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- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Putney Putovers 4-H
- 2- Valsvig Bridal Shower
- 2- Larson Bridal Shower
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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

Friday, July 31

Teener Regions

Senior Menu: Hot roast beef combination, carrots, mandarin oranges, peanut butter cookie.

Birthdays: Amanda Swenson • Lynette Furman • Keith Baker

6:30am: C&MA Men's Bible Study at Dairy Queen

Saturday, August 1

Teener Regions

Birthdays: Bert Raap • Linda Gengerke • Annabeth Rohwer • Heather Dixon • Kervin Wolter • Baily Reich • Karen Young • Martin Schumacher, Lacey Grabow

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, August 2

Teener Regions

Birthdays: David Strom • Marsha Wienk • Peggy Fliehs • Jesse Nierman • Chris Wheeting • Jennifer Keimig • Erin Unzen • Dylan Graf •

Spencer Kavanaugh • Morgan Rossow

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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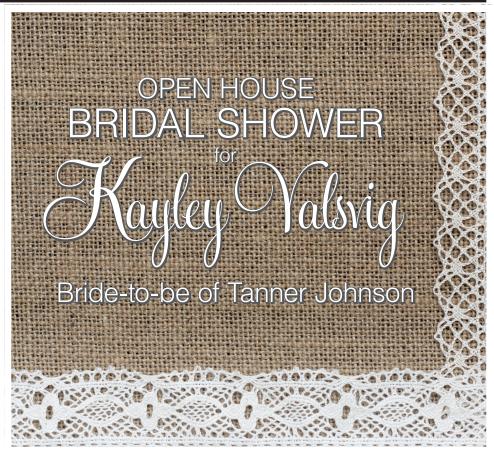
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Putney Putovers The Putney Putovers 4-H Club met July 6th, at the Groton Community Center. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Hailey Monson. Flag pledges were led by Porter Johnson, Alexis Simon, and Emma Donley. Roll call was answered with your favorite place you have visited. The secretary's report was approved by Emma Donley and seconded by Lucas Simon. The treasurer's report was approved by Alexis Simon and seconded by Emma Donley. There was a bill of \$180 for the club t-shirts. Reporting on community service, Brenna Johnson worked concessions in Andover. Our club also made birdfeeders before the meeting for anyone that wanted to participate.

In new business, dates for completed entries, fashion revue, and 4-H Rocket Day were given.

Hostesses for the meeting were Emma Donley and Dylan Krueger. Hailey Monson gave a demonstration on recycled scarves, Hannah Monson gave a talk on glow sticks, and Dylan Krueger gave a talk on his first rodeo experience. The next meeting will be held August 3rd, at the Groton Community Center. Hostesses will be Alexis and Caleb Hanten. The adjournment was moved by Dylan Krueger and seconded by Brenna Johnson.

-Alexis Simon, secretary



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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THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

Food Safety Law Good For Consumers---If It Were Funded By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

Just five years ago, Congress passed a big, widely hailed law that promised to make Americas' food supply safer. But because of inadequate funding for new regulations and inspectors, the promise has yet to be kept.

Sometimes cutting government spending has serious consequences, and there's no better example of that than what's happened to the Food Safety Modernization Act.

In 2010 Congress enacted legislation whose goal was to set tough anti-contamination standards for foods ranging from peaches to imported pesto sauces and to increase the number of inspectors for the increasingly complex food system.

Two decades ago inspectors for the Food and Drug Administration, which is in charge of most of the food supply, checked on 200,000 imports. Today they are charged with overseeing 12 million imports, accounting for about 15 percent of what the nation eats. About 80 percent of the country's seafood and about half of all fruits and vegetables are imported. American food companies might get inspected every four or five years, but foreign food producers may never be inspected.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture inspects what FDA does not, but sometimes it's hard to tell who does what. For example, the FDA regulates eggs unless the eggs are cracked or processed. Then the USDA takes over.

After several major outbreaks of illness caused by contaminated food, momentum built in Congress for fixing the system. The food industry, which worried that bad publicity about Americans dying from tainted spinach was giving them a black eye, got behind the new law.

But did the food industry really want what could be tough new rules and regulations, or was the law simply intended as a symbol to assure the public the food supply was safe? Given what's happened to the law in the last few years, it's easy to conclude that symbolism may have been the goal all along.

In a story that may make you think twice before licking an ice cream cone, Politico food policy reporter Helena Bottemiller Evich has told a sorry tale of the food safety law, including reference to the recall, earlier this year, of the entire ice cream inventory of Blue Bell Creameries. This and other deadly incidents

Freeline Tree Service

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

Stump Removal

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have come five years after former Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin declared, "This legislation means that parents who tell their kids to eat their spinach can be assured it won't make them sick."

When the law was passed, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the FDA, which regulates most of the country's food supply, would need an increase of \$116 million to its \$4 billion budget each year for five years in order to do the job the law intended. In 2012 even though the Obama administration asked for \$183 million, Congress approved only \$46 million.

After that the administration asked for smaller increases although this year it has asked for \$109 million, closer to the estimate. But Evich told me appropriations bills moving through Congress would result in less than a \$46 million boost for the FDA.

FDA deputy commissioner Michael Taylor told Politico. "At this juncture, (the law) either succeeds...or it falls off the rails."

Evich reported the coalition that backed the law has walked away from funding it. She told me, "Who is actually going in and asking for money is a very short list." In other words, very few groups are using their political capital to wring out more money for more inspectors or are pushing the FDA for rules that make the law a reality.

The FDA has yet to issue regulations implementing the anti-contamination standards that were supposed to make it harder to get sick from bad food.

Does the country still need to beef up its food inspection program? A visit to the website of Food Safety News helps answer that question. From July 1 through July 25, it reported 11 recalls listed for foods consumed by humans and several more for pets. Some of those for consumers involved millions of pounds of chicken products that put them at risk for salmonella poisoning, spices found on supermarket shelves, cashew nuts and bags of fruit and nuts also linked to salmonella; and pickles and sauces recalled for potential botulism risk.

In the absence of more forceful regulation which is not likely anytime soon, you'll have to be careful about your food choices checking with Food Safety News to see what foods have been recalled. And when you hear some politician talk about cutting government spending, think about who will be hurt. As the food safety fiasco shows, real people do die from government penny-pinching.

Tell us your experiences with food safety. Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.

Editor's note: The Rural Health News Service is funded by a grant from The Commonwealth Fund and is distributed through the Nebraska Press Assn. Foundation, Colorado Press Assn., South Dakota Newspaper Assn., Hoosier (IN) State Press Assn. Foundation, Illinois Press Assn. Foundation, Wyoming Press Assn. and California Newspaper Publishers Assn. Foundation.



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Friends...

Near and Far

Editor's Note: This is the 32nd in a series featuring your friends, near and far.

Adam Grams

Now Living at: Indianapolis, Ind.

JobWise what are you doing today? I am currently serving as Assistant Commissioner for Compliance Services at the Southland Conference. It is a NCAA Division I conference in Frisco, TX, made up of thirteen institutions that compete at the FCS level in football. I am charged with overseeing the compliance programs of all thirteen schools and also assist with many of the conference championships we run in various sports.

How long have you been working at the current job? I began here in October 2013.

How did you get your current job?

I was working as Compliance Coordinator at the University of Nevada and was contacted by a previous co-worker. He notified me they were looking for someone here at the Southland Conference and I was able to contact them about the position. We found it would be a good fit and I decided to make the move.

If you have previous employments list them and how long you were there.

2010-11 – NCAA, Enforcement Intern

2012-13 – University of Nevada, Compliance Coordinator

What year did you graduate from high school? GHS 2003 Where did you attend college and what was your degree?

University of Nebraska – Bachelor of Arts, Political Science with a Minor in Business

Tulane Law School – Juris Doctor with a Sports Law Certificate

What advice would you give the high school students today?

My advice would be to always challenge yourself and try new things. I've learned more by the various experiences I've had and the places I've been than I ever could have from just reading a textbook. Many times this requires being comfortable being uncomfortable. To learn new things, you have to be willing to put yourself out there and grow from any adversity you encounter.

List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life.

- Graduated Nebraska as a Superior Scholar.
- Completed law school at a Tier I institution.
- Selected as one of 19 NCAA Interns for the 2010-11 year.

Do you feel that your high school and college education prepared you adequately for post education life? I definitely believe my education prepared me for life after school. It's not so much about what you learn in the classroom on a daily basis, but more about the transferable skills you can apply to every aspect of your life. Some of the most important are work ethic, communication skills, and an ability to identify complex situations and break them down into simple issues which are easier to solve. These were all skills I learned at a young age and just continued to develop and sharpen as I went through my educational career. Now, I use them in my career and personal life on a daily basis.



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By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Comfort not posion

Should a physician ever assist a dying person with suicide?

About twenty years ago my Father was dying of metastatic colon cancer spread to bone. Dad was one of those unusual cases in which meds were simply inadequate for his unrelenting pain. Either he was totally unconscious, or awake and very uncomfortable. There seemed no helpful in-between, and too often pain meds brought wild and scary dreams, caused him to be combative, and frightened him and all involved.

My Mom had called me one evening and warned that Dad was talking about driving into a bridge abutment. She handed him the phone and I pleaded with him not to do such a thing. "I will talk with your doctor and find a better pain reliever," I promised. "How can I get relief, and how will this end?" he asked. I explained in cases like his, people often develop pneumonia, and since he directed us not to use antibiotics, this might bring it to a close pretty quickly.

Indeed, in less than two days he developed pneumonia, and his need for pain medicines dropped away, due to natural pain relief mechanisms that kick in when lungs start to fail. In two more days he escaped his cancer dying from pneumonia. The death certificate called it death by natural causes, but I suspect he voluntarily stopped coughing after our talk that night, which allowed for the blessing of a rapid case of pneumonia.

There are those who request that physicians should by law be allowed to prescribe death-inducing poisons for patients who are similarly suffering. These people could then fill the prescription, take the poison on their own time, and thereby choose to die on their own terms instead of having to wait for pneumonia.

In my opinion the issue turns around the word "intent." It runs against my moral structure to give a poison intended to kill. On the other hand, I consider it acceptable to prescribe plenty of medicine intended to relieve suffering, even if it might hurry death.

It is truly my moral duty to provide comfort, not poison, as people are dying, even if it is the same medicine.

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Brown County 4-H Royalty Candidates The 2015 4-H Royalty candidates have submitted their applications and will be selected by 4-H members

The 2015 4-H Royalty candidates have submitted their applications and will be selected by 4-H members through online votes prior to Monday, August 10th. Royalty candidates will be actively participating in different events throughout the fair, just look for the purple shirts!

The Royalty will be crowned Friday, August 14th , 2015, during the 4-H Royalty Coronation and 4-H Fashion Show at the Brown County Fair. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Kessler's tent on the east side of the Expo Building located on the Brown County Fairgrounds.

The 2015 Royalty Candidates are as follows:



Nicholas John Achen, 16, is an eight year 4-H member and is currently club President of the Kattle Kings 4-H club. In his eight years he has held the offices of President, Secretary, Reporter, and Junior Leader. During this time he has participated in many different project areas, including: 4-H Ambassador Program, Ag in the Classroom, Clothing & Textiles, Community Service, Consumer Education, Dairy Foods, First Aid, Foods & Nutrition, Judging at State, Poultry & Eggs, Public Speaking, Quiz Bowls, Veterinary Science, and Wood Science. Nicholas has participated in public speaking, dairy judging, exhibiting dairy cattle, exhibiting commercial chicken. Some of Nicholas's accomplishments in 4-H include participating in community service at every club meeting and learning the importance of giving back to the community, having the privilege to inform the public about dairy at every county fairy, as well as teaching about dairy in Benton County, Indiana in 2012. Some other accomplishments include co-owning and exhibit-

ing the Supremem Champion Cow, receving Reserve Supreme Dairy Cow at the South Dakota State Fair, receiving third in Dairy Quiz Bowl at State in Minnesota, and winning a trip to represent the State of South Dakota at the Nation 4-H Dairy Judging Contest in Madison, Wisconsin in September 2015. Outside of 4-H he is a 2nd grade religion teacher and was confirmed this past April in the Catholic Church. Nicholas is still heavily involved with Dairy outside of 4-H. He served two terms as the Nation Milking Shorthorn Junior Reporter, he is the State Ambassador for the Minnesota State Brown Swiss Association, and He will be recognized this summer as a Young Distinguished Junior Holstein Member at the National Level.

Jonathan Sumption, 17, is an eight year member of the Friendly Fellows and Daisies 4-H club. In that time he has held the office of Treasurer. During this time he has participated in many different project areas, including: Aerospace & Rocketry, Beef Production, Discovering 4-H, Electric, Foods & Nutrition, Home Living, Quiz Bowls, Shooting Sports, Wildlife, and Wood Science. Jonathan has participated in archery shooting sports and livestock judging schools. Some of Jonathan's accomplishments in 4-H include making it to state archery in 2014 and 2015, winning Reserve Champion Market Heifer overall in 2009, Grand



Champion Angus Heifer at the Brown County Fair in 2011, Grand Champion Shorthorn Plus Steer at the Brown County Fair in 2013, and Grand and Reserve Prospect Calves

in 2014. Outside of 4-H, Jonathan has worked at several church suppers for the youth group, enjoyed planting flowers in Claremont Community, and learned how to AI cows with his dad on their farm.

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Carly Wheeting, 17, is a ten year member of the Puttney Putovers 4-H club. In that time she has held the offices of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter. During this time she has participated in the following project areas: Beef Production, Bread Baking, Clothing & Textiles, Discovering 4-H, Fashion Revue, Foods & Nutrition, Home Living, Judging at State, Photography, Sheep Production, Swine, and Visual Arts. Carly has participated in livestock judging at local, state and national levels. Her most memorable 4-H accomplishment was winning Round Robin in 2012, when she was 14 years old. Some of her other 4-H accomplishments include receiving overall brown county champion sheep, swine, and meat goat during her 4-H career, being a team member of the Brown County Livestock Judging Team that place 2nd at the state level and then went on to participate at the American Royal in Kansas City Mo, in 2013, being named high individual livestock judger at the state level as a beginner, and having won

multiple grand and reserve sheep divisions at the South Dakota State Fair. Outside of 4-H, Carly is a four year letter winner in basketball and track and field, was inducted into the Groton Area National Honor Society as a Junior, and has served as president, treasurer, and sentinel of the Groton FFA Chapter, as well as being voted President of Groton Future Business Leaders of America.

Erin Ochsner, 18, is an eleven year member of the Warner Honeybees 4-H club. In that time she has held the offices of President, Secretary, and Treasurer. During this time she has participated in many different project areas, including: Clothing & Textiles, Community Service, Discovering 4-H, Environment, Fashion Revue, First Aid, Foods & Nutrition, Home Living, Visual Arts, and Wood Science. Erin has participated in many community service projects and values giving back to her community. Some of her greatest 4-H accomplishments include: participating in many community service projects in the Warner Community, having the ability to help younger club members with various 4-H projects, donating to various organizations, participating in various project areas, and serving as an officer in



various positions. Outside of 4-H, Erin has participated in community service at her church by helping younger children and helping at their annual bazaar and rummage sale. She attended the Hugh O'Brien Leadership Conference, participated in Alex's Lemonade stand for Children in need, and attended South Dakota Girls' State where she learned more about the state's government.



Hailey Shirrie' Hanson, 17, is a ten year member of the Livestock Leaders 4-H club. In that time she has held the office of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. During this time she has participated in the following project areas: Beef Production, Citizenship, Community Service, Foods & Nutrition, Graphic Arts-Displays, Hippology, Horses & Ponies, Judging at State, Photography, Quiz Bowls, Visual Arts, and Wood Science. Hailey has participated in livestock judging at local and state levels, helped at the Northeast Youth Livestock Clinic, helped in the food booth at the county fair for multiple years, Round Robin, and is a Youth Advisor on the Brown County 4-H Promotion & Expansion Committee. Some of her greatest 4-H accomplishments include: receiving, SD State Grand Champion Market Beef Showman in 2013, receiving Division III Grand Champion Crossbred Steer at the SD State Fair in 2013, being a part of two different clubs that were awarded Herdsmanship multiple times.

Outside of 4-H, Hailey is a National Honor Society Award recipient and member, was chosen to be one of three youth pastors for their large church's 10th grade confirmation class, and is a proud Ag Advocate and enjoys helping educate youth about the importance of agriculture.

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Mikayla Forsting, 17, is a nine year member of the Three River Ranchers 4-H club. In that time he has held the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Reporter, and Junior Leader. During this time she has participated in many different project areas, including: Child Development, Clothing & Textiles, Community Service, Food Preservation, Foods & Nutrition, Gardens-Fruits/Vegetables, Hobbies & Collections, Home Living, Judging at state, Photography, Sheep Production, Swine, and Visual Arts. Mikayla has participated in NC 4-H Camp 2nd Session, multiple different judging schools, getting the fairgrounds ready for the Brown County Fair and promoting 4-H. Some of her greatest 4-H accomplishments include: receiving the sheep rate of gain award several years in a row, receiving top 4-H record book since she has been a beginner, as well as receiving top 4-H club secretary book for 3 years. Also, she has received Herdsmanship and Showmanship awards, and



has received numerous project award plates. Outside of 4-H, Mikayla is a honor roll student, class officer, and has numerous varsity letters and sports awards, and is a member of the Fredrick High School Cotton Candy Team. She has church perfect attendance and is a CCD teacher and is involved in her church choir.

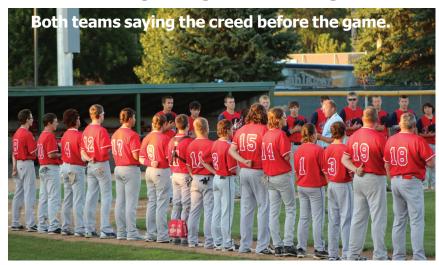


Marshall Lane is catching.

Photos by Morgan Schuring

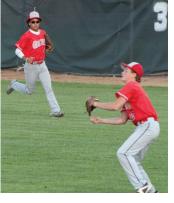


Victor Padilla pitching and third baseman Brandon Keith



Teener Regions Groton lost to Milbank, 7-0. Groton will play Mobridge at 3

pm. today.



Right Fielder Anthony Sippel making a catch, with center fielder Bennett Shabazz.

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Today in Weather History

July 30, 1981: Operation Skywarn organized by the National Weather Service in Bismarck four years ago had a perfect opportunity to put the training into operation on this day. A spotter 20 miles west of Bismarck identified a rotating wall cloud 10 minutes before a tornado touchdown. The strong tornado was rated as having F3 strength, leaving behind an 18 mile long path of destruction. The force of the storm drove a stick between a tire and rim. A 6 inch steel beam was twisted and found near the high tension tower which had been toppled.

July 30, 2001: High winds of 81 mph blew much of the roof off of the bowling alley in Mobridge. A trailer home was also damaged by some flying debris. Many trees were snapped in two or uprooted and many power lines were downed. High winds brought down tree branches and also knocked the power out for several hours in Pollock.

July 30, 2010: Very heavy rains of 5 to 10 inches caused the Rosehill Dam to break in the early morning hours in southeast Hand County. Flash flooding began around 1 am CDT with two campers being swept up around 130 am CDT. The two campers clung to a tree until they could be rescued around 6 am CDT. They were both injured with one camper being treated for hypothermia and other airlifted to Sioux Falls to be treated for broken ribs and head trauma. The dam broke at 330 am CDT with the spillway breaking at 420 am CDT. There was a 100 to 150 foot hole left by the dam break. The flash flooding continued downstream on Sand Creek causing damage to area farms, filling basements, and flooding many roads.

1949 - The state record for Connecticut was established when the town of Greenville registered an afternoon high of 102 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

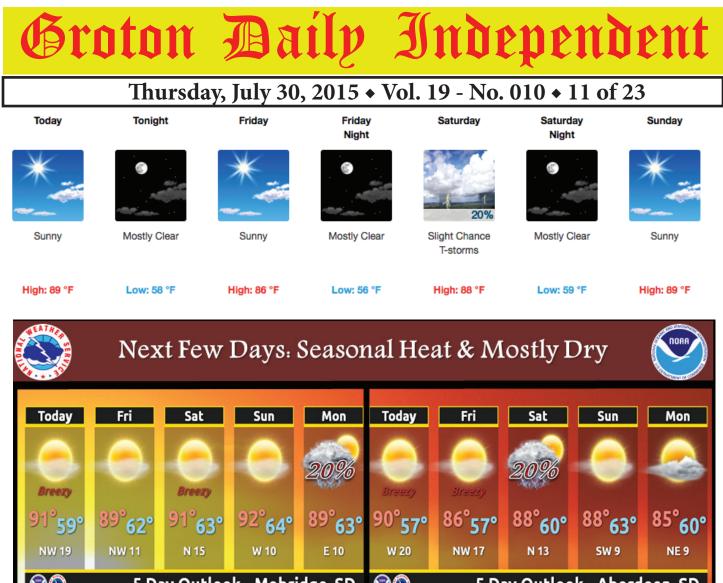
1965 - The temperature at Portland, OR, reached 107 degrees to equal their all-time record high. (The Weather Channel)

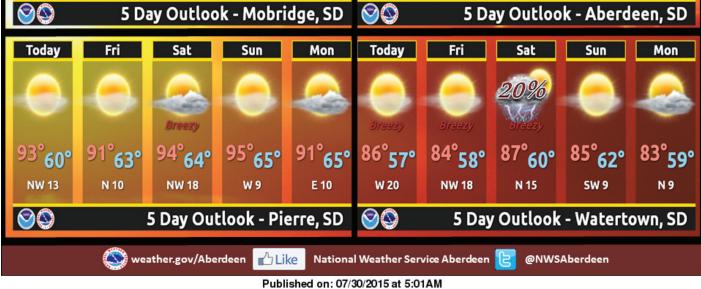
1979 - A forty-minute hailstorm bombed Fort Collins, CO, with baseball to softball size hail. Two thousand homes and 2500 automobiles were damaged, and about 25 persons were injured, mainly when hit on the head by the huge stones. A three month old baby died later of injuries. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Afternoon highs of 105 degrees at Aberdeen SD, 102 degrees at Bismarck, ND, and 102 degrees at Pueblo, CO, were records for the date. Pueblo, CO, reported just .09 inch of rain for the first thirty days of the month. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A dozen cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Downtown Baltimore, MD, hit 103 degrees, marking a record eight days of 100 degree heat for the month, and ten for the year. The high of 101 degrees at Billings, MT, marked a record seventeen days of 100 degree heat for the year. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the northeast, with nearly fifty reports of large hail or damaging winds in Pennsylvania and New York State. A tree fell on a car at Erie, PA, injuring four persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms over central Missouri deluged Columbia with 5.98 inches of rain causing flash flooding. Daytime thunderstorms in Kentucky drenched Paducah with 1.73 inches of rain in less than half an hour. Evening thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 78 mph east of Moccasin, MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)





Temperatures will be fairly close to normal if not a few degrees above average for the next few days with low humidity. Most of the area will remain dry with the passage of a weak weather system Saturday.

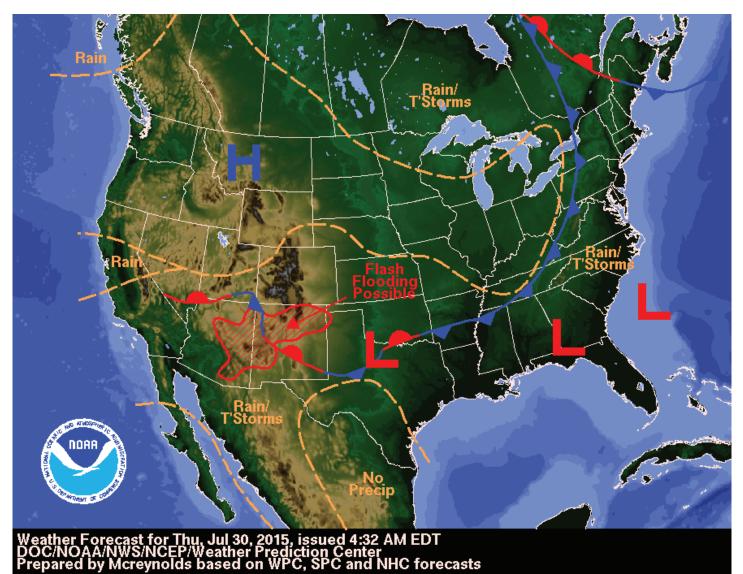
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Yesterday's Weather High: 82.7 at 4:13 PM

High: 82.7 at 4:13 PM Heat Index: 82.0 at 3:08 PM Low: 57.2 at 5:27 AM High Gust: 26 at 2:24 PM Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 106° in 2006

Record High: 106° in 2006 Record Low: 39° in 1971 Average High: 84°F Average Low: 59°F Average Precip in July: 2.94 Precip to date in July: 3.15 Average Precip to date: 13.78 Precip Year to Date: 11.57 Sunset Tonight: 9:04 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:16 a.m.





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WHO GETS THE CREDIT?

A Chinese farmer had only one son and one horse. Nothing else in life mattered much to him. One night his horse ran away. His neighbors came to console him and said, "What bad luck!"

Later the horse returned and brought twelve wild horses with him. The neighbors, hearing the news, gathered at his home and rejoiced with him saying, "What good luck!"

While taming one of the wild horses, the son fell and severely broke his leg. The neighbors gathered once again and with remorse said, "What bad luck!"

Soon after this, their warlord was engaged in a battle and took all of the able-bodied men to war – except his son. None of the men returned. But the son, left behind, led a long and productive life. Was it the Lord or was it luck?

Every event that occurs in our lives is open to interpretation. The discerning mind sees God at work.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize Your presence and power in our lives and see Your hand at work. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

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News from the Associated Press

North Dakota swan hunt license applications available online

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's Game and Fish Department is accepting online applications for the 2015 tundra swan hunting license lottery.

The agency's website is www.gf.nd.gov . The deadline to apply is Aug. 19. A total of 2,200 licenses are available.

Paper applications will be available at the end of July from Game and Fish offices, county auditors and license vendors. Hunters also can apply by calling 800-406-6409. A service fee is added for license applications made by phone.

Both North Dakota residents and nonresidents are eligible to apply. The resident swan license is \$10, while the nonresident fee is \$30.

The statewide tundra swan hunting season begins Oct. 3 and runs through next Jan. 3.

SD governor's office accepting fall internship applications

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard is seeking two interns for his office's fall 2015 program in Pierre.

The governor announced Wednesday that his office is accepting applications until Aug. 15. The paid intern positions would run from September until December.

The governor's office says duties could include helping his general counsel, doing research and readying policy briefings, among other responsibilities.

The internships are open to undergraduate and graduate students with preference given to state residents attending South Dakota higher education institutions.

Companies can access grants for workplace physical activity

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota businesses interested in enhancing their employees' access to physical activity can now apply for one of 10 state grants.

Nikki Prosch is a South Dakota State University Extension health and physical activity field specialist. Prosch says the 2015 Steps to Wellness Grants are meant to assist worksites interested in implementing physical activity policies and physical activity environmental changes.

Prosch says examples of projects that would qualify for the grants include turning an unused office space into an area dedicated for physical activity or installing bike racks on worksite property.

The South Dakota Department of Health is offering the \$2,000 awards. The deadline to apply is Aug. 25.

Campaign to ease state's pot laws kicks off in Sioux Falls KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Tattooed bikers, middle-aged health care workers, blue-collar manufacturing employees and others converged on a Sioux Falls bar Wednesday night to work toward a shared goal: easing marijuana penalties in South Dakota.

South Dakotans Against Prohibition officially kicked off its campaign to put a measure on the November ballot in 2016 that would ask voters whether the state should decriminalize marijuana.

Under the proposed measure, possession of one ounce or less of marijuana would no longer be a criminal penalty, but a civil penalty, like a speeding ticket. It would also eliminate criminal penalties for paraphernalia and ingesting marijuana.

The pot proponents began circulating petitions several weeks ago and need to collect almost 14,000 signatures by Nov. 9 to get the measure on next year's ballot. At the fundraising event Wednesday, organizers gave out free beer as they presented the petition to put the decriminalization question on the

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ballot, in addition to one asking voters whether to allow medical marijuana in the state. Outside the bar, a glass-blower created pipes and pieces of art.

Ryan Gaddy, the administrator of the pro-pot group, said he thinks the measure has a real shot at getting on the ballot — and passing — especially considering the estimated fiscal impact.

Gaddy and the group argue that law enforcement resources should be spent elsewhere, particularly on violent offenders.

"(Sioux Falls) is just exploding with crime, and the police really should redirect their focus on the people who need to be put in cages, not nonviolent offenders for plants," Gaddy said.

The Legislative Research Council released a fiscal impact statement earlier this month that estimated that, if implemented, the measure would result in almost 3,200 fewer convictions for possession and ingestion of marijuana, and possession of paraphernalia. Researchers estimated that would save about \$7.3 million over 10 years.

But the push for looser pot laws will face opposition, particularly from state officials and law enforcement, who oppose most efforts to ease the state's marijuana laws.

Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom said in an interview that Rapid City and other parts of the county have been flooded with marijuana since Colorado legalized the drug for recreational use. Thom and other officials expect that decriminalization would do the same.

"I think all that does is it turns it into an alcohol-like, easily available drug, and we've got plenty of evidence that it has some addictive qualities, that it's injurious to intellectual development, to initiative," said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. "I just don't see it as being good for us, and I don't see any need to make it even more available and less difficult to have."

Gaddy rejected the idea that decriminalizing marijuana would increase usage, adding that plenty of South Dakotans already indulge in the illegal drug.

"Just because a law changes doesn't mean more people use," he said. "Laws don't dictate use; laws dictate incarceration."

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said he has public safety and health concerns with the measure, but he also noted that even if it passes, it would require legislative and judicial interpretation before it could be implemented.

He said there are issues with how the measure would interact with state laws already on the books that govern marijuana possession.

At Big's Sports Bar on Wednesday evening, Sioux Falls resident Amy Hawes signed both marijuana-related petitions at a table adorned with glass-blown objects.

Hawes said she signed because she feels people should be able to make their own choices when it comes to issues such as marijuana use.

"We live in a free country, so I feel like they should be able to decide," she said.

Daugaard unsupportive of medical, decriminalized marijuana

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard says he needs to review proposed ballot measures that would decriminalize marijuana possession and legalize medicinal cannabis, but the governor says he generally hasn't supported such proposals.

Daugaard told The Associated Press on Wednesday he believes marijuana decriminalization would make the drug more available and less difficult to possess.

Daugaard says he would need to be convinced that marijuana has a medicinal use that available prescription drugs can't perform before he would support the use of pot for medical reasons.

Proponents of the ballot measures argue that law enforcement resources should be devoted elsewhere and that sick patients need access to the plant.

Backers need to collect nearly 14,000 signatures by Nov. 9 to get the measures before voters in 2016.

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CDC says USD building can be occupied, recommends changes

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — A crew from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says a University of South Dakota building that's been the source of health complaints from employees can be occupied.

The team evaluated the 70-year-old Noteboom Hall at the school's request this week after some employees filed injury reports with the state.

Industrial hygienist Greg Burr on Wednesday told USD officials the building's ventilation system is inadequate, resulting in poor control of temperature and humidity. But, Burr says, the team "found no reason the building can't be occupied."

USD plans to establish a working group to improve the building's environmental quality.

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

Andresen attributed her problems to mold in the building, but CDC officials say mildew was found only in two small areas.

Former SD county prosecutor pleads guilty to 2 rape counts PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A former South Dakota county prosecutor who authorities accuse of child rape has

pleaded guilty to two counts.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says former Walworth County State's Attorney Christopher Jansen entered guilty pleas Wednesday to two counts of first-degree rape.

The 35-year-old Selby man was accused of child rape in Hughes County, and having child pornography on his computer. He was indicted in state and federal courts last summer.

Jackley says the rape charges against Jansen stem from several incidents at a Hughes County home that involved three children ages 5 through 13.

A sentencing hearing is the case is scheduled for Sept. 25. Jackley says each rape charge carries a minimum sentence of 15 years in custody.

A trial is scheduled for October for the federal charges.

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, though police said it might have been started by a quest. Authorities said a 54-year-old man staying at the motel was upset and threw a chair through a window. He locked the door and climbed through the window as smoke started coming from the room. Police identified a suspect and were working to locate him.

SD authorities identify crash-prone areas near Sturgis rally

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in western South Dakota have released a list of several crash-prone areas that motorists travel on in Pennington County during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office released the data Wednesday ahead of the weeklong event's Monday kickoff.

The sheriff's office says extra patrols are already in place as a reminder for drivers to slow down on many of the curvy roadways.

The areas identified by the sheriff's office include Old Hill City Road, the junction of Deadwood Avenue North and Calamity Avenue curve, and the intersection of Highways 385 and 44 East, where most fatalities have occurred in the past three years.

Authorities say 163 accidents and five fatalities have been logged outside of Rapid City limits during the

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past three rally weeks.

Pilot giving visitors a ride when fatal plane crash occurred

PIPESTONE, Minn. (AP) — A family friend says two teenagers from Mexico who were killed, along with the pilot, in the crash of a small airplane in southwestern Minnesota were visiting relatives and wanted to take a plane ride before returning home.

Fifty-nine-year-old Steven Christiansen was giving the teens a ride in his homebuilt plane on Monday night when it crashed into a cornfield near Holland in Pipestone County and killed all three.

Christiansen's longtime friend, 82-year-old Grant Volsch, says the teens were related to Christensen's daughter-in-law, Brisa. Volsch says Seth and Brisa Christiansen recently had a baby, so Brisa's 18-year-old brother, Marcos Favela, of Torrean, Mexico, and a 13-year-old female relative from Guadalajara, Mexico had been visiting.

Volsch says Christensen helped build the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota about 15 years ago.

Inmate missing from Sioux Falls prison back in custody

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An inmate missing from the minimum-security unit at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls is back in custody.

Twenty-one-year-old Ryan Dahl was placed on "escape" status July 17 when he failed to return to prison after a job search. Corrections officials say Dahl was apprehended in Sioux Falls on Monday.

Dahl is serving five years on Lincoln County charges related to drugs and a stolen vehicle.

Pierre among 5 state capitals chosen for EPA program

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Pierre is among five state capitals selected this year for a federal project aimed at more attractive and environmentally friendly development.

The Environmental Protection Agency, through its Greening America's Capitals program, provides design assistance to aid cities with growth that improves the environment, economy and public health.

Pierre will get help with creating a more pleasant walking experience between the Missouri River and the Capitol by adding trees and garden areas and public art, according to the EPA. The agency has selected Sioux Falls-based Stockwell Engineering and Landscape Architects to help.

Other ideas include roundabouts to change traffic flow, designated bike lanes and changes to make it easier for pedestrians to cross streets, Stockwell landscape architect David Locke told the Capital Journal. Several community meetings were scheduled to gather ideas.

"We want to make historic business districts more vibrant and friendly," Gill said during a recent meeting. "This is going to make a difference ... in how we do our planning. We have an opportunity to set the bar higher and be an example for other cities in the state."

The EPA runs the program with help from the federal departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development. The other four state capitals selected for the program this year are Austin, Texas; Columbus, Ohio; Carson City, Nevada; and Richmond, Virginia.

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. BREAKTHROUGH SEEN WITH FLIGHT 370 MYSTERY

Debris found in the Indian Ocean is a wing part unique to the Boeing 777, a discovery that may explain what happened to a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet that went missing last year.

2. WATER QUALITY WOES PERSIST AHEAD OF RIO OLYMPICS

An AP investigation finds some swim and boat events will take place in waters so badly polluted by hu-

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man waste that athletes could become violently ill and unable to compete.

3. FEDS FIND HEALTH LAW CO-OPS AWASH IN RED INK

AP's Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar reports that nonprofit co-ops, the health care law's alternative to megainsurers, are awash in red ink and many have fallen short of sign-up goals.

4. TOP OFFICIALS CRITICAL OF OHIO COP

The indictment of a white University of Cincinnati police officer on a charge of murder in the traffic-stop shooting of a black motorist is applauded by officials.

5. WHO IS 'NOT AWARE' OF PEACE TALKS

The statement by the Afghan Taliban, who have been fighting to topple the Kabul government for almost 14 years, may indicate the group is pulling out of negotiations in Pakistan.

6. WHAT MAY HAVE LED TO CECIL THE LION'S DEATH

Critics say an industry of commercial trophy hunting threatens efforts to protect vulnerable species across sub-Saharan Africa.

7. FILM TOUTED AS FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND ON PALESTINIAN GAY PLIGHT

A new Israeli documentary highlights the struggles of gay Palestinian citizens living in Israel, a reality compounded by being outcasts of their Arab nationality.

8. THIS R2-D2 LENDS A HAND

Toyota's gliding "human support robot" is devoted to a single task that can help the elderly, sick or disabled: picking things up.

9. WHICH POP STAR IS IN A LAND DISPUTE

A judge will hear arguments on who has the right to sell a hilltop convent that pop singer Katy Perry wants to buy, a property locked in a battle between a group of elderly nuns, the Los Angeles Archdiocese and a developer.

10. BRADY WON'T GO QUIETLY

New England's star quarterback takes the fight over his "Deflategate" suspension to social media and federal court.

AP News in Brief

AP Investigation: Olympic athletes to swim and boat in Rio waters awash in viruses, bacteria

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Athletes competing in next year's Summer Olympics here will be swimming and boating in waters so contaminated with human feces that they risk becoming violently ill and unable to compete in the games, an Associated Press investigation has found.

An AP analysis of water quality revealed dangerously high levels of viruses and bacteria from human sewage in Olympic and Paralympic venues — results that alarmed international experts and dismayed competitors training in Rio, some of whom have already fallen ill with fevers, vomiting and diarrhea.

It is the first independent comprehensive testing for both viruses and bacteria at the Olympic sites.

Brazilian officials have assured that the water will be safe for the Olympic athletes. But the government does not test for viruses.

Extreme water pollution is common in Brazil, where the majority of sewage is not treated. Raw waste runs through open-air ditches to streams and rivers that feed the Olympic water sites.

US official: Debris in Indian Ocean belongs to same type of aircraft as missing Malaysia plane

SYDNEY (AP) — A sea-crusted wing part washed up on an island in the western Indian Ocean may be the first trace of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 since it vanished nearly a year and a half ago, and a tragic

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but finally solid clue to one of aviation's most perplexing and expensive mysteries.

Air safety investigators — one of them a Boeing investigator — have identified the component found on the French island of Reunion as a "flaperon" from the trailing edge of a Boeing 777 wing, the U.S. official said. Flight 370, which disappeared March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board, is the only 777 known to be missing.

"It's the first real evidence that there is a possibility that a part of the aircraft may have been found," said Australian Transport Minister Warren Truss, whose country is leading the search for the plane in a remote patch of ocean far off Australia's west coast. "It's too early to make that judgment, but clearly we are treating this as a major lead."

Flight 370 had been traveling from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, but investigators believe based on satellite data that the plane turned south into the Indian Ocean after vanishing from radar. If the wing part is from the Malaysia plane, it would bolster that theory and put to rest others that it traveled north, or landed somewhere after being hijacked.

The wing piece is about 2 meters (6 feet) long. Investigators have found a number on the part, but it is not a serial or registration number, Truss said. It could be a maintenance number, which may help investigators figure out what plane it belongs to, he said.

Top officials critical of Ohio police officer charged with murder in traffic stop case

CINCINNATI (AP) — This time, some of the sharpest criticism of a police officer after the slaying of an unarmed black man came from top law enforcement and city officials.

The Wednesday indictment of a University of Cincinnati police officer on a charge of murder in the trafficstop shooting was applauded by officials in a city roiled by racial violence that erupted in 2001 after an unarmed black man was killed by Cincinnati police after a string of earlier shootings by officers.

The family of Samuel DuBose, 43, urged the community to remain calm, as it has in a series of demonstrations since the July 19 shooting by officer Ray Tensing, who is white. Tensing had stopped DuBose for a missing front license plate, which is required in Ohio but not in neighboring states.

DuBose's death comes amid months of national scrutiny of police dealings with African-Americans, especially those killed by officers. Authorities so far have not focused on race in the death of DuBose. City officials who have viewed the video said the traffic stop shouldn't have led to a shooting.

"This officer was wrong," Cincinnati Police Chief Jeffrey Blackwell said, adding that officers "have to be held accountable" when they're in the wrong.

Afghan Taliban indicate they are pulling out of new round of peace talks due in Pakistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Afghan Taliban, who have been fighting to topple the Kabul government for almost 14 years, said on Thursday they are "not aware" of a new round of peace talks due the following day in Pakistan — a statement indicating the group may be pulling out of the negotiations.

The apparent rejection of the talks comes a day after Kabul announced the death of the Taliban's reclusive leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, but it was not immediately clear if the two developments were connected.

The Afghan intelligence service asserted Wednesday that Mullah Omar died in a Karachi hospital more than two years ago. In Washington, the U.S. government said they considered the report of the Taliban leader's death credible, though it was not confirmed by the Taliban or Pakistan.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's office said Mullah Omar's death would strengthen conditions for the peace process, which has been his priority since he took office last year.

The first round of the official, face-to-face discussions was hosted by Islamabad earlier this month. The meeting was supervised by U.S. and Chinese representatives and ended with both sides agreeing to meet again — a significant progress in itself.

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In Greece, push to bring back drachma adds unease to Tsipras' awkward alliance

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' power-sharing acrobatics look harder to perform by the day.

Opposition parties are propping up his left-wing government long enough to negotiate a new bailout and keep the country in the eurozone, while senior members of his own party, Syriza, have revived a campaign to bring back the drachma.

On Thursday, lead bailout negotiators are due in Athens. They will intensify a new round of talks for a massive third rescue package after Athens and lenders from other eurozone countries reached a bitterly fought compromise.

But Tsipras has a more pressing priority. He will be battling to keep control of Syriza at a meeting of the party's 200-member executive, facing dissenters who argue the Left has abandoned its principles over the past six months under the country's popular prime minister.

The uncertainty has renewed questions over whether Greece can — or should — endure two more years of austerity and bailout policies that have battered its economy and the political parties that implemented them.

In new documentary, gay Palestinian men in Israel grapple with their sexual, national identity

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — During last summer's Gaza war, Khader Abu Seif was living with his then Israeli boyfriend in Tel Aviv, wondering whether Hamas rockets could reach them from the coastal strip.

He thought yet again of the dichotomy of his life as a gay Arab Israeli citizen considered an outcast by the Palestinian society for his sexuality and viewed with unease by some Israelis for his brand of nationality. The rockets were not the only thing that made him feel unsafe.

Outside, Israeli extremists rallied on the streets against Hamas' attacks with chants of "Death to Arabs." Abu Seif was afraid to speak Arabic, his mother tongue, in his native Tel Aviv, the Middle East's most gayfriendly city.

For the 27-year-old, a well-known socialite in Tel Aviv's LGBT community, the city is a haven for gay men, but Abu Seif says he considers himself a Palestinian and that as such, he can never fully integrate.

Toyota's gliding 'human support robot' can pick up after elderly, help the sick

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AP) — Toyota's new robot that glides around like R2-D2 is devoted to a single task: picking things up.

HSR, short for "human support robot," comes with a single mechanical arm that can grasp objects of various shapes and sizes and also pick up smaller items with a tiny suction cup.

It doesn't have other tricks in its repertoire, except for a computer panel on its head for surfing the Internet. A person can also access the robot from another computer and use it like a camera-phone.

Kouichi Ikeda, its engineer, is serious about using it to help around regular homes. First people with disabilities, and then for the elderly in general. Picking up is especially challenging for people with spinal disorders and other ailments that hamper the ability to stoop down and grab, he said.

"Although it can only do one simple task of picking up, it's already making disabled people quite happy. We're just getting stated, but eventually we want it to enter people's homes," Ikeda said at an exhibition of health care technology in Yokohama, southwest of Tokyo.

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APNewsBreak: Government audit finds health law's nonprofit insurance co-ops awash in red ink

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nonprofit co-ops, the health care law's public-spirited alternative to mega-insurers, are awash in red ink and many have fallen short of sign-up goals, a government audit has found.

Under President Barack Obama's overhaul, taxpayers provided \$2.4 billion in loans to get the co-ops going, but only one out of 23 — the one in Maine — made money last year, said the report out Thursday. Another one, the Iowa/Nebraska co-op, was shut down by regulators over financial concerns.

The audit by the Health and Human Services inspector general's office also found that 13 of the 23 lagged far behind their 2014 enrollment projections.

The probe raised concerns about whether federal loans will be repaid, and recommended closer supervision by the administration as well as clear standards for recalling loans if a co-op is no longer viable. Just last week, the Louisiana Health Cooperative announced it would cease offering coverage next year, saying it's "not growing enough to maintain a healthy future." About 16,000 people are covered by that co-op.

"The low enrollments and net losses might limit the ability of some co-ops to repay startup and solvency loans, and to remain viable and sustainable," said the audit report. A copy was provided to The Associated Press.

California teen charged in death of 8-year-old girl in artist complex to appear in court

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP) — A 15-year-old boy charged with murder, kidnapping and rape in the death of an 8-year-old girl in an artists' complex in a California beach town is scheduled to appear in court.

Police say Adrian Jerry Gonzalez lured Madyson Middleton into his family's apartment from a courtyard where she had been riding her scooter over the weekend. Once inside, he tied her up, sexually assaulted and killed her, according a charging document.

Gonzalez is expected to be arraigned Thursday in a Santa Cruz court.

Gonzalez remains in custody at the Santa Cruz County juvenile detention center, where he has been held since the girl's body was found in a recycling bin Monday evening.

"Unfortunately, the search for Maddy ended in the worst way possible," Santa Cruz District Attorney Jeffrey Rosell said.

Senate on track to approve 3-month extension to highway bill, leave other issues for fall

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing a Friday deadline, the Senate is on track to shore up federal highway aid and veterans' health care, leaving a raft of unresolved issues for a jam-packed congressional agenda in the fall.

The Senate plans to take up a House-passed bill on Thursday that would extend spending authority for transportation programs through Oct. 29 and replenish the federal Highway Trust Fund with \$8 billion. That's enough money to keep highway and transit aid flowing to states through mid-December.

Authority for the Transportation Department to process aid payments to states is slated to expire at midnight Friday.

Just before leaving for its August recess on Wednesday, the House overwhelmingly approved the threemonth extension on a vote of 385-34.

Lawmakers said they were loath to take up yet another short-term transportation funding extension — this will be the 34th extension since 2009. But Republicans and Democrats don't want to see transportation aid cut off, and they are eager to pass an amendment to the extension bill that fills a \$3.4 billion hole in the Department of Veterans Affairs' budget. The money gap threatens to force the closure of hospitals and clinics nationwide.

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Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 30, the 211th day of 2015. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a measure creating Medicare, which began operating the following year.

On this date:

In 1729, Baltimore, Maryland, was founded.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces tried to take Petersburg, Virginia, by exploding a gunpowderladen mine shaft beneath Confederate defense lines; the attack failed.

In 1918, poet Joyce Kilmer, a sergeant in the 165th U.S. Infantry Regiment, was killed during the Second Battle of the Marne in World War I. (Kilmer is remembered for his poem "Trees.")

In 1932, the Summer Olympic Games opened in Los Angeles.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill creating a women's auxiliary agency in the Navy known as "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" - WAVES for short.

In 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis, having just delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian in the Mariana Islands, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 317 out of nearly 1,200 men survived.

In 1953, the Small Business Administration was founded.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum" ("Out of many, one").

In 1963, the Soviet Union announced it had granted political asylum to Harold "Kim" Philby, the "third man" of a British spy ring.

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit; although presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 1990, British Conservative Party lawmaker Ian Gow was killed in a bombing claimed by the Irish Republican Army.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush was pronounced "fit for duty" after a checkup that showed that the 59-year-old commander-in-chief, an avid mountain bike rider, had lost 8 pounds since his last physical exam in December 2004.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama toured Chrysler and General Motors assembly plants, where he offered an upbeat assessment of the U.S. auto industry a year after the big government bailouts. A 12-year-old Florida girl was seriously injured when she plunged about 100 feet to the ground from an amusement park free-fall ride in Lake Delton, Wisconsin. (Nets and air bags that were supposed to catch Teagan Marti (TEE'-gehn MAHR'-tee) had not been deployed.)

One year ago: The House overwhelmingly approved, 420-5, a landmark bill to refurbish the Veterans Affairs Department and improve veterans' health care. Three Israeli artillery shells slammed into a United Nations school in Gaza crowded with some 3,300 people; the shells, which Israel said came in response to mortar fire nearby, killed 17 people.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Edd (correct) "Kookie" Byrnes is 82. Former Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 81. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 79. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 76. Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 76. Former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder is 75. Singer Paul Anka is 74. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 70. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 68. Actor William Atherton is 68. Actor Jean Reno (zhahn rih-NOH') is 67. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 67. Actor Frank Stallone is 65. Actor Ken Olin is 61. Actress Delta Burke is 59. Law professor Anita Hill is 59. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 57. Country singer Neal McCoy is 57. Actor Richard Burgi is 57. Movie director Richard Linklater is 55. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 54. Actress Lisa Kudrow is 52. Bluegrass musician Danny Roberts (The

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Grascals) is 52. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 51. Actress Vivica A. Fox is 51. Actor Terry Crews is 47. Actor Simon Baker is 46. Actor Donnie Keshawarz is 46. Movie director Christopher Nolan is 45. Actor Tom Green is 44. Rock musician Brad Hargreaves (Third Eye Blind) is 44. Actress Christine Taylor is 44. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 42. Actress Hilary Swank is 41. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 38. Actress Jaime Pressly is 38. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett (AY'-veht) is 35. Actress April Bowlby is 35. Actress Yvonne Strahovski is 33. Actress Gina Rodriguez is 31. Actor Nico Tortorella is 27. Actress Joey King is 16.

Thought for Today: "Individualism is rather like innocence; there must be something unconscious about it." - Louis Kronenberger, American drama critic (1904-1980).