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Tuesday's State Legion Scores

Championship Game McCook/Minor 17, West Central 5

Wednesday, July 29

Teener Regions

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

Birthdays: Amber Falk Odde • Jarod Fliehs • 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 with dressing, ambrosia fruit salad, oatmeal spice cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Christopher Sippel • Brandyn Anderson • Carlyle Mortenson • Krista Tunby • Gloria Leidholt • Trista Jean Keith • Travis McKiver 8:00am:Elementary Library open

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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Friendly Fellows and Daisies

The Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H club met June 28th at the Claremont church. The meeting was called to order by Dylan Frey. American Pledge was led by Maddie Sumption. The 4-H pledge was led by Jonathan Sumption. Roll call topic was Favorite Summer activity. There were no communications. Treasurer's report was approved by Brady Wieker and second by Trey Wright. Secretaries' report was approved by Colin Frey and second by Jakob Sumption. Old business was the County Horse Show and National archery Tournament. Old business was closed by Carly Crawford and second y Kennedy Anderson. New business is the Newshound and Wylie Park. Hannah Sumption closed New business and Maddie Sumption second. Other business was the Rocket launch held after the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by Madilyn Wright and second by Clay Crawford. Clay Crawford gave a talk and demo on BB Guns. Lunch was served by Madilyn Wright. Submitted by Kaitlyn Ringgenberg



Wednesday, August 5th 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. At the Groton United Methodist Church

The couple is registered at Herberger's, Menards and Target

Larson Bridal Shower

Bridal shower for Samantha Larson will be held on Saturday, August 8 from 2-4 at Olive Grove Golf Course. The couple is registered at Target.

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Fliehs News

A family gathering was held at the Missouri River home of Larry and Valerie Fliehs this past weekend. The group included the children, grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren of Janice Fliehs and the late Irvin. Matt and Amber Cooqes of Johnston, Iowa (suburb of Des Moines) were the special guests from away. The children enjoyed outdoor games and getting acquainted with their cousins. Typical summer time picnic foods were enjoyed by all.

Matt and Amber were guests at the home of her father Bob Wegner during the week.

Ernest "Bud" Frohling

Ernest "Bud" Frohling, 88, of Hecla, SD, lost his 3 year courageous battle with cancer on July 27, 2015. Visitation will be Sunday, August 2, 2015 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with a prayer service starting at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, Hecla. His funeral will be Monday, August 3, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church with burial to follow at the Hecla City Cemetery.

Freeline Tree Service

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

Stump Removal

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South Dakota Dept. of Health Offers \$2,000 Grants to Businesses for Workplace Physical Activity

BROOKINGS, S.D. - South Dakota businesses interested in enhancing their employees' access to physical activity are eligible to apply for one of 10 \$2,000 grants offered by the South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH). Application deadline is Aug. 25, 2015.

"These grants assist worksites interested in implementing physical activity policy and physical activity environmental changes," explained Nikki Prosch, SDSU Extension Health & Physical Activity Field Specialist.

Prosch is the lead on this project, she is working with SD DOH to provide training to the 10 businesses who receive the 2015 Steps to Wellness Grants.

"This project is unique because of its strong focus on sustainable initiatives," Prosch explained. "Currently, many worksites do health challenges and programs - but what we're looking for here is to help change worksite policy and provide funding that will change the working environment so employees have opportunities to be active year round."

Once grants are assigned, Prosch will work with grantees to provide training utilizing the Centers for Disease Control toolkit "Steps to Wellness - A Guide to Implementing the 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans in the Workplace."

Eligibility Criteria: All South Dakota worksites are eligible to apply for funding. Activities should be designed to create environmental and policy changes or provide opportunities not already offered to employees related to physical activity. Funding should be used to enhance sustainable physical activity policy change within the workplace.

Project Types: Eligible projects will be awarded up to \$2,000, with 10 applicants funded. Funding will be awarded for projects that strategically address environment and policy change related to promotion of physical activity. Health-related policies are formal or informal written statements that are designed to protect or promote employee health. Environmental change refers to the physical factors at and near the workplace that help protect and enhance employee physical activity.

Policy Development: The SD DOH has developed a Model Worksite Physical Activity Policy to frame policy adoption in the workplace for physical activity. The model policy document is available for download at http://goodandhealthysd.org/workplaces/policies/. Workplaces applying for funding are strongly encouraged to use this document as a guide for developing the proposed physical activity policy for their workplace.

"Example projects can include something as simple as dedicating an open office or unused space for engagement in physical activity or installing bike racks on worksite property," Prosch said.

For a complete listing of examples, an application, as well as grantee and DOH expectations and more, visit www.goodandhealthysd.org/workplaces.

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Thune: Why Americans Need a Long-Term Transportation Solution

"When Congress fails to provide the necessary certainty about the way transportation funding will be allocated, states and local governments are left without the certainty they need to authorize projects or make long-term plans for transportation infrastructure. And that means that essential construction projects get deferred, necessary repairs may not get made, and jobs that depend on transportation are put in jeopardy."

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, today urged his colleagues to pass a long-term transportation bill to fund our nation's highways, roads, and bridges and provide certainty to Americans whose jobs rely on a reauthorization.

Sen. Thune delivered his speech during continued debate on the DRIVE Act, a bipartisan bill designed to modernize the nation's infrastructure and transportation systems and allow America to better compete in the 21st century. The bill includes several Commerce Committee titles that cover key transportation and regulatory reforms. A section-by-section of the Commerce titles may be found here, and a bill summary may be found here.

The full text of Sen. Thune's floor speech follows (as prepared for delivery):

"Mr. President, this week the Senate is continuing debate on a bipartisan measure to reauthorize transportation programs and fund our nation's highways, roads, and bridges.

"While transportation bills are nothing new here in the Senate, the bill before us today is notable because it's the first transportation bill in almost a decade to provide more than two years of funding for our nation's infrastructure needs.

"Since 2009, Congress has passed more than 33 short-term funding extensions.

"That's an average of approximately five funding extensions each year.

"That's not a good way to manage our nation's infrastructure, and it wastes an incredible amount of money. "Around the country, hundreds of thousands of people – and hundreds of thousands of jobs – depend on the funding contained in transportation bills.

"When Congress fails to provide the necessary certainty about the way transportation funding will be allocated, states and local governments are left without the certainty they need to authorize projects or make long-term plans for transportation infrastructure.

"And that means that essential construction projects get deferred, necessary repairs may not get made, and jobs that depend on transportation are put in jeopardy.

"My home state of South Dakota has been forced to defer important construction projects thanks to the lack of funding certainty.

"Mr. President, no individual or business would start building a house or an office building if it could only promise a contractor three months of funding.

"In the same way, Congress can't expect a state to begin construction of a new bridge or highway without the certainty that the project will be fully funded.

"The highway bill before us today, the DRIVE Act, reauthorizes transportation programs for six years and provides three years of guaranteed funding.

"And all three years of funding have been paid for without raising the gas tax – or adding a dime to the deficit.

"This bill will give states and local governments the certainty they need to plan for and commit to key infrastructure projects.

"It will also help strengthen our nation's transportation system by increasing transparency in the allocation of transportation dollars, streamlining the permitting and environmental review processes, and cutting red tape.

"Mr. President, over the past few years of Democrat control, the public has grown increasingly skeptical of Congress' being able to function.

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"When Republicans took the majority in January, we promised the American people we'd get the Senate working again, and we've been delivering on that promise.

"This transportation bill is another major legislative achievement and the result of hard work by several committees who put together key provisions to spur important infrastructure investment and safety improvements.

"Republicans and Democrats alike got to make their voices heard during this process, and the resulting bill is stronger because of it.

"As chairman of the Commerce Committee, I had the opportunity to work on the Commerce section of the bill.

"Our focus was on enhancing the safety of our nation's cars, trucks, and railroads, and the bill we produced makes key reforms that will enhance transportation safety around the country.

"Over the past year, the Commerce Committee has spent a lot of time focused on motor vehicle safety efforts.

"Last year was a record year for auto problems, with more than 63 million vehicles recalled.

"Two of the defects that have spurred recent auto recalls – the faulty General Motors ignition switch and the defective airbag inflators from Takata – are responsible for numerous unnecessary deaths and injuries: at least 8 reported deaths in the case of Takata, and more than 100 deaths in the case of General Motors. "Indications point to the Takata recalls as being among the largest and most complex set of auto-related

"Indications point to the Takata recalls as being among the largest and most complex set of auto-related recalls in our nation's history, with more than 30 million cars affected.

"Given the seriousness of these recalls, when it came time to draft the highway bill one of our priorities at the Commerce Committee was addressing auto safety issues and promoting greater consumer awareness and corporate responsibility.

"The Commerce section of the DRIVE Act now triples the civil penalties that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration can impose on automakers for a series of related safety violations – from a cap of \$35 million to a cap of \$105 million – which should provide a much stronger deterrent against auto safety violations like those that occurred in the case of the faulty ignition switches at General Motors.

"Our portion of the bill also improves notification methods to ensure that consumers are made aware of recalls.

"The new notification requirements include a provision incentivizing dealers to inform consumers of open recalls when they bring in their cars for routine maintenance, as well as a grant program to allow states to notify consumers of recalls when they register their vehicles.

"Our committee also adopted a provision from my Democrat colleague, the senior senator from Missouri, which will prevent rental car companies from renting unrepaired cars that have been recalled.

"Mr. President, in the wake of the recall over the GM ignition switch defect, the inspector general at the Department of Transportation published a scathing report identifying serious lapses at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – or NHTSA – the government agency responsible for overseeing safety in our nation's cars and trucks.

"The concerns raised included questions about the agency's ability to properly identify and investigate safety problems – a concern that is further underscored by the circumstances surrounding the Takata recalls."

"In addition to targeting violations by automakers, our portion of the highway bill also addresses the lapses at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration identified in the inspector general's report.

"In its typical fashion, the Obama administration claimed that NHTSA's problems would be solved by simply throwing more money at the agency, but based on expert testimony from the inspector general, it's clear that money alone is not going to solve the problem.

"We need to ensure that the agency fixes what is broken before we provide a significant increase in funding authorization with taxpayer dollars.

"Our bill makes additional funding increases for NHTSA's vehicle safety efforts contingent on the agency's implementation of reforms called for by the inspector general, ensuring that this agency will be in a better position to address vehicle safety problems in the future.

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"I appreciate that NHTSA's current administrator has pledged to implement all of the recommendations. "Mr. President, another big focus of the Commerce Committee this year has been rail safety.

"Nearly half of the Commerce section of the DRIVE Act is made up of a bipartisan rail safety bill put together by the Republican junior senator from Mississippi and the Democrat junior senator from New Jersey.

"Their work on important passenger rail and Amtrak reforms was almost ready for a committee mark-up at the beginning of May, but after the tragic train derailment in Philadelphia, these two senators opted to delay the mark-up and then added even more safety provisions to the bill they crafted.

"Their bill, which passed the committee with unanimous support from committee members of both parties, includes provisions to strengthen our nation's rail infrastructure and smooth the way for the implementation of new safety technologies.

"Mr. President, our transportation infrastructure keeps our economy – and our nation – going.

"Our nation's farmers depend on our rail system to move their crops to market.

"Manufacturers rely on our interstate highway system to distribute their goods to stores across the United States.

"And all of us depend on our nation's roads and bridges to get around every day.

"For too long, transportation has been the subject of short-term legislation that leaves those responsible for building and maintaining our nation's transportation system without the certainty and predictability they need to keep our roads and highways thriving.

"I'm proud of the bill we have on the floor before us today, and I hope we can pass this legislation and work with the House to develop a final bill that will allow us to fund our nation's transportation priorities on a long-term basis."

Tularemia Reported In Black Hills PIERRE, S.D. – A state health official says tularemia is on the rise, with seven cases reported in the Black

PIERRE, S.D. – A state health official says tularemia is on the rise, with seven cases reported in the Black Hills area since June.

"Tularemia is a fairly uncommon but potentially severe disease that can be fatal," said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist for the Department of Health. "People can be exposed when they come in contact with infected insects and animals, particularly rabbits, rodents and cats."

Six of South Dakota's cases were adults over the age of 50 and one was a child under 5. Five of the seven were hospitalized. Kightlinger noted that one of the cases had direct contact with a pet cat that tested positive for tularemia.

Sometimes called rabbit fever, tularemia most commonly results in a sore developing where the bacteria enter the body, accompanied by swelling of the lymph nodes. In severe cases, it can cause fever and a pneumonia-like illness, which can be fatal.

To reduce the risk of tularemia, Kightlinger encouraged people to use insect repellants when outside with animals and to take precautions such as wearing gloves and double-bagging when handling and disposing of dead animals. Animal owners, particularly cat owners, should watch their animals for signs of illness and contact their veterinarian as soon as possible if unusual signs develop. Using tick and insect repellants on pets and livestock also helps prevent transmission of tularemia and other vector-borne diseases. Cat owners should consult their veterinarians about appropriate repellants as some labeled for use on dogs may be toxic for cats.

"Éspecially during this season of camping and outdoor recreation, people, including Rally-goers, should avoid or take special precautions with rabbits, prairie dogs, gophers and voles," said Kightlinger.

Other states in the region, including North Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming and Colorado are also reporting increased cases.

Learn more about tularemia and its prevention on the department's website at doh.sd.gov/diseases/infectious/diseasefacts/Tularemia.aspx, the SDSU Extension site at www.sdstate.edu/vs/extension/zoonotic/ upload/Tularemia-in-Animals-in-South-Dakota.pdf, or the CDC site at www.cdc.gov/tularemia/index.html.

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Pump Prices Falling Across State and Nation

July 28, 2015 – South Dakota's average price for regular gasoline today is \$2.78, according to AAA South Dakota, three cents below the 2015 high of \$2.81 reached six days ago.

"Refinery issues have been resolved in the Midwest," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "In fact, production is reported to have reached a 2015 high, bringing more finished product onto the market. This is a trend that is likely to continue and when combined with already solid supplies of gas and oil, will work to push pump prices lower."

	Today	Last Week	Change	Jun. 30	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.698	\$2.700	(\$0.002)	\$2.710	(\$0.012)	\$3.576
Brookings	\$2.768	\$2.856	(\$0.088)	\$2.774	(\$0.006)	\$3.471
Huron	\$2.801	\$2.688	\$0.113	\$2.754	\$0.047	\$3.548
Mitchell	\$2.745	\$2.758	(\$0.013)	\$2.706	\$0.039	\$3.483
Pierre	\$2.936	\$3.092	(\$0.156)	\$3.003	(\$0.067)	\$3.483
Rapid City	\$2.889	\$2.869	\$0.020	\$2.811	\$0.078	\$3.600
Sioux Falls	\$2.625	\$2.695	(\$0.070)	\$2.551	\$0.074	\$3.330
Vermillion	\$2.669	\$2.726	(\$0.057)	\$2.622	\$0.047	\$3.406
Watertown	\$2.832	\$2.802	\$0.030	\$2.705	\$0.127	\$3.522
Yankton	\$2.874	\$2.817	\$0.057	\$2.780	\$0.094	\$3.508
South Dakota	\$2.787	\$2.797	(\$0.010)	\$2.735	\$0.052	\$3.494

The national average price for regular gas has dropped for 13 days in a row, the longest consecutive decline since January. Today's national average price is \$2.70 per gallon, a nickel less than one week ago and eight cents less than one month ago. Most motorists nationwide are paying the lowest July prices since 2009 and are saving an average of 82 cents per gallon compared to a year ago.

"The global oil market touched multi-month lows to open the week's trading session in reaction to signals that the market is likely to remain oversupplied in the near term, keeping downward pressure on prices," said Buskohl. "Worse than expected economic data out of China showed growth in the country to be more volatile than anticipated, which could further increase the global gluts of both oil and gasoline."

Domestic crude inventories grew by 2.5 million barrels in the most recent weekly report, while the number of U.S. oil rigs grew by 21, the largest gain since April 2014. Supply continues to outpace domestic demand, and as a result, West Texas Intermediate crude oil fell below \$50 per barrel for the first time since April this past week.

At the close of Monday's formal trading on the NYMEX, WTI settled down 75 cents at \$47.39 per barrel. The price of oil generally accounts for more than half the cost of retail gasoline at the pump, so lower crude oil prices typically lead to lower pump prices for motorists, barring other influencing factors like refinery issues, distribution challenges or changes in demand.

Drivers in seven states, all located west of the Rockies, are paying retail averages above \$3 per gallon. California (\$3.82) is the nation's most expensive market for retail gasoline, and is followed by regional neighbors Alaska (\$3.48), Hawaii (\$3.31), Nevada (\$3.26) and Washington (\$3.19). Averages in California appear to be easing, although recent reports of production issues could again send averages higher in the coming days.

Weekly price comparisons show the majority of drivers (43 states and Washington, D.C.) are saving at the pump. The price is down a dime or more in Ohio (-17 cents), Indiana (-12 cents), Kentucky (-12 cents) and Michigan (-10 cents), and motorists in a total of nine state are saving a nickel or more per gallon week-over-week. Retail averages climbed higher in seven states over this same period, but in less dramatic fashion. Colorado (+5 cents) is the only state posting a weekly premium of a nickel or more per gallon.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

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Today in Weather History July 29, 1896: A destructive hailstorm originated in the central part of Edmunds County near Ipswich,

July 29, 1896: A destructive hails form originated in the central part of Edmunds County near Ipswich, passing southeast. This storm destroyed crops and broke glass in many windows along a path to the eastern portions of Spink County.

July 29, 2003: Winds of 70 mph, to over 100 mph caused damage in and around Redfield east to Frankfort and south to Tulare. The winds and hail damaged many roofs, crops, outbuildings, downed power lines and poles, and also downed many branches and trees. In Redfield, a trailer home with two occupants, were rolled three to four times over 75 feet. The trailer home rolled over a pickup truck and damaged it. Much of the contents in the trailer home were damaged and the trailer home itself was a total loss. The people inside the home received minor injuries. A garage was also blown apart in Redfield with the car damaged inside. At the grain elevator in Redfield, several vehicle windows were broke out by airborne sand and rocks. A street light was ripped from the concrete in Redfield. East of Redfield, a 70 foot silo of over 70 tons was crumbled to the ground and a large tractor shed was blown apart with damage to the contents. Wind equipment by Redfield measured winds at 106 mph before the power went out.

July 29, 2006: Record heat and high humidity affected central, north central, and northeast South Dakota for the end of July. Heat indices rose to 105 to 115 degrees across the area. Record high temperatures were set at Pierre, Mobridge, Kennebec, Timber Lake, and Aberdeen. Pierre rose to 111 degrees on each of the three days. Mobridge rose to 111 degrees on the 28th and to 112 degrees on the 30th. Several record highs of 108 and 109 degrees were set at Timber Lake and Kennebec in the three day period. Aberdeen set a record high of 106 on the 30th.

1898 - The temperature at Prineville, OR, soared to 119 degrees to establish a state record, which was tied on the 10th of August at Pendleton. (The Weather Channel)

1905 - Heavy rain in southwestern Connecticut caused a dam break, and the resulting flood caused a quarter of a million dollars damage at Bridgeport. As much as eleven inches of rain fell prior to the flood. (David Ludlum)

1958: The U.S. Congress passes legislation establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), a civilian agency responsible for coordinating America's activities in space.

1960: Severe thunderstorms brought damaging winds, possibly as high as 100 mph to central Oklahoma. Eight planes and several hangars were damaged at Wiley Post Airfield, while two planes and additional hangars were damaged at Will Rogers World Airport. The winds caused seven injuries in the area, including two youths who were injured by flying debris.

1981 - Fifty cattle, each weighing 800 pounds, were killed by lightning near Vance, AL. The lightning struck a tree and then spread along the ground killing the cattle. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Minnesota to Indiana and Illinois. A thunderstorm at Janesville, WI, produced wind gusts to 104 mph which flipped over two airplanes, and blew another plane 300 feet down the runway. The northeastern U.S. experienced some relief from the heat. Nine cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Johnsbury, VT, with a reading of 42 degrees. Barnet, VT, reported a morning low of 33 degrees, with frost reported on vegetation. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Hail three inches in diameter was reported south of Saint Cloud, MN. Hot weather prevailed in the western U.S. Fresno, CA reported a record thirteen straight days of 100 degree heat. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms in the Upper Midwest produced more than five inches of rain west of Virgil, SD. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms deluged the foothills and adjacent plains of Colorado with heavy rain. Rains of six to seven and a half inches fell in eight hours north of Greeley. Hail and heavy rain caused several million dollars damage in Weld County. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2004: A record setting flash flood occurred over part of the Greenville, South Carolina, during the morning hours. Six to eight inches of rain fell just east of Berea, a northwestern suburb, which caused the Reedy River through downtown Greenville crested 9 feet above flood stage. This was the highest level since 1908.

Groton Daily Independent Wednesday, July 29, 2015 + Vol. 19 - No. 009 + 10 of 23 Tonight Friday Today Thursday Thursday Friday Saturday Night Night

Mostly Clear

Low: 58 °F

Sunny and

Breezy

High: 85 °F

Mostly Clear

Low: 56 °F

Sunny

High: 89 °F

Sunny

High: 84 °F

Mostly Clear

Low: 59 °F

Slight Chance

T-storms

High: 88 °F



Published on: 07/29/2015 at 4:47AM

Windy conditions will shift to the eastern side of the Dakotas into Minnesota today. Temperatures will be back closer to normal as well.

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Yesterday's Weather High: 79.2 at 5:15 PM

Heat Index: Low: 60.6 at 11:09 PM High Gust: 33 at 4:35 PM Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 109° in 1933

Record Low: 42° in 1899 Average High: 84°F Average Low: 59°F Average Precip in July: 2.86 Precip to date in July: 3.15 Average Precip to date: 13.70 Precip Year to Date: 11.57 Sunset Tonight: 9:05 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:15 a.m.



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WHAT'S IN YOUR NAME?

Arthur Rubinstein was one of the world's most celebrated pianists. He often wondered what the critics and his audience would say if someone else appeared to play in his place in a concert.

One night, with an assumed name and made up to look different with a disguise, he performed a concert before a large audience. After the concert, the critics agreed, "The gentleman who played this evening wasn't in the class with the great Rubinstein."

We are reminded in Proverbs that "A good name is more desirable than great riches; and to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."

God has called each of us to a life of service.

He has given us gifts and talents that He expects us to develop and refine. As we work with what He has given us, we develop a reputation for our accomplishments – whatever they may be. We become known to others not only by what we do but how well we do it. Our reputation, our "name," is a result of what we do with what God has given us.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to "work hard" to "earn" a good name, and bring great honor to Your name in doing so. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.

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News from the Associated Press

UND degree program aims to meet demand for social workers

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (ÅP) — The University of North Dakota is taking steps to help address an expected increase in demand for social workers.

UND in the fall will begin offering an online bachelor's degree program in social work. The university cites a U.S. Labor Department study that demand for social workers will grow 19 percent by 2022, with the growth in rural areas potentially higher.

UND also will be working with a tribal college in Fort Totten, with faculty teaching several of the students there as they work toward their degrees.

The Spirit Lake tribe has been overhauling its child protection systems since it came under fire in 2012 for perceived lapses in protecting vulnerable children.

Early week storms cause damage across South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Storms early this week have caused damage across South Dakota. Hail as big as baseballs fell in Hill City on Monday, and smaller but more intense hail combined with rain stranded some vehicles in the middle of streets in Custer. A home in Rapid Valley was extensively damaged by lightning.

Storm's late Monday and early Tuesday knocked down a newly built garage in Volga in eastern South Dakota. Wind gusts nearing 70 mph damaged trees and signs in Yankton.

Fire prompts evacuation of Sioux Falls motel; no one hurt

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Fire prompted evacuation of a motel in Sioux Falls, but no one was hurt. Firefighters responded to the Cloud 9 Motel about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday after a motel employee noticed smoke coming from a room. Fire crews put out the blaze in about 15 minutes.

Officials say the room suffered moderate fire and smoke damage.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

Man sentenced to more than 3 years in prison for assault

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A North Dakota man has been sentenced to more than three years in federal prison for assaulting a man with a knife.

Donald Eagle pleaded guilty in March to assault with a dangerous weapon. The incident happened in August 2014 on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

U.S. District Judge sentenced Eagle to 37 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release.

A federal public defender was not available for comment.

Catholic women's group chooses Sioux Falls for convention

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau says that the Catholic Daughters of the Americas has chosen South Dakota's Queen City as the site of the group's 2018 national convention.

The bureau on Tuesday announced the pick, which is the first time the national convention has been hosted in South Dakota.

The convention coincides with the 100th anniversary celebration of the South Dakota State Court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

The event is set to happen in July 2018. The organization has more than 70,000 members.

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Only 40 gay couples apply to be married in SD in first month KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Forty gay couples in South Dakota applied to be married during the first month following a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized such unions across the country, according to data provided by the state Department of Health.

The number of marriage licenses issued to gay couples in South Dakota represents about 5 percent of the 839 licenses issued to all couples from June 26 to July 27, The Associated Press found in its analysis of the data.

Although the numbers pale in comparison to bordering Minnesota, where more than 1,600 licenses were issued in August 2013 when same-sex marriage was legalized there, gay rights advocates called the statistics reflective of the barriers the gay community still faces in South Dakota and other conservative states.

Nancy Rosenbrahn, a Rapid City woman who became the public face of the fight against South Dakota's ban on same-sex marriages last year, said she was amazed that 40 people had already been married, but noted that there are likely many more South Dakotans who haven't applied because of concerns about being discovered in their communities.

Billy Mawhiney, treasurer for The Center For Equality in Sioux Falls, said he thought the lower numbers were appropriate and attributed them to the fact that neighboring Iowa and Minnesota legalized samesex marriages years ago and that South Dakota law doesn't include sexual orientation when prohibiting discrimination in employment and housing.

By comparison, gay couples in Minnesota made up almost a third of all licenses issued in August of 2013, the first month gay marriage was legal in the state after it was passed by the state Legislature in the spring.

Unlike South Dakota and other states, couples in Minnesota had several months to decide whether to apply for a license before it became legal. News reports also showed citizens from other states flocked to Minnesota to marry in 2013.

Rosenbrahn, who married her wife in Minneapolis last year, said gay South Dakotans have to feel they're secure at their job and in their housing before they decide to go into a public government office and ask to be married.

"That's a risky venture in South Dakota," she said. "In Minnesota, hell no. You could go in and not have to worry about it."

At the county level, half of licenses issued to same-sex couples in South Dakota have been in Pennington County. Five were issued in Minnehaha County, which includes Sioux Falls.

All other counties issued three or fewer licenses since gay marriages began in the state, which means at least 49 counties have not issued a marriage license to a gay couple. The state Department of Health doesn't release license data at the county level unless at least four have been issued for privacy reasons. Eleven of the same-sex couples consisted of two men and 29 were made up of two women.

The number of marriage licenses issued in South Dakota so far appears to be in line with projections, according to Christy Mallory, senior counsel at UCLA's Williams Institute, which tracks the demographics of gay and lesbian Americans.

In a report published by the institute in October 2014, researchers projected that approximately 357, or about half, of the state's same-sex couples would marry after same-sex marriage was legalized in South Dakota. The report estimated that 64 percent of those couples — or about 228 — would marry within the first year following legalization.

Mallory noted that a slight bump in licenses issued in the first month is expected.

Evan Wolfson, the founder and president of Freedom To Marry, the national organization that led the push to legalize same-sex across the country, said despite the low numbers, South Dakota's statistics are telling. He said people can now plan their weddings and get married without the anxiety that a law could be blocked or somehow stopped before they can marry.

Mawhiney, a manager at a Mitchell grocery store, said anybody in southeastern South Dakota wanting to get married in the last few years could have driven to either Minnesota or Iowa, where he and his husband

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Kyle Margheim were married in May 2012.

But Mawhiney said just because couples can get married now, they don't have to, and said many are waiting until they feel they're ready for such a commitment, like he was.

"This isn't just someone that you're dating ... for us, it meant more. It was hard work to get to here," he said. "And so I think people are going to take their time, they're not going to just rush out and do it."

4 cases of West Nile virus reported so far this year in SD

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota health officials have confirmed four human cases of West Nile virus disease so far this year.

The state Department of Health says the cases have been reported in Brown, Butte and Spink counties. The ages of the ill individuals range from 20 to 59.

The virus is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito. The symptoms range from mild and flu-like to severe neurological issues.

State epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger says about 20 percent of people who have the virus get sick, and only 1 percent develops severe complications.

An individual trying to donate blood in Codington County tested positive for the virus when the fluid was screened. Kightlinger says officials will monitor whether the person becomes ill.

Some victims identified in 1 of 2 Midwest plane crashes GRETCHEN EHLKE, Associated Press

Two teenagers from Mexico were among the seven people killed when two small planes crashed separately within hours of one another in western Wisconsin and southwestern Minnesota, authorities said Tuesday.

A fixed-wing plane carrying three people crashed in a cornfield in southwestern Minnesota on Monday night, according to the Pipestone County Sheriff's Department. The pilot, Steven Christensen, 59, of rural Pipestone, and passengers Marcos Favela, 18, of Torreon, Mexico and an unidentified girl, 13, of Guadalajara, Mexico, died when the aircraft went down near Pipestone about 8 p.m., sheriff's officials said.

Travis Jasper said he and his construction crew were finishing work for the day near the crash site when he heard what sounded like a plane in trouble.

"(I) heard it spitting and sputtering. It fired up a couple times and then I thought I heard a car door slam." Jasper told KSFY-TV. "A couple minutes later I seen the neighbor at the corner and he's like, I think a plane just went down, and I said yah, I think the same thing."

Jasper said he and his crew jumped on top of their vehicle to try to spot the plane in the cornfield.

In Wisconsin, four people died when a single-engine Beechcraft crashed and caught fire in a field near Amery, Wisconsin, about 50 miles northeast of Minneapolis, about 5:30 p.m. Monday, Polk County sheriff's officials said. Firefighters extinguished the blaze, which scorched the surrounding field, and found the victims inside.

Karen Olson said the plane crashed on her property about 200 yards from her home.

"I thought it was a helicopter flying overhead," Olson said. Her property is in the flight path for medical helicopters flying to the nearby Amery Regional Medical Center, she explained. Then she heard her neighbor pounding on her door.

"He just said, there's an airplane that went down in your field and the field is on fire," Olson said. "All I could see was smoke."

Authorities haven't yet said where the planes might have been flying or the location of their departures. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board have launched investigations.

"We'll document the scene, examine the wreckage of the aircraft and later move it to a secure facility," NTSB spokesman Keith Holloway said of the Wisconsin crash.

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Police, others in NE Wyoming preparing for Sturgis rally

GILLETTE, Wyo. (AP) — Law enforcement officers and others plan to work extra hours in northeast Wyoming next week as the 75th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally gets going in nearby South Dakota.

Related events in Wyoming include the Ham and Jam in Hulett and the Burnout in Sundance. Both will take place Aug. 5.

Campbell County Emergency Management Coordinator David King says Hulett normally has one law enforcement officer on duty but 13 will be working the Ham and Jam.

The Gillette News-Record reports (http://bit.ly/ISLks04) more than 1 million people are expected to attend this year's rally. Peak daily attendance could top half a million.

King says more than 15 agencies have been preparing for Sturgis since March. Anticipated problems range from heavy traffic to gang activity.

South Dakota starting QB to miss season with back injury

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota coach Joe Glenn says two-year starting quarterback Kevin Earl will miss what would have been his senior season because of a lingering back injury.

The Coyotes are turning the offense over to junior backup Ryan Saeger. The 6-foot-4 native of Heartland, Wisconsin, started four games last season after Earl suffered a broken thumb.

Saeger guided USD to its only two wins of the season. He finished the year with 660 passing yards, three touchdowns and three interceptions.

Earl last year threw for 1,593 yards, with eight touchdowns and eight interceptions.

The Coyotes open the season Sept. 5 at Kansas State.

Nebraska trial set over land seizures for oil pipeline

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

At a hearing in on Monday in O'Neill, District Judge Mark Kozisek set the nonjury trial date of Oct. 19. Seven Nebraska landowners filed lawsuits after the state Supreme Court tossed an earlier, similar lawsuit, with three justices saying the plaintiffs in the case didn't have standing to sue because they didn't prove TransCanada was seeking their land.

In January TransCanada filed legal papers in nine Nebraska counties to invoke eminent domain for 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.

The TransCanada filings prompted the lawsuit in Holt County and a similar one York County. Both challenge the company's legal authority under state law to use eminent domain. Judges in both counties later barred TransCanada from proceeding with any eminent domain actions until the legal challenges have been completed.

Environmentalists and other opponents have argued that any leaks could contaminate water supplies and that the project would increase air pollution around refineries and harm wildlife. Supporters have said those fears are exaggerated, that the pipeline would create jobs and that it would ease American dependence on oil from the Middle East.

The pipeline, first proposed in 2008, still requires presidential approval because it crosses an international border. Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts announced Monday that his office had sent a letter to President Barack Obama, urging him to issue a pipeline permit.

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

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Park fire probe concludes conditions were underestimated

RAPID CITY, S.D. (ÅP) — A report on a wildfire in Wind Cave National Park in April concludes the park underestimated how dry conditions would affect efforts to control an escaped fire.

The Cold Brook Fire began as a prescribed burn. It escaped containment in high winds and grew to about 10 square miles. There were no injuries, and no damage to structures or private property.

Chief Interpreter Tom Farrell said at the time that weather conditions were appropriate for a prescribed burn. The report by an interagency team at the request of the National Park Service acknowledged that and said staff had necessary training. But investigators also found there weren't enough resources on the fire's eastern side to control the escaped fire.

Park Superintendent Vidal Davila says officials want to learn from the incident.

Spring wheat harvest getting underway in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The spring wheat harvest is underway in South Dakota, while the winter wheat harvest is nearing the halfway point.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 2 percent of the spring wheat is in the bin, well behind the long-term average of 18 percent.

The winter wheat harvest is 43 percent complete, well ahead of last year's pace but behind the average of 49 percent. About three-fourths of the staple winter wheat crop is rated fair or better.

About three-fourths of South Dakota's corn and soybean crops are rated in good to excellent condition. Pasture and range conditions statewide are rated two-thirds good to excellent.

New domes installed atop Corn Palace attraction in Mitchell

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Three new domes have been put in place atop the Corn Palace tourist attraction in Mitchell.

The domes are part of a \$7.2 million makeover of the building that's billed as the world's only palace dedicated to the grain.

The installation of the domes was delayed when city officials sought assurance that they could withstand South Dakota's weather. Crews last week added reinforcements.

About 200,000 tourists annually visit the Corn Palace, which is decorated inside and outside with murals made from about 275,000 ears of corn of various sizes and colors.

The upgrade includes the new domes as well as new lighting, larger murals, exhibit space, a theater and a walk-out balcony above the marquee. Work began in June 2014. Most of the work should be done this week.

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. TURKISH STRIKES VEX ISLAMIC STATE PLAN

Ankara's air campaign against IS militants and Kurdish forces creates a conundrum for Obama, who is leading the fight against one of those targets while relying heavily on the other.

2. AMERICAN WHO SPIED FOR ISRAEL TO GET FREEDOM

The decision to parole spy Jonathan Pollard revisits the 1980s case that divided the United States and Israel.

3. IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL TURNS UP LOBBYING HEAT

Both the Obama administration and pro-Israel groups are putting pressure on Congress, which must decide whether to ratify the deal with Tehran.

4. FEARED SUNNI MILITANT LEADER KILLED

Pakistani police gun down Malik Ishaq and 13 followers in a mysterious pre-dawn shootout, killing the

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man believed to behind the slaughter of hundreds of the nation's minority Shiites.

5. WHERE THERE'S A HOTBED OF FRAUD ACTIVITY

South Florida has become renowned for scammers stealing hundreds of millions from the government, banks and individuals by using laptops, stolen identities and fake medical procedures.

6. MAN ACCUSED IN LION DEATH THOUGHT HUNT WAS LEGAL

A Minnesota dentist who went on a guided bow hunting trip for big game in Zimbabwe says that he had no idea a lion he killed was protected.

7. JAIL RELEASES MORE SANDRA BLAND FOOTAGE

Texas authorities release several hours of footage showing the Illinois woman during her three days in jail, saying they wanted to dispel rumors that she was dead before arriving there.

8. GOODBYE, WINDOWS 8. HELLO, 10

AP's Anick Jesdanun says with a major update, Windows no longer feels jarring, as though he's using two different computers at once.

9. 'MORMONLANDIA' RAVES ABOUT 'BOOK'

The biting satirical musical that mocks Mormons receives a rousing reception in its first-ever showing in Salt Lake City.

10. WHO HAD HIS SUSPENSION UPHELD BY NFL

New England quarterback Tom Brady's four-game suspension for his role in using underinflated footballs during the AFC championship game was not reduced by Commissioner Roger Goodell.

AP News in Brief

Official: Turkish jets pound PKK positions in northern Iraq in new air raid

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish jets hit Kurdish rebel targets in northern Iraq in a new raid against the separatist group, authorities said Wednesday, as Turkey's opposition pro-Kurdish party called for an immediate end to the violence and the resumption of peace efforts.

The warplanes overnight pounded about half a dozen positions, including shelters and storage facilities, belonging to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, a government statement said. Locations included the group's mountainous stronghold in Qandil.

Turkish jets have been attacking rebel positions in northern Iraq and in southeastern Turkey in a dramatic escalation of tensions that has left an already fragile peace process with the Kurds in shatters. The airstrikes came after the rebels claimed responsibility for the killing of two policemen.

Kurdish activists have held the government responsible for a suicide bombing — blamed on the Islamic State group — accusing it of not doing enough to stop the extremists' activities.

Turkish jets have also attacked extremists in Syria following the suicide bombing.

In mysterious pre-dawn shootout, Pakistan police kill feared Sunni militant leader, 13 others

MUZAFFARGARH, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani police gunned down one of the country's most-feared Sunni militant leaders and 13 followers in a mysterious pre-dawn shootout Wednesday, killing a man believed to behind the slaughter of hundreds of the nation's minority Shiites.

Malik Ishaq, who directed the operations of the Taliban- and al-Qaida-linked Lashkar-e-Jhangvi group, was so feared in Pakistan that frightened judges hid their faces from him and even offered the unrepentant killer tea and cookies in court.

Yet Ishaq, believed to be either 55 or 56, operated freely for years in Pakistan as the country's intelligence services helped nurture Sunni militant groups in the 1980s and 1990s to counter a perceived threat from neighboring Shiite power Iran.

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Details of Ishaq's killing remain cloudy in Pakistan, where extrajudicial slayings by police remain common — especially in pre-staged ambushes. Ishaq already had been detained by police, arrested two days earlier on suspicion of being involved in the slaying of two Shiites, police officer Bakhtiar Ahmed said.

Early Wednesday, as officers tried to transfer Ishaq from a prison in the city of Multan, gunmen ambushed the police convoy transporting him in an attempt to free the militant, Ahmed said. The ensuing gunbattle killed Ishaq and at least 13 of his associates, including two of his sons and his deputy, Ghulam Rasool, Ahmed said.

Decision to parole spy Jonathan Pollard revisits 1980s case that divided US and Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The arrest of Jonathan Pollard for spying for Israel touched off one of the most sensational spy cases in recent American history, stoking fierce international passions and decades of legal and diplomatic wrangling.

Thirty years later, Pollard, 60, has been granted parole from his life sentence by the U.S. Parole Commission, which set his release for Nov. 21.

In some ways the dispute continues. His lawyers say they will ask President Barack Obama for clemency and to allow Pollard to travel from the United States to Israel. The White House dismisses that prospect, saying Pollard had committed "very serious crimes" and would serve his sentence under the law.

"We are looking forward to his rélease," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement Tuesday.

The Pollard case has been a divisive political flashpoint — and an occasional diplomatic bargaining chip — from the day in 1985 he was arrested while trying to gain asylum at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

Iran nuclear deal turns up lobbying heat on Congress with White House rallying Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Iran nuclear deal has supercharged congressional lobbying, with President Barack Obama securing the support of a prominent Jewish Democrat and pro-Israel groups pressuring lawmakers in an all-out, big-money drive.

Obama, his Cabinet and other allies are making the case that the deal, which calls on Iran to curb its nuclear program in exchange for billions of dollars in sanctions relief, is the best possible way to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon.

Secretary of State John Kerry, Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are scheduled to testify on Wednesday before the Senate Armed Services Committee along with Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz.

Nicholas Burns, former undersecretary of state for political affairs and ambassador to NATO, will meet with House Democrats at the invitation of Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who is leading the effort to round up Democratic support for the deal. House Democrats also were scheduled to meet with Obama at the White House later in the day.

"I believe that Israel, the region, and the world are far more secure if Iran does not move toward possession of a nuclear weapon," longtime Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich., said in a statement that referenced his Jewish faith.

Polish economic miracle leaves some behind, fueling frustration and political shift

PIONKI, Poland (AP) — Marek Bogacki feels life in Poland 26 years after the fall of communism could hardly be better.

Wearing a fine shirt and tie and enjoying brunch at a French bakery in Warsaw, the 35-year-old invest-

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ment director at an insurance company ticked off places where he has vacationed, from New York to Thailand to Paris, saying the prosperity and freedom that came with EU membership has made it "the best time in Poland's history."

A two-hour drive to the south, in the small town of Pionki, Michal Nowocien lives in conditions so different it feels like another country. The 22-year-old welder earns the equivalent of \$260 a month on a temporary contract and lives with his parents and siblings in a tiny apartment in a public housing project. His mother separates trash for \$265 a month and his father works in construction for \$530, neither with benefits.

"It was sports that kept me out of trouble," Nowocien said, looking around at a neighborhood where many others have succumbed to drug or alcohol abuse.

A quarter-century after Poland fully embraced laissez-faire capitalism, the gap between the haves and have-nots is now so deep that Poles sometimes speak of "two Polands" — one of high-earners concentrated in the cities and one of unskilled workers struggling on low wages and job insecurity, often in rural areas and small towns.

Minnesota man accused of killing protected African lion says he was unaware of lion's status

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — A Minnesota dentist who went on a guided bow hunting trip for big game in Zimbabwe said that he had no idea the lion he killed was protected and that he relied on the expertise of his local guides to ensure the hunt was legal.

Walter Palmer, who has a felony record in the U.S. related to shooting a black bear in Wisconsin, released a statement Tuesday after Zimbabwean authorities identified him as the American involved in the July hunt. They said Palmer is being sought on poaching charges, but Palmer said he hasn't heard from U.S. or Zimbabwean authorities.

"I had no idea that the lion I took was a known, local favorite, was collared and part of a study until the end of the hunt," said Palmer, a dentist who lives in the Minneapolis suburb of Eden Prairie. He said his guides had proper permits, and to his knowledge, everything was handled properly.

"I deeply regret that my pursuit of an activity I love and practice responsibly and legally resulted in the taking of this lion," he said.

The 55-year-old was identified by the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force, the Safari Operators Association of Zimbabwe and police as the American facing poaching charges for the crossbow killing of Cecil, a well-known lion. Local authorities allege the lion was lured from a protected area and killed in early July. Zimbabwean conservationists said the American allegedly paid \$50,000 for the trip.

Citing questions about timing of Sandra Bland's death, Texas jail releases more video

HEMPSTEAD, Texas (AP) — Texas authorities released additional footage from Sandra Bland's three days in jail, saying they wanted to dispel rumors that she was dead before arriving.

Waller County Judge Trey Duhon said Tuesday that such conspiracy theories — including one that Bland's mug shot was taken after her death — have prompted death threats against county officials.

"Because of some of the things that's gone out on social media, this county has been literally attacked," he said at a news conference, adding that the FBI is investigating the most serious threats.

"Sandra Bland was alive and well" until she was found hanging on July 13 in her cell at the Waller County Jail, Duhon said. Authorities have ruled that Bland's death, three days after her arrest during a confrontational traffic stop, was a suicide.

The video released shows her arriving at the jail, being questioned by a jailer filling out forms, making phone calls, getting her mug shot taken, sleeping in her cell and being taken in and out.

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For Coast Guard plane's crew, long days scouring the seas off Florida for missing teen boaters

ABOVE THE ATLANTIC OCEAN (AP) — Scouring the vast ocean expanse off Florida for two missing teen boaters is a long, tedious mission for the eight-person crew of the C-130 Hercules Coast Guard plane based out of Clearwater.

On Tuesday morning, the flight crew — including a public affairs officer and an Associated Press reporter — left Florida's Gulf coast at midmorning and flew eastward.

Once the plane cleared the state's other coast and was over the Atlantic, it dropped to 500 feet above the murky ocean. The crew eased open the back cargo ramp and two men flopped on their bellies so they could search the sea below.

It wasn't an easy task. Around noon, the water was the same gray-blue as the sky; the horizon invisible, hazy. Spotting something in the water involves a little luck and a lot of training and experience. And passion.

Review: Windows 10 modernizes, while ditching much of what made Windows 8 annoying to use

NEW YORK (AP) — It took me just a weekend to get comfortable with Microsoft's new Windows 10 operating system, something I never did with its predecessor, Windows 8, even after nearly three years. With Wednesday's update, Windows no longer feels jarring, as though I'm using two different comput-

ers at once. Best part: This update is free.

Windows 8 was Microsoft's way of modernizing personal computers, as smartphones and tablets grew more popular. But it came across as trying to shove a square peg into a round hole. It steered people toward tablet-like touch commands, even on desktops and laptops that had keyboards and mouse controls. Apps that weren't designed for touch — including Microsoft's Office — got shoved into the basement, known as desktop mode. Desktop mode and tablet/touch mode were like feuding siblings, each seeking to dominate in a high-stakes tug of war.

With Windows 10, everyone gets along. There are still separate desktop and tablet modes, but you largely stick with one or the other depending on whether you have a keyboard. (Microsoft skipped Windows 9, by the way, as though to distance itself from Windows 8 and its criticisms.)

Fed moves toward raising rates for first time since 2006, but no action is expected yet

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is moving toward raising interest rates from record lows — just not likely yet.

On Wednesday, when it ends its latest policy meeting, Fed officials will issue a statement that will be parsed for clues to just when the first rate increase since 2006 might occur. The meeting will end with a policy statement but no news conference by Chair Janet Yellen.

Though many economists foresee the first hike coming in September, they don't expect this week's policy statement to clearly signal the timing. Yellen has stressed that the decision will be driven by the latest economic data. The Fed still wants to keep its options open.

Yet Yellen has left little doubt that the Fed is preparing to raise short-term rates by year's end from the near-zero lows it set at the depths of the 2008 financial crisis. With the U.S. economy and job market now steadily rising, the need for ultra-low rates to stimulate growth is fading.

"Our economy is in a much better state," Yellen told Congress earlier this month. "We're close to where we want to be, and we now think the economy can not only tolerate but needs higher rates"

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 29, the 210th day of 2015. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 29, 1890, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.

On this date:

In 1588, the English attacked the Spanish Armada in the Battle of Gravelines, resulting in an English victory.

In 1900, Italian King Humbert I was assassinated by an anarchist; he was succeeded by his son, Victor Emmanuel III.

In 1914, transcontinental telephone service in the U.S. became operational with the first test conversation between New York and San Francisco. Massachusetts' Cape Cod Canal, offering a shortcut across the base of the peninsula, was officially opened to shipping traffic.

In 1921, Adolf Hitler became the leader ("fuehrer") of the National Socialist German Workers Party.

In 1948, Britain's King George VI opened the Olympic Games in London.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

In 1965, The Beatles' second feature film, "Help!," had its world premiere in London.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford became the first U.S. president to visit the site of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz in Poland.

In 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (However, the couple divorced in 1996.)

In 1985, space shuttle Challenger began an 8-day mission that got off to a shaky start: the spacecraft achieved a safe orbit even though one of its main engines shut down prematurely after lift-off.

In 1994, abortion opponent Paul Hill shot and killed Dr. John Bayard Britton and Britton's bodyguard, James H. Barrett, outside the Ladies Center clinic in Pensacola, Florida. (Hill was executed in September 2003.)

In 2004, Sen. John Kerry accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Boston with a military salute and the declaration: "I'm John Kerry and I'm reporting for duty."

Ten years ago: The U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a U.S.-sponsored resolution expanding U.N. sanctions against al-Qaida terrorists and Afghanistan's former Taliban rulers to affiliates and splinter groups. Cabaret singer Hildegarde, whose career spanned almost seven decades, died in New York at age 99.

Five years ago: Army Spc. Bradley (now Chelsea) Manning was flown from a detention facility in Kuwait to the Marine Corps brig in Quantico, Virginia, to await trial on charges of giving military secrets to WikiLeaks. The House rejected a bill that would have provided up to \$7.4 billion in aid to people sickened by World Trade Center dust; Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., angrily denounced Republicans who'd voted against the measure, calling it "a shame, a shame." A House panel charged New York Democrat Charles Rangel with 13 counts of ethical misdeeds (he was later censured by the full House).

One year ago: Spurred to action by the downing of a Malaysian airliner over rebel-held eastern Ukraine, the European Union approved dramatically tougher economic sanctions against Russia, including an arms embargo and restrictions on state-owned banks; President Barack Obama swiftly followed with an expansion of U.S. penalties targeting key sectors of the Russian economy. Mississippi's effort to close its last abortion clinic was blocked by a federal appeals court.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian "Professor" Irwin Corey is 101. Actor Robert Horton is 91. Former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum-Baker is 83. Actor Robert Fuller is 82. Former Sen. Elizabeth H. Dole is 79. Actor David Warner is 74. Actress Roz Kelly is 73. Rock musician Neal Doughty (REO Speedwagon) is 69. Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of former Vice President Dan Quayle, is 66. Actor Mike Starr is 65. Documentary maker Ken Burns is 62. Style guru Tim Gunn (TV: "Project Runway") is 62. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 62. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 62. Olympic gold medal gymnast Nellie Kim is 58. Actor Kevin Chapman is 53. Actress Alexandra Paul is 52. Country singer Martina

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McBride is 49. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 48. Actor Rodney Allen Rippy is 47. Actor Tim Omundson is 46. Actor Ato Essandoh is 43. Actor Wil Wheaton is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 42. Country singer-songwriter James Otto is 42. Actor Stephen Dorff is 42. Actor Josh Radnor is 41. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 38. Actress Rachel Miner is 35. Actress Allison Mack is 33. Actress Kaitlyn Black (TV: "Hart of Dixie") is 32. Actor Matt Prokop is 25.

Thought for Today: "Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together." - Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890).