors gathered for a rare emergency meeting about the threat faced by a member.

Turkey requested the extraordinary meeting to gauge the threat the Islamic State extremist group poses to Turkey, and the actions Turkish authorities are taking in response, including attacks on Kurdish rebels.

"We strongly condemn the terrorist attacks against Turkey, and express our condolences to the Turkish government and the families" of victims killed in recent terrorist actions, NATO ambassadors said in a statement after the meeting.

"Terrorism poses a direct threat to the security of NATO countries and to international stability and prosperity," the NATO statement said. "It is a global threat that knows no border, nationality or religion_a challenge that the international community must fight and tackle together."

Article 4 of NATO's founding treaty empowers member states to seek emergency consultations when they consider their "territorial integrity, political independence or security" to be in jeopardy. This was only the fifth such meeting in NATO's 66-year history.

In Ankara, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkish and U.S. officials were discussing the

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creation of a safe zone near Turkey's border with Syria, which would be cleared of IS group presence and turned into a secure area for Syrian refugees to return.

Speaking at a news conference Tuesday before leaving for China, Erdogan also said it was impossible to advance a peace process with the Kurds as attacks on Turkey continue.

Recently, an IS suicide bombing near Turkey's border with Syria left 32 people dead and an IS attack on Turkish forces killed a soldier. And on Tuesday, Turkey said a soldier was wounded in an attack along the border with Iraq.

After months of reluctance, Turkish warplanes last week started striking militant targets in Syria and agreed to allow the U.S. to launch its own strikes from Turkey's strategically located Incirlik Air Base.

In a series of cross-border strikes, Turkey has not only targeted the IS group but also Kurdish fighters affiliated with forces battling IS in Syria and Iraq.

The Syrian Kurds are among the most effective ground forces battling IS and have been backed by U.S.-led airstrikes, but Turkey fears a revival of the Kurdish insurgency in pursuit of an independent state.

The Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, has fought Turkey for autonomy for Kurds in a conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives since 1984. The Kurds are an ethnic group with their own language living in a region spanning present-day Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Armenia.

For some NATO members and independent observers, it's unclear whether Turkey's No. 1 target is IS or the Kurds, said Ian Kearns, director of the European Leadership Network, a London-based think tank.

What's more, Turkish leaders "have actually been arguing that the Kurds in Syria are more of a threat to Turkey," Kearns told The Associated Press.

On Monday, Syria's main Kurdish militia and an activist group said Turkish troops shelled a Syrian village near the border, targeting Kurdish fighters.

"There is no difference between PKK and Daesh," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters Monday, using an Arabic acronym to refer to the Islamic State group.

"You can't say that PKK is better because it is fighting Daesh," Cavusoglu said during a visit to Lisbon, Portugal.

Libyan court sentences Gadhafi's son, Seif al-Islam, to death over killings in 2011 uprising

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — A court in Libya's capital sentenced a son of Moammar Gadhafi to death in absentia on Tuesday over killings during the country's 2011 uprising.

The Tripoli court that sentenced Seif al-Islam, who is being held by a militia that refuses to hand him over to the central government, also sentenced to death eight others, including former Libyan spy chief Abdullah al-Senoussi. It was unclear whether the sentences would be carried out.

Libya has slid into chaos since the overthrow and killing of Gadhafi. It is now bitterly divided between an elected parliament and government cornered in the country's east, with little power on the ground, and an Islamist militia-backed government in the west that has seized Tripoli.

Since the end of the civil war, Seif al-Islam has been held by a militia in Zintan, which is allied with the Tobruk-based internationally recognized government against the Tripoli one. He is also wanted by the International Criminal Court in The Hague on charges of crimes against humanity.

Charges in the trial included recruiting mercenaries who were given Libyan nationality, planning and carrying out attacks on civilian targets from the air, forming armed groups and shooting into crowds of demonstrators.

Obama closes Africa trip with first speech to African Union by sitting American president

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — President Barack Obama highlighted his administration's efforts to combat hunger worldwide on Tuesday as he prepared to end a historic return to the land of his father's birth with a speech to the African Union.

Obama toured a plant operated by Faffa Foods, which participates in the U.S. Feed the Future program. The initiative focuses on helping smaller farmers in 19 countries, including Ethiopia and 11 other African nations, grow their businesses.

Faffa, in the Ethiopian capital, is the chief supplier of baby food for children in Ethiopia, where child malnutrition is a serious problem.

Obama said the "huge percentage" Africans who still get their income from agriculture can improve their yields with a few interventions. He said a woman he met at the factory had increased her yield threefold, providing enough money for her to buy a cow and send her children to school.

He said Feed the Future "is making a difference in some very concrete ways."

At Shiite militia 'summer camps', Iraqi children undergo training to fight Islamic State

BAGHDAD (AP) — A quiet middle-class Shiite neighborhood in western Baghdad was transformed recently into a mini-boot camp, training teenagers for battle against the Islamic State group.

The Shiite boys and young men ran through its normally placid streets carrying out mock exercises for urban warfare since the toughest battles against the Sunni extremists are likely to involve street fighting. They were taught how to hold, control and aim light weapons, though they didn't fire them.

In cities from Baghdad to Basra, summer camps set up by the Popular Mobilization Forces, Iraq's largest militia umbrella group, are training teens and boys as young as middle school age after the country's top Shiite cleric issued an edict calling on students to use their school vacations to prepare for battle if they are needed.

With dozens of such camps around the country, hundreds of students have gone through the training though it is impossible to say how many went on to fight the Sunni extremists since those who do so go independently. Of around 200 cadets in a training class visited by The Associated Press, about half were under the age of 18, with some as young as 15. Several said they intended to join their fathers and older brothers on the front lines.

It's yet another way minors are being dragged into Iraq's brutal war as the military, Shiite militias and Kurdish fighters battle to take back territory from Islamic State militants, who seized much of the country's north and west over the past year. The Sunni extremists have aggressively enlisted children as young as 10 for combat, as suicide bombers and as executioners in their horrifying videos.

5 things to consider as Trump dangles 3rd party prospect while saying he's staying in GOP game

WASHINGTON (AP) — A lot of Republicans would like Donald Trump to go away. But not too far.

The prospect that Trump might eventually leave the primaries and run for president on his own has started to cast a shadow on the race, reviving memories of Ross Perot, Ralph Nader and the chills their third-party campaigns gave to Republicans and Democrats in turn.

To Republican pollster Frank Luntz, a third-party Trump campaign would mean, quite simply, "President Hillary Clinton." Democratic strategist Maria Cardona, who is close to the Clinton campaign, agrees: "He's the greatest gift we have."

Not all Republicans foresee the apocalypse if Trump goes rogue. But they're worried just the same. The party's best bet may be to see him ground down in the GOP contest with the hope his supporters will disperse to others in the field. Trump calls an independent run "highly unlikely" but it depends "how well

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I'm treated" by party leaders.

Here are five things to consider as Trump refuses to rule out a third-party effort.

WHERE'S HE STAND?

Polls this soon in the contest can be good at finding flavor-of-the-month favorites, not at judging who's got staying power. The almost universal expectation is that Trump will sink from his lofty poll heights as first-blush sensations have done in the past: Michele Bachmann and Rick Perry to name just two.

Yet the polls this time are more than fingers in a fickle wind. They determine the 10, out of 16, who will attend the first debate on Aug. 6. Trump is surely in.

As a billionaire who is paying for his campaign and not beholden to donors, Trump is also uniquely positioned to control his own staying power. He appears to have the money to take his campaign through the primaries no matter how he performs in early contests — or to mount a hugely expensive third-party effort instead.

On this question, exasperation with Trump is palpable among some activists on the ground. Former Iowa Republican Chairman Matt Strawn says: "It is a fool's errand to try and predict Mr. Trump's behavior. That being said, Mr. Trump needs to be honest with Iowans, Iowa Republicans — if he is seeking the nomination exclusively as a Republican or if he'll take his ball and go home if Iowa Republicans decide on someone else."

HOW REPUBLICAN IS TRUMP, REALLY?

Very Republican on tax cuts and various other economic policies; not so Republican on health care, some social issues and more.

He once favored a single-payer health care system, a big step beyond President Barack Obama's health care law and one that put him in the company of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, the socialist challenging Clinton for the Democratic nomination. He's likewise critical of free-trade agreements.

Perhaps more on point, Trump has donated heavily to both parties over the years. Records show he has only given money to Republicans since 2010. Before that, one of the preferred candidates for his largesse was Hillary Clinton, who came to his third wedding in 2005. (Trump now calls her the worst secretary of state ever.)

GOP Chairman Reince Priebus told NBC's "Today" show on Monday he doesn't see a Trump third-party effort happening. Longtime GOP donor Fred Malek bets Trump is Republican enough not to want to risk tipping the election to Clinton. Others aren't convinced.

THE PEROT-NADER EFFECT

The odds are heavily stacked against an independent becoming president. But those who try can change the dynamic of a race — and history.

In the incredibly close 2000 election, Nader won less than 3 percent of the popular vote and no states. But the liberal is widely considered to have tipped Florida and perhaps New Hampshire to Republican George W. Bush. Either state would have given Democrat Al Gore the presidency.

Bush was affirmed the winner in Florida by 537 votes. More than 22,000 Floridians voted for Nader and exit polls indicated 47 percent would have voted for Gore and only 21 percent for Bush if Nader had not been a choice.

In 1992, Perot spent about \$64 million of his fortune to get his name on ballots across the country, a struggle for anyone outside the two-party system. He won an impressive 19 percent of the popular vote, though no states, as Democrat Bill Clinton defeated the incumbent President George H.W. Bush.

Perot drew support from both parties and from people who might not have voted normally. There is no consensus that he cost Bush the election. But many Republicans believe Bush suffered from Perot's participation.

GOP pollster Kellyanne Conway says if Trump runs on his own, "no one's voters are completely safe" because he could tap into anti-establishment sentiment in both parties.

But Democratic strategist Cardona argues that if he runs independently: "I think right then and there

we can celebrate that Hillary Clinton will be the next president.”

WHAT'S IT TAKE?

It takes a lot of money to make a consequential independent run for the White House. Trump seems to have it, although the extent of his fortune is not public and it's not known how much he would be willing to spend.

Malek estimates the cost of a serious third-party campaign at \$500 million and doubts Trump would plow that much into an outside effort. “He's a businessman who will look at his potential for winning and decide it will be a poor return on his investment,” Malek predicted.

Luntz puts the cost at \$200 million. “Trump can write that check today without going around raising money. What's more, the fact that he's not bankrolled by special interests and lobbyists is a very powerful message in today's environment.”

WHAT'S TRUMP SAY?

— “No. I won't go on record as saying that.” July 18, on whether he would rule out a third-party bid.

— “Absolutely, if they're not fair, that would be a factor.” July 22, telling The Hill newspaper an outside bid is an option if the party mistreats him.

— “I want to run as a Republican. I think I'll get the nomination.” July 23.

— “It's highly unlikely” he'll run on his own, depends on “how well I'm treated.” July 25.

— “If I'm treated fairly and I get a good, fair shot at this, and I'm not, you know, being sabotaged with all sorts of nonsense and a lot of phony ads ... I would have no interest in doing that whatsoever. All I want to do is be treated fairly.” July 27.

Boy Scouts of America to allow gay adult leaders; church-run units can keep the exclusion

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boy Scouts of America has ended its blanket ban on gay adult leaders but will allow church-sponsored Scout units to maintain the exclusion for religious reasons.

The new policy, aimed at easing a controversy that has embroiled the Boy Scouts for years, takes effect immediately. It was approved Monday by the BSA's National Executive Board on a 45-12 vote during a closed-to-the-media teleconference.

“For far too long this issue has divided and distracted us,” the BSA's president, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, said. “Now it's time to unite behind our shared belief in the extraordinary power of Scouting to be a force for good.”

Initial reactions to the decision from groups on both sides suggested the issue would remain divisive.

The Mormon church, which sponsors more Scout units than any other organization, said it was “deeply troubled” by the decision. Church officials suggested they would look into the possibility of forming their own organization to replace Boy Scouts.

Movie theater shooting: No red flags reported in man's background check at time of gun sale

CARROLLTON, Ga. (AP) — John Russell Houser's mental problems were well known to many, though perhaps not to the store that sold him the .40-caliber handgun used in a deadly attack on a Louisiana movie theater. A federal background check came back clean, the pawn shop said, with no red flags raised at the time of sale.

Yet Houser's own family worried he was dangerous in 2008 and sought court protection. His wife was so worried that she removed his guns from their home, her attorney said. A probate judge in Georgia signed an order allowing sheriff's deputies to detain Houser and bring him to a hospital for a mental evaluation.

But the judge who ordered Houser detained said Monday that she did not — and legally could not — have him involuntarily committed. That may explain why he was able to legally purchase the gun used

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to kill Jillian Johnson and Mayci Marie Breaux in a theater in Lafayette. He wounded nine others before killing himself.

Houser's case underscores concerns raised in the aftermath of other mass shootings involving suspects with mental health issues — and the gaps in the system meant to "red-flag" people ill-suited to own or carry a firearm.

Funeral services for Johnson and Breaux were held Monday. Johnson was remembered as an artist who worked to beautify her neighborhood while Breaux was looking forward to a new job and married life with a longtime boyfriend.

After 4th night of search, few clues on what happened to 2 teens who set out on fishing trip

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) — Rescuers endured a fourth night of an anxious search for two young Floridians born and bred as boaters who went missing on the high seas.

The Coast Guard scoured an area the size of West Virginia with no sign of the boaters by early Tuesday. The 14-year-old boys' vessel was found capsized two days earlier. But relatives and friends of the teens were clinging to hope that the expertise they acquired boating and fishing in their short lives was enough to keep them alive while apparently lost in the Atlantic.

"This isn't something that he's new at," said Carly Black, the mother of Austin Stephanos, in an interview with television station WPBF. "I think they feel better on the boat than they do on land."

The mother said she wouldn't even "bat an eye" about the boys' ability to survive at sea.

Nick Korniloff, stepfather of the other teen, Perry Cohen, said the boys had been "raised on the water," knew how to navigate safely, and were more passionate about the sea than anything else.

Satirical Broadway musical 'The Book of Mormon' finally comes to heart of Mormonlandia

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The biting satirical musical that mocks Mormons has finally come to the heart of Mormonlandia, starting a sold-out, two-week run Tuesday at a Salt Lake City theater two blocks from the church's flagship temple and headquarters.

The Tony Award-winning "The Book of Mormon" has earned rave reviews while appalling some with its crudeness. But this will mark the first time the show's gleefully naive missionaries come to Utah, where about two-thirds of residents are estimated to be Mormon.

The show's creators, Trey Parker and Matt Stone of "South Park" fame, told The Associated Press that bringing the show to Salt Lake City feels like validation, and also brings the creative process full circle.

Parker and Stone used to "trip out" on Mormon stuff while taking Temple Square tours in the 1990s. They made their first research trip for the show to Salt Lake City with fellow creator Bobby Lopez in the mid-2000s. They waited to bring the show to Salt Lake City until they were invited by a theater.

"It feels like a really cool thing that it finally gets to play Salt Lake City," Stone said. "It just feels very much like it's coming home."

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 28, the 209th day of 2015. There are 156 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On July 28, 1945, a U.S. Army bomber crashed into the 79th floor of New York's Empire State Building, killing 14 people. The U.S. Senate ratified the United Nations Charter by a vote of 89-2.

On this date:

In 1540, King Henry VIII's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, was executed, the same day Henry married his fifth wife, Catherine Howard.

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In 1655, French dramatist and novelist Cyrano de Bergerac, the inspiration for a play by Edmond Rostand, died in Paris at age 36.

In 1794, Maximilien Robespierre, a leading figure of the French Revolution, was sent to the guillotine.

In 1821, Peru declared its independence from Spain.

In 1914, World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

In 1915, more than 300 American sailors and Marines arrived in Haiti to restore order following the killing of Haitian President Vibrun Guillaume Sam by rebels, beginning a 19-year U.S. occupation.

In 1932, federal troops forcibly dispersed the so-called "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans who had gathered in Washington to demand payments they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1959, in preparation for statehood, Hawaiians voted to send the first Chinese-American, Republican Hiram L. Fong, to the U.S. Senate and the first Japanese-American, Democrat Daniel K. Inouye, to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced he was increasing the number of American troops in South Vietnam from 75,000 to 125,000 "almost immediately."

In 1976, an earthquake devastated northern China, killing at least 242,000 people, according to an official estimate.

In 1984, the Los Angeles Summer Olympics opened.

In 1995, a jury in Union, South Carolina, rejected the death penalty for Susan Smith, sentencing her to life in prison for drowning her two young sons (Smith will be eligible for parole in 2024).

Ten years ago: NASA said space shuttle Discovery had escaped any serious damage from a potentially deadly piece of foam that broke off from the fuel tank during liftoff and looked safe to fly home in a week. The Irish Republican Army renounced the use of violence against British rule in Northern Ireland and said it would disarm. Lightning struck a group of Boy Scouts taking shelter from a storm in Sequoia National Park in California, killing an assistant troop leader and a teenage Scout.

Five years ago: U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton put most of Arizona's toughest-in-the-nation immigration law on hold just hours before it was to take effect. (In September 2012, Bolton ruled that police could enforce the so-called "show me your papers" provision of the law.) Airblue Flight 202, a Pakistani Airbus A321, crashed into the hills overlooking Islamabad, killing all 152 people aboard.

One year ago: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Israelis to be ready for a "prolonged" conflict with Hamas in Gaza as both sides held out for bigger gains and a cease-fire in the three-week conflict remained elusive. Theodore "Dutch" VanKirk, 93, the last surviving member of the Enola Gay crew that dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, died in Stone Mountain, Georgia. Actor James Shigeta, 85, who played the lead in the 1961 movie musical "Flower Drum Song" and appeared in other movies and TV shows, died in Beverly Hills, California.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Darryl Hickman is 84. Ballet dancer-choreographer Jacques d'Amboise is 81. Musical conductor Riccardo Muti is 74. Former Senator and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Bradley is 72. "Garfield" creator Jim Davis is 70. Singer Jonathan Edwards is 69. Actress Linda Kelsey is 69. TV producer Dick Ebersol is 68. Actress Sally Struthers is 68. Actress Georgia Engel is 67. Rock musician Simon Kirke (Bad Company) is 66. Rock musician Steve Morse (Deep Purple) is 61. CBS anchorman Scott Pelley is 58. Alt-country-rock musician Marc Perlman is 54. Actor Michael Hayden is 52. Actress Lori Loughlin is 51. Jazz musician-producer Delfeayo Marsalis is 50. Former hockey player turned general manager Garth Snow is 46. Actress Elizabeth Berkley is 43. Singer Afroman is 41. Country musician Todd Anderson (Heartland) is 40. Rock singer Jacoby Shaddix (Papa Roach) is 39. Country singer Carly Goodwin is 34. Actor Dustin Milligan is 30. Actor Nolan Gerard Funk is 29. Rapper Soulja Boy is 25. Pop/rock singer Cher Lloyd (TV: "The X Factor") is 22.

Thought for Today: "Beware of monotony; it's the mother of all the deadly sins." - Edith Wharton, American author (1862-1937).