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Wednesday, August 12

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, macaroni salad, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Shawn & Michelle Kelly

Birthdays: Alexa Nilsson • Amber Wolken • Haida Boyd • Jadyn Geffre • James Westby • Fern McPartland

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study 12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

7:00pm: C&MA Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, Kids Club

Thursday, August 13

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli or carrots, garlic toast, sherbet.

Anniv: Jonathan & Mandilyn Fliehs

Birthdays: Logan Nilsson • Sam Furman • Mike Weber • Ralph Merkel • Jennifer Neff • Dee Riley

Don Hepola

Friday, August 14

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend veggies, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Doug Bahr • Tammy Voss • Jean Peterson • Annette Helm

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

Saturday, August 15

Anniv: Craig & Jodi Sternhagen • Wayne & Marsha Wienk

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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OST rate adjustment

Superintendent Schwan reported on the OST program. The OST program had a \$3,000 drop in the past year. Groton's rates were \$2.50 for the first child and \$2.25 for each additional child. Schwan suggested making it a flat rate of \$2.50 per child. Which child to assign the \$2.50 rate or \$2.25 rate has been a challenge and when a student goes into the sixth rate at the \$2.50 rate while a younger one is at \$2.25, the older student never uses OST so the program only gets \$2.25. A flat rate for everyone will solve that dilemma. Meanwhile, Kim Weber, the new OST program coordinator, has discovered why the labor cost has been so high. Children are coming, then going to baseball practice or swimming lessons and they check out during that time, and then check back in when they return. Schwan proposed that next summer, the children will check in during the morning and will stay checked in until they leave at the end of the day. Schwan said it takes a lot of labor time to get the kids ready for swimming and make sure everyone has their gear and they get on the transit.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported on the OST program. The software program will be using finger prints instead of phone numbers. Kim Weber, the OST program manager, said that parents need to bring their children in and check them in before leaving. A Minion Scavenger hunt will be held August 20th and OST will be closed Aug. 24 and 25. Schwan said they are looking at having two lunch sessions instead of three to give the students a longer lunch time.

During the approval of the bills, Board Member Merle Harder asked if the garbage service could be bid. "It seems kind of high," Harder said. "I wouldn't be opposed to taking a look," said Superintendent Joe Schwan.

Superintendent Schwan reported on the audits of the checking account and credit cards and all looked well.

From the time school lets out in the spring until school starts in the fall, the custodial staff is in full gear trying to get everything done. Superintendent Schwan said they did a great job. "Make sure you tell them thank you when you see them," he said.

"I really like what they did this year with the chip and seal project," Schwan said. The scoreboard will be shipped August 13th. The stage lighting is about 60 percent. The football field sound system will be installed on August 18th. The locates are done for the new football field sidewalk. All of the district bus drivers and substitutes will be attending training on Tuesday night in Warner. State law requires minimum training every five years.

Middle/High School Principal Dr. Anna Schwan reported on the music schedule. Desiree Yeigh will teach fifth grade band, middle school band and high school band; Bailey Geist will be a lesson teacher and will work with Yeigh to develop a lesson schedule; and Cody Swanson will teach Pre-K through 12 vocal music. "Everyone is willing to work together to make this work," Dr. Schwan said. The district is still short a band teacher.

Dr. Schwan reported that the School Performance Index will be released on September 18; however, she cautioned not to compare the scores to the previous Dakota STEP test scores.

Business Manager Mike Weber reported on the update of the insurance change. He reported on the number of people on each of the six different plans.

Loren Bahr came before the board to discuss the bus routes for the upcoming school year. One road in the Columbia area is under water which will create an issue with access. There are seven bus routes in the Groton Area School District. The board will review the routes in September after the routes have run for a couple of weeks. The district pays \$33 a mile for the year to the bus drivers.

The following were approved: Kim Weber was hired as a paraprofessional for three hours a day at \$12.50 an hour, a lane change from Lynette Grieve from BS+30 to MS+30, resignations of Barb Wacholz and Jacky Fortin, Bertha "Lea" Wimmer was hired as a full time custodian at \$11 and hour effective July 29, Molly Ringgenberg was hired as a MS/HS Paraprofessional at \$10.50 an hour, Craig Sternhagen as a volunteer assistant boys soccer coach, and Chris Kucker and Barb Lone as volunteer assistant girls soccer coaches.

Public School exemptions were recognized for a students in each grade K, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 12. Open enrollments were approved from Aberdeen for a seventh grader, a sophomore and two seniors.

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Highmore-Harrold football program in jeopardy

The SDHSAA Board of Directors will be holding a special meeting at 3:00 p.m. CT on Wednesday, August 12th. The meeting will be conducted via teleconference with live audio being streamed online. The public is welcome to attend the meeting in person at the SDHSAA Office in Pierre.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider an emergency declaration by the Highmore/Harrold School District and request for football cooperative for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons.

On or about Thursday, July 30th, Mike Ring, Athletic Director for Highmore-Harrold High School contacted the SDHSAA Office requesting to speak with executive staff regarding their football situation for the upcoming school year. Mr. Ring informed SDHSAA staff that Highmore-Harrold had just completed information gathering from their prospective student-athletes and his Head Football Coach, Quenton Cermak, reported that 11 student athletes were planning on participating in football for the 2015 season, one of whom would only be able to serve as the team's kicker due to a physical condition. Mr. Ring and Mr. Cermak requested information from the SDHSAA regarding what options might exist to allow Highmore-Harrold to play its 2015 and 2016 football seasons, including potential options with a co-operative agreement with either Miller or Stanley County.

Through coordinated action at School Board Meetings on Monday, August 10th, the Highmore-Harrold, Miller and Stanley County school districts considered and passed resolutions seeking to create a twoyear co-operative agreement for the sport of football, both provided that classification nor scheduling is affected for the "host" schools of Miller and Stanley County.

Meanwhile, Highmore-Harrold's Board of Education also passed a resolution on Monday, August 10th, stating that due to anticipated low participation numbers as discovered this July by Mr. Cermak and Mr. Ring, Highmore-Harrold is discontinuing their Varsity Football Program for the 2015 and 2016 seasons. Furthermore, the Highmore-Harrold school board submits a request for a cooperative agreement for the sport of football for 2015 & 2016 with Miller High School. Should the SDHSAA Board of Directors not consider or deny the co-operative agreement with Miller High School, the Highmore-Harrold school district also requests the SDHSAA Board of Directors to consider a separate co-operative agreement with Stanley County High School for the same sport and time period.

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Today in Weather History August 12, 1986: Thunderstorms produced 2.53 inches of rain in twenty minutes in downtown Rapid City.

August 12, 1986: Thunderstorms produced 2.53 inches of rain in twenty minutes in downtown Rapid City. The heavy rain caused street and basement flooding. Golf ball size hail fell in Zeona, in Perkins County, which covered the ground.

1778 - A Rhode Island hurricane prevented an impending British-French sea battle, and caused extensive damage over southeast New England. (David Ludlum)

1933 - The temperature at Greenland Ranch in Death Valley, CA, hit 127 degrees to establish a U.S. record for the month of August. (The Weather Channel)

1936 - The temperature at Seymour, TX, hit 120 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1955 - During the second week of August hurricanes Connie and Diane produced as much as 19 inches of rain in the northeastern U.S. forcing rivers from Virginia to Massachusetts into a high flood. Westfield MA was deluged with 18.15 inches of rain in 24 hours, and at Woonsocket RI the Blackstone River swelled from seventy feet in width to a mile and a half. Connecticut and the Delaware Valley were hardest hit. Total damage in New England was 800 million dollars, and flooding claimed 187 lives. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Early afternoon thunderstorms in Arizona produced 3.90 inches of rain in ninety minutes at Walnut National Monument (located east of Flagstaff), along with three inches of pea size hail, which had to be plowed off the roads. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Fifteen cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Youngstown OH reported twenty-six days of 90 degree weather for the year, a total equal to that for the entire decade of the 1970s. (The National Weather Summary)

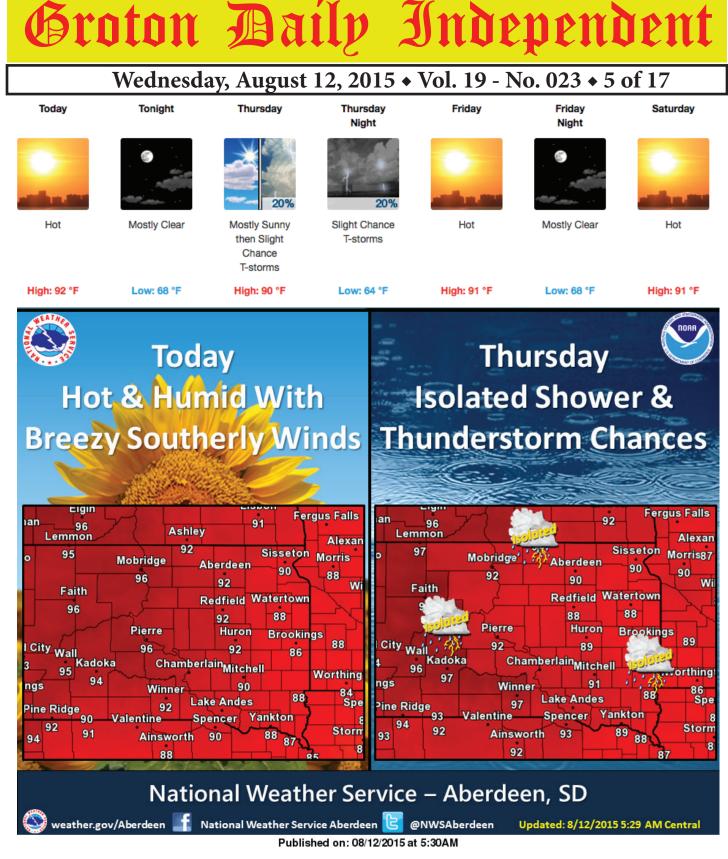
1989 - Thunderstorms were scattered across nearly every state in the Union by late in the day. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Fergus Falls MN, and golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 60 mph at Black Creek WI. In the Chicago area, seven persons at a forest preserve in North Riverside were injured by lightning. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Stump Removal

TJ Sperry: 380-7915 Tyler Sperry: 216-8431



Hot and humid conditions will persist today, along with breezy southerly winds. Thursday, isolated shower and thunderstorm chances return to the region.

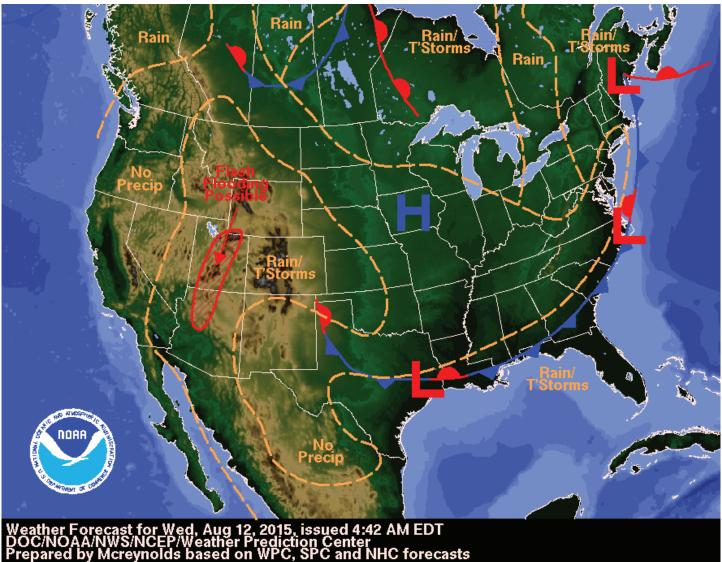
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Yesterday's Weather High: 85.5 at 4:21 PM

Low: 58.0 at 7:06 AM High Gust: 9 at 3:41 PM Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 102° in 1933

Record Low: 40° in 1898 Average High: 83°F Average Low: 57°F Average Precip in Aug: 0.94 Precip to date in Aug: 2.22 Average Precip to date: 14.80 Precip Year to Date: 13.79 Sunset Tonight: 8:46 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:31 a.m.



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GROWING UP

One Sunday morning the pastor was visiting the first grade Sunday school class. With a bright smile he said to a small child, "Who made you, Jimmy?"

"Well," he said thoughtfully, "God made part of me."

"What do you mean that God made part of you?" asked the pastor.

"First, God made me real little, and I growed the rest all by myself."

God begins a "good work in us" when we accept Christ as our Savior. We are, so to speak, "real little" like Jimmy. But He does not expect us to remain "little." When God started the process of the new birth within us, He did so with the intention of bringing it to completion – for us to grow into the likeness of Christ. This is possible because the Holy Spirit lives with us and is willing and able, with our involvement, to let it happen through prayer, Bible study and worship. Come, grow with Him. He has great things waiting for each of us.

Prayer: Lord, may we work with You to grow into Christlikeness, anxiously waiting for Your return. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

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News from the Associated Press

Keystone XL review drags on 5 times longer than average JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For six and a half years, the White House has had a quick comeback to questions about its yet-to-be-announced decision on the proposed Keystone XL pipeline: Talk to the State Department.

Under a George W. Bush-era executive order, oil pipelines crossing U.S. borders require a presidential permit, setting off a government-wide review that the State Department coordinates. President Barack Obama, in no rush to anger either environmentalists or energy advocates, has deflected criticism about the long-delayed decision by arguing that his administration is merely carrying out his Republican predecessor's directive in the ordinary way.

But an Associated Press review of every cross-border pipeline application since 2004 shows that the Keystone review has been anything but ordinary.

Since April 2004, when Bush signed his order, the federal government has taken an average of 478 days to give a yes or no to all other applications — less than a year and a half. The company hoping to build Keystone has been waiting for a decision for nearly 7 years — or more than five times the average.

And while the State Department does bear responsibility for reviewing potential pipelines, former Bush White House officials who helped craft the policy say it was never intended that the final decision would be outsourced. After all, it's called a presidential permit. The revamped process Bush created was intended to speed up, not slow down, permits for major infrastructure projects, those officials said.

"It was seen as the most routine, boring thing in the world," Robert McNally, Bush's senior energy adviser at the time, said of approving pipeline permits.

For whatever reason, Keystone emerged as a political flashpoint, elevated by supporters and opponents alike into a proxy battle over climate change and U.S. energy policy. Republicans and energy advocates have pressed Obama to approve the \$8 billion project, but environmentalists say it would promote dirty tar sands oil and risk dangerous spills.

The company first applied in September 2009 for a permit to build the 1,179-mile pipeline, which would connect Canada's tar sands with crude oil refineries on the Texas Gulf Coast. When Congress in 2012 gave Obama a deadline to make a decision, he rejected the permit on grounds he didn't have enough time to thoroughly review it, but allowed TransCanada Corp. to reapply.

The administration has declined to say what's taking so long, or to offer insight into the deliberations.

"This is under a review process at the State Department. That particular process is a process that predates this administration, so I'm not going to have any update for you from here," White House spokesman Eric Schultz told reporters recently. With a flat "yes," though, he did promise a decision sometime before Obama leaves office.

Under Bush's executive order, the State Department receives permit applications and circulates them to agencies like the Commerce Department, Energy Department and the Environmental Protection Agency. Those agencies have 90 days to offer their opinions. If the State Department decides to grant approval, it notifies other agencies, which have 15 days to object before a permit is issued.

The final call comes down to whether the project is in the nation's interest. In a major climate change speech in 2013, Obama established a litmus test, saying Keystone wouldn't move forward if it was shown to significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions — a matter still hotly contested.

More than 16 months have passed since the State Department's 30-day public comment period closed. The State Department hasn't disclosed whether any federal agencies have objected to the pipeline, but has said it's continuing to review the application "in a rigorous, transparent, and objective manner."

The process doesn't typically drag on for so long. The first permit issued after Bush revised the process in 2004 took less than four months from application to signature. Express Pipeline, L.L.C., was expanding a crude 785-mile pipeline crossing the Canadian border from Hardisty, Alberta — the same town where

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the proposed Keystone XL would start.

Even the pipeline that took the longest to approve — the 435-mile Vantage Pipeline Project, approved during Obama's tenure — took fewer than three years, despite requiring complex negotiations with multiple Native American tribes concerned about historical preservation. The 1,000-mile Alberta Clipper Project, which drew legal challenges from Earthjustice and other groups, took 25 months to approve.

"When we brought the Alberta Clipper suit, nobody was really paying attention to pipelines," said Sarah Burt, an Earthjustice attorney. "It hadn't become this big bargaining chip, this symbolic ask of the administration that Keystone became."

Not including Keystone XL, eight applications for new or significantly upgraded petroleum pipelines have been processed since April 2004. The AP's review excluded permits reissued for existing pipelines due to change of ownership.

Piecing together the record of presidential permits is complex because there is no single repository for applications and pipeline decisions. To come up with an average processing time, the AP culled data from the Federal Register, State Department records, congressional correspondence, Congressional Research Service reports and data provided by pipeline owners.

South Dakota Guard soldiers leaving for duty in Kuwait

WAGNER, S.D. (AP) — An estimated 1,200 people turned out in Wagner to say goodbye to members of a South Dakota Army National Guard unit that will serve a year in Kuwait.

The Wagner soldiers are among 162 members of the Rapid City-based 155th Engineer Company. The unit is mobilizing in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, New Dawn and Noble Eagle.

A recognition ceremony for the Wagner soldiers was held Tuesday afternoon in the town's high school gym. A send-off ceremony for the entire unit was scheduled Wednesday afternoon in Rapid City. The soldiers will complete several weeks of training at Fort Bliss in Texas before heading overseas.

The 155th also served in Kuwait in 2002-03.

City of Pierre establishes workforce development initiatives

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The City of Pierre says it's putting together a student internship program and a local workforce development council to fight worker shortage concerns.

Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill says it's time to take action on the shortage.

The student internship program is expected to align students from area high schools with businesses in Pierre and Fort Pierre.

The local workforce development council will attempt to better understand issues surrounding the current worker shortage and suggest solutions.

Gill says she's excited to see the results of the measures.

Military Academy Day to be hosted in Rapid City next month

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The office of U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds is hosting an informational seminar in Rapid City next month so students can learn more about enrolling in the nation's military academies. Rounds says his office will host a Military Academy Day on Sept. 12 on the campus of the South Dakota

School of Mines and Technology.

The seminar is hosted for students interested in attending one of the five service academies: U.S. Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Those interested can learn about each of the academies and the application process.

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Early autopsy: 'Deadliest Catch' captain had heart attack

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Preliminary autopsy results say a ship captain on the Discovery Channel television program "Deadliest Catch" who died in Sturgis, South Dakota, during its famous motorcycle rally had a heart attack.

Meade County Sheriff Ron Merwin says an autopsy was completed Monday but he's still waiting on a toxicology report for 50-year-old Tony Lara, a native of Alaska.

The sheriff says he doesn't suspect the toxicology results will show anything that would have contributed to Lara's death.

Lara died early Saturday morning at a private residence in Sturgis.

A post on the Discovery website describes Lara as a veteran crab catcher. He appeared on the show at the helm of a boat called the Cornelia Marie.

Agency: No evidence of fetal tissue sale in South Dakota JAMES NORD, Associated PRess

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Health Department hasn't received any reports or evidence that the sale of fetal tissue has occurred in South Dakota since the agency started regulating abortion facilities in 2006, the department confirmed Tuesday amid a national furor over Planned Parenthood.

A spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, which runs South Dakota's only abortion clinic in Sioux Falls, said the organization doesn't have a program in the state for the legal donation of fetal tissue from terminated pregnancies, and said it follows state and federal laws.

Three major South Dakota health systems that only terminate pregnancies in life-threatening or terminal circumstances said they don't have programs for fetal tissue donation.

Attorney General Marty Jackley in mid-July inquired to the Department of Health after anti-abortion activists released undercover footage showing Planned Parenthood officials outside of South Dakota discussing their handling of fetal tissue.

"We made inquiry on both partial birth abortion and on the transfer and sale of tissue, and there are no reports, complaints or inspection records that would demonstrate any evidence (of) illegal activity in South Dakota at this time," Jackley told The Associated Press. "Something can surface, and I've indicated if it surfaces, it'll be examined ... and addressed."

The sale or transfer of fetal remains from an induced abortion is illegal under state law, but the donation of fetal tissue is permitted in the case of a spontaneous abortion if the mother consents, Jackley said. Health Department spokeswoman Barb Buhler said in an email that information about such donations isn't reported to the agency.

Buhler said the department conducts an annual statistical inspection to make sure the abortion information that's reported to the agency is accurate. The department also completes a facility inspection each year, and inspectors "have not seen any evidence of the sale of organs or tissue."

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has been in contact with Jackley since the first video was released, Kelsey Pritchard, a spokeswoman for the governor, said. Pritchard said Daugaard "finds this disturbing and believes this matter should be taken seriously."

She said that Daugaard knows lawmakers are considering legislation on the subject and will begin discussions with them as the 2016 legislative session approaches.

Rep. Fred Deutsch, a Republican from Florence, said he plans to introduce a measure that would make it a felony to sell fetal tissue.

Deutsch said he plans to meet with Jackley's office and the Department of Health. He said he's not sure anyone will know whether it's happened in South Dakota "until somebody goes in with an undercover video like what's been done elsewhere.

"I want a message to be sent out that South Dakota does not tolerate the business of selling fetal body parts from elective abortions," he said. "Even if it's never happened here before, that doesn't mean we should not have a line drawn in the sand that you cannot do this, (that) we do not tolerate this in South Dakota."

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Coyotes sign affiliation deal with ECHL's Rapid City Rush

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — The Arizona Coyotes signed a one-year affiliation agreement with the ECHL's Rapid City Rush on Tuesday.

The South Dakota team is entering its second season in the 28-team ECHL.

The Coyotes had been affiliated with the Gwinnett Gladiators since 2011.

In April, Arizona signed a multiyear affiliation agreement with the Springfield Falcons of the American Hockey League to serve as the team's top farm club.

Court affirms South Dakota judge's gay marriage ban ruling KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal appeals court affirmed a judge's ruling that struck down South Dakota's ban on same-sex marriage as unconstitutional, allowing attorneys for the couples who challenged the law to proceed with their plan to seek legal fees from the state.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals released its opinion Tuesday, upholding the January decision by U.S. District Court Judge Karen Schreier in a case brought by six same-sex couples in May 2014.

Same-sex marriages already began in South Dakota on June 26, following a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court legalizing such unions across the nation. Forty-nine same-sex couples have so far applied to get married, according to Attorney General Marty Jackley, despite the ban officially remaining on the books and a stay imposed by Schreier stopping her ruling from taking effect.

Tuesday's court ruling doesn't lift Schreier's hold — the appeals judges said that would be left up to the district court — but attorney Josh Newville said he has now filed a motion asking her to remove it.

Jackley said Tuesday, citing the opinion, that the ruling ends the need for further "federal oversight." Since the state has given assurances that it will uphold the Supreme Court ruling and since licenses have been issued without incident, Jackley said Schreier's permanent injunction that she placed on South Dakota's law is unnecessary.

Newville disagreed, saying the injunction is necessary to prevent the state from discriminating against same-sex couples and that without Schreier's decision, there's nothing declaring South Dakota's law unconstitutional.

"(The Supreme Court decision) doesn't resolve this case. The Supreme Court can only decide cases before it. We need a federal court order making very clear that South Dakota cannot discriminate against same-sex couples."

As to whether the South Dakota law defining marriage between one man and one woman and the language in the state constitution will ever be removed, Jackley said that's up to state legislators and the public.

Legally, Jackley said it makes no difference, since South Dakota law prohibits officials from enforcing a law that has been declared unconstitutional by a federal court. Other laws, like South Dakota's anti-corporate farming law, are still on the books despite being struck down.

One of the key practical effects of the appeals court's decision is that it allows Newville to move forward with his plans to seek attorney's fees. Newville said he and his colleagues have worked pro bono for over a year and now hope to be compensated.

"We've committed a lot of resources and we now need to get paid for that," he said.

Newville said he hopes to iron out a settlement with state officials. If that doesn't happen quickly, he said, he plans to ask a court to formally award him fees. Under federal law, plaintiffs in federal civil rights cases can petition a court to award them legal fees if a court finds in their favor.

Newville has said he estimates fees could come to hundreds of thousands of dollars,

Jackley said he's open to discussing attorney's fees, but said it's still unclear how the state will proceed once Newville takes any action. Ultimately, he said any money put toward fees would have to be appropriated by state officials, not him.

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Vehicles in Sturgis during motorcycle rally most since 2005

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota transportation officials say the number of vehicles that entered the city of Sturgis for the 75th annual motorcycle rally was the highest for the event since 2005.

The Transportation Department count shows that about 511,000 vehicles were in and around Sturgis from Aug. 4-10, about a 31 percent increase last year.

The record number of vehicles recorded since the state began keeping totals was more than 604,000 in 2000.

Sioux Falls man wanted in daughter's death turns himself in

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man wanted on a child abuse charge in connection with his daughter's death is in custody.

Minnehaha County Jail officials say 20-year-old Michael Schumm turned himself in early Tuesday. He was being held on a \$50,025 bond. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney.

Schumm's 2 1/2-week-old daughter died at a hospital Thursday. Police are investigating the death as a homicide and awaiting autopsy results.

Authorities last week issued a warrant for Schumm's arrest on charges of abuse and neglect, and marijuana possession. Police say the charges stem from the 24 minutes that elapsed from when the infant started having breathing problems to the time a 911 call was made. They also allege they found marijuana and drug paraphernalia in the apartment.

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. COP WHO SHOT COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYER FIRED FROM FORCE

Whether or not officer Brad Miller will face criminal charges for killing 19-year-old Christian Taylor will be up to a grand jury.

2. CLINTON GIVING UP SERVER AMID CONCERNS ABOUT CLASSIFIED DATA

Her campaign casts the move as cooperating with investigators, while her Republican critics suggest that it points to her malfeasance as secretary of state.

3. WHO WON'T ATTEND FLAG-RAISING AT U.S. EMBASSY IN CUBA

The Obama administration doesn't plan to invite Cuban dissidents to the historic event in Havana, illustrating how U.S. policy is shifting focus from the island's opposition to its government.

4. PEACEFUL PROTEST HELD IN FERGUSON

Police outnumber protesters along West Florissant Avenue, perhaps signaling the demonstrations around the anniversary of Michael Brown's death are starting to fade.

5. WHAT LEAKED DOCUMENTS EXPOSE IN WEST BANK

They detail two attempts by Palestinian officials to misuse public funds, highlighting the corruption and mismanagement in the Palestinian government.

6. WHY MANY PRAISE GERMANY, SCORN JAPAN 7 DECADES AFTER WWII

Some of this is linked to the Soviet threat during the Cold War, which forced Europe to work closely with West Germany. No such unifying force emerged in Northeast Asia.

7. NAVAJO NATION FEELS BRUNT OF COLORADO MINE LEAK

"When EPA is saying to me it's going to take decades to clean this up, that is how long uncertainty will exist as we drink the water, as we farm the land," the tribe's president, Russell Begaye, says.

8. CHINA CURRENCY FALLS FOR 2ND DAY

The slide follows a surprise change in its exchange rate mechanism that threatens to fan trade tensions with the U.S. and Europe.

9. LIFE-SIZE CUTOUTS OF POPE POP UP AHEAD OF U.S. VISIT

Cardboard pictures of the pontiff appear all over the Philadelphia region, generating buzz around his

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upcoming trip.

10. 'DEFLATEGATE' BRINGS TOM BRADY TO COURT

The New England quarterback and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell are set to explain to a judge why a controversy over underinflated footballs at last season's AFC conference championship game is spilling into a new season.

AP News in Brief

Texas police chief hopes firing of officer who killed football player will help 'healing'

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — An unarmed college football player tried to smash through a locked glass door in a North Texas car dealership showroom to escape an officer in training but then began advancing toward the officer before he was fatally shot, according to the Arlington police chief.

Called to the scene of a suspected burglary last week, Arlington officer Brad Miller pursued 19-year-old Christian Taylor into the showroom without telling his supervising officer, Police Chief Will Johnson said as he described their encounter for the first time Tuesday. Before police announced Tuesday that Miller had been fired, they had declined to describe the 49-year-old officer's interactions with Taylor in detail.

Inside the showroom, Miller ordered Taylor to get to the ground, Johnson said. Instead, Taylor cursed at the officer and advanced toward him. When Taylor was about 10 feet away, the officer fired, according to Johnson.

Taylor continued moving, so Miller's training officer, Cpl. Dale Wiggins, shot Taylor with a Taser.

Miller then fired three more times. At least two bullets struck Taylor, killing him, according to the chief, who said the interaction early Friday morning lasted only seconds. Taylor and Miller never made physical contact, he said.

Clinton giving up private server as new questions arise over highly classified information

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential campaign casts her decision to turn over her personal email server to the Justice Department as cooperating with investigators. Her Republican critics suggest that the move and new revelations about classified information points to her malfeasance as secretary of state.

Two emails that traversed Clinton's personal system were subsequently given one of the government's highest classification ratings, a Republican lawmaker said.

Federal investigators have begun looking into the security of Clintons' email setup amid concerns from the inspector general for the intelligence community that classified information may have passed through the system. There is no evidence she used encryption to prevent prying eyes from accessing the emails or her personal server.

"It's about time," House Speaker John Boehner said in a statement after the front-runner for the Democratic nomination announced that she was directing that the server be relinquished. "Secretary Clinton's previous statements that she possessed no classified information were patently untrue. Her mishandling of classified information must be fully investigated."

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus said: "All this means is that Hillary Clinton, in the face of FBI scrutiny, has decided she has run out of options. She knows she did something wrong and has run out of ways to cover it up."

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AP Exclusive: US won't invite Cuban dissidents to historic flagraising at embassy in Havana WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration doesn't plan to invite Cuban dissidents to Secretary of

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration doesn't plan to invite Cuban dissidents to Secretary of State John Kerry's historic flag-raising at the U.S. Embassy in Havana on Friday, vividly illustrating how U.S. policy is shifting focus from the island's opposition to its single-party government. Instead, Kerry intends to meet more quietly with prominent activists later in the day, officials said.

The Cuban opposition has occupied the center of U.S. policy toward the island since the nations cut diplomatic relations in 1961. The Cuban government labels its domestic opponents as traitorous U.S. mercenaries. As the two countries have moved to restore relations, Cuba has almost entirely stopped meeting with American politicians who visit dissidents during trips to Havana.

That presented a quandary for U.S. officials organizing the ceremony to mark the reopening of the embassy on Havana's historic waterfront. Inviting dissidents would risk a boycott by Cuban officials including those who negotiated with the U.S. after Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro declared detente on Dec. 17. Excluding dissidents would certainly provoke fierce criticism from opponents of Obama's new policy, including Cuban-American Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio.

Officials familiar with the plans for Kerry's visit, the first by a sitting U.S. secretary of state to Cuba since World War II, told The Associated Press that a compromise was in the works. The dissidents won't be invited to the embassy event but a small group will meet with Kerry at the U.S. chief of mission's home in the afternoon, where a lower-key, flag-raising ceremony is scheduled.

Their presence at the embassy would have risked setting back the new spirit of cooperation the U.S. hopes to engender, according to the officials, who weren't authorized to speak publicly about internal planning and demanded anonymity. But not meeting them at all, they said, would send an equally bad signal.

After 2 nights of tension, a peaceful protest with no arrests in Ferguson

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Police outnumbered protesters along West Florissant Avenue in Ferguson on Tuesday night, perhaps signaling the demonstrations around the anniversary of Michael Brown's death are starting to fade.

The crowd of around 100 demonstrators was mostly calm and peaceful. Occasionally a few people would march or start a chant, but they spent most of several hours milling around and chatting with one another.

Larry Miller, 58, organizer of the protest group Ferguson Freedom Fighters, said it was clear the latest round of demonstrations were dying down. He wasn't convinced much was accomplished.

"We already know what needs to be happening is not happening," Miller said. "We're still bothered over the killing of Mike Brown because we still need police reform, criminal justice system reform."

A tense moment Tuesday came when a couple dozen people briefly blocked traffic. But several officers in riot gear, along with St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar, quickly moved to break it up.

Shelling, government airstrikes around Syria's capital ahead of Iran foreign minister's visit

BEIRUT (AP) — Heavy rebel shelling and government airstrikes hit around Syria's capital Wednesday, killing at least 16 people and wounding scores more just hours before the arrival of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif, activists and state media said.

Zarif is scheduled to arrive Wednesday afternoon in Damascus, likely to discuss a four-point peace plan proposal Iran wants to offer to the United Nations to end Syria's grinding civil war. But discussions alone of that plan, which reportedly includes a cease-fire and a "national unity government," likely won't pause a conflict that's killed more than 250,000 people since March 2011.

The rebel shelling began around morning rush hour in Damascus, with more than 50 shells striking the

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capital, including in the upper-class neighborhoods of Abu Rummaneh, Baramkeh and Qasaa, the Britainbased Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The Observatory said the shelling killed one woman and wounded at least 20 people. Syrian state television quoted the Interior Ministry as saying that the shelling killed four people and wounded 58. It blamed "terrorists" for the shelling, as state media always refers those fighting against embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad's rule.

"We hid for two hours in the bathroom," said a woman by telephone from Qasaa, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. "My children woke up terrified. Our windows were shattered and so was my car's windshield."

A look at why Germany is paragon of postwar reconciliation, while Japan is mired in animosity

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Both nations brutalized continents. Both slaughtered and abused tens of millions of people. But while Germany is held up as a paragon of post-World War II reconciliation, Japan is mired in animosity with its neighbors seven decades later.

In many ways, the stunning economic and political resurrections of both countries since the war ended 70 years ago Sunday have been a windfall for their respective regions. Both have largely been generous in aid, both, for the most part, sterling examples of liberal democracies.

But talk to Europeans and Northeast Asians about Germany and Japan and you'll often find stark differences in perception.

Some of this is linked to the Soviet threat during the Cold War, which forced Europe to work closely with powerful West Germany. No such unifying force emerged in ultracompetitive Northeast Asia.

A kneeling former German chancellor is a European icon of reconciliation, but China and the two Koreas see Japan as having continually gotten a free pass.

Crops, livestock in jeopardy as Navajo Nation says it feels brunt of Colorado mine spill

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Russell Begaye stared into a hole in the side of a Colorado mountain, watching as yellow water contaminated with heavy metals poured out and raced down a slope toward a creek that feeds rivers critical to survival on the nation's largest Native American reservation and in other parts of the Southwest.

At the Gold King Mine, Begaye, president of the Navajo Nation, couldn't help but see the concerned faces of his people — the farmers who no longer had water for corn crops and the ranchers who had to scramble to get their cattle, sheep and goats away from the polluted San Juan River.

"We were told that the water was clearing up and getting back to normal," he said. "This is what EPA was telling us. We wanted to go up there as close as we could to the source. We wanted our people to see the water is still yellow."

Begaye and a small contingent of Navajo officials worked their way unannounced past barriers and up the mountain over the weekend to get a closer look at the mine blowout that federal officials said sent more than 3 million gallons of water laden with lead, arsenic and other metals down the Animas River and into the San Juan River.

The 100-mile plume has since traveled through parts of Colorado, New Mexico and Utah on the way to Lake Powell, a key source of water for the Southwest.

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China's currency falls for second day after devaluation jolts global markets

BEIJING (AP) — China's currency fell further Wednesday following a surprise change in its exchange rate mechanism that rattled global markets and threatens to fan trade tensions with the United States and Europe.

The central bank said the yuan's 1.9 percent devaluation Tuesday against the U.S. dollar, which was its biggest one-day fall in a decade, was due to changes aimed at making the tightly controlled currency more market-oriented. That raised the prospect of still more declines, which would help struggling Chinese exporters at the expense of foreign competitors and might shore up flagging economic growth.

On Wednesday, the yuan dropped another 1.6 percent. In theory, it could drop 2 percent every day given it can trade 2 percent around a rate that is set based on the previous day's closing value.

Until now, China has set the yuan's value each day based on a basket of currencies that is believed to be dominated by the U.S. dollar. That meant the yuan rose as the dollar jumped over the past year, hurting its exporters and raising the threat of politically dangerous job losses. Exports in July plummeted by an unexpectedly steep 8.3 percent from a year earlier.

The People's Bank of China promised Tuesday to keep the exchange rate "basically stable," but Wednesday's decline prompted suggestions the yuan is likely to fall further.

Federal court judge to host Tom Brady and Roger Goodell in bid to end 'Deflategate'

NEW YORK (AP) — New England quarterback Tom Brady and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell are set to explain to a judge why a controversy over underinflated footballs at last season's AFC conference championship game is spilling into a new season.

U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman ordered the men to appear before him Wednesday at an initial hearing in Manhattan after the NFL sued the players union two weeks ago.

The league asked the judge to declare that it followed its players' contract properly when it punished Brady after Goodell concluded he "knew about, approved of, consented to, and provided inducements and rewards" to support a scheme in which a Patriots' employee deflated balls on game day. Brady insists he knew nothing about it.

On Tuesday, Berman asked Goodell and Brady, along with lawyers, to appear before him privately a half hour before a public court session. He said he wants to learn the status of negotiations. He also asked them to continue negotiating prior to the hearing. Brady was not at Patriots practice.

At a news conference in Illinois, Goodell said the league plans to cooperate fully with Berman.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, August 12, the 224th day of 2015. There are 141 days left in the year. **Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 12, 1985, the world's worst single-aircraft disaster occurred as a crippled Japan Airlines Boeing 747 on a domestic flight crashed into a mountain, killing 520 people. (Four people survived.)

On this date:

In 1867, President Andrew Johnson sparked a move to impeach him as he defied Congress by suspending Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton.

In 1898, fighting in the Spanish-American War came to an end.

In 1902, International Harvester Co. was formed by a merger of McCormick Harvesting Machine Co., Deering Harvester Co. and several other manufacturers.

In 1915, the novel "Of Human Bondage," by William Somerset Maugham, was first published in the United States, a day before it was released in England.

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In 1939, the MGM movie musical "The Wizard of Oz," starring Judy Garland, had its world premiere at the Strand Theater in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, three days before opening in Hollywood.

In 1944, during World War II, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., eldest son of Joseph and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, was killed with his co-pilot when their explosives-laden Navy plane blew up over England.

In 1953, the Soviet Union conducted a secret test of its first hydrogen bomb.

In 1960, the first balloon communications satellite - the Echo 1 - was launched by the United States from Cape Canaveral.

In 1962, one day after launching Andrian Nikolayev into orbit, the Soviet Union also sent up cosmonaut Pavel Popovich; both men landed safely August 15.

In 1978, Pope Paul VI, who had died August 6 at age 80, was buried in St. Peter's Basilica.

In 1981, IBM introduced its first personal computer, the model 5150, at a press conference in New York. In 1994, Woodstock '94 opened in Saugerties, New York.

Ten years ago: A NASA spacecraft, the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, began a seven-month voyage to the Red Planet. Sri Lanka's foreign minister (Lakshman Kadirgamar), an ethnic Tamil, was shot to death by snipers in Colombo.

Five years ago: General Motors Co. chief Ed Whitacre announced he was stepping down as CEO on September 1, 2010, saying his mission was accomplished as the company reported its second straight quarterly profit. (Whitacre was succeeded as CEO by GM board member Daniel Akerson.)

One year ago: Steve Ballmer officially became the new owner of the Los Angeles Clippers; the sale closed after a California court confirmed the authority of Shelly Sterling, on behalf of the Sterling Family Trust, to sell the franchise. (Her husband, Donald Sterling, had unsuccessfully fought the sale of the team he owned since 1981 in court.) Lauren Bacall, 89, the slinky, sultry-voiced actress who created on-screen magic with Humphrey Bogart in "To Have and Have Not" and "The Big Sleep" and off-screen magic in one of Hollywood's most storied marriages, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., is 90. Actor George Hamilton is 76. Actress Dana Ivey is 74. Actress Jennifer Warren is 74. Rock singer-musician Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 66. Actor Jim Beaver is 65. Singer Kid Creole is 65. Jazz musician Pat Metheny is 61. Actor Sam J. Jones is 61. Actor Bruce Greenwood is 59. Country singer Danny Shirley is 59. Pop musician Roy Hay (Culture Club) is 54. Rapper Sir Mix-A-Lot is 52. Actor Peter Krause (KROW'-zuh) is 50. Actor Brent Sexton is 48. International Tennis Hall of Famer Pete Sampras is 44. Actor-comedian Michael Ian Black is 44. Actress Yvette Nicole Brown is 44. Actress Rebecca Gayheart is 44. Actor Casey Affleck is 40. Rock musician Bill Uechi (Save Ferris) is 40. Actress Maggie Lawson is 35. Actress Dominique Swain is 35. Actress Leah Pipes (TV: "The Originals") is 27. Actress Imani Hakim is 22.

Thought for Today: "The secret to life is meaningless unless you discover it yourself." - From "Of Human Bondage" by W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965).