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Saturday, August 22

Anniversaries: • Anniv: Rick & Melanie Rossow

• Anniv: Marc & Jayne Rossow

Birthdays: • Deb Thurston • Jeff Sippel • Connie McDonald • Colby Merkel • Virginia Breitkreutz 12:00pm: Girls Soccer hosts St. Thomas More 2:00pm: Boys Soccer hosts St. Thomas More 4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, August 23

Birthdays: Lisa Pray • Robin Fliehs • Allerie Loeschke • Ashley Larson • Jeremy Paul • Trista

Telkamp • Lorraine Sippel

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic

Church Mass

9:15am: C&MA School

10:15am: C&MA Fellowship time

10:45am: C&MA Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship 5:00pm: HBM Great Maple Tree Event in Pier-

pont

Monday, August 24

Boys Golf at Dell Rapids

Faculty In-Service

Senior Menu: Tater tot hot dish, green beans, grape juice, sour cream apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Mitchell Koens • Bill Stolle • Clint Mortenson • Tanea Clocksene

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study 5:00pm: Welcome Back Community Picnic

6:30pm: JK-5 Open House at Elementary School

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**

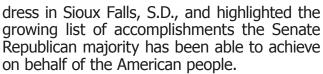


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Thune Delivers Weekly Republican Address

"As the 114th Congress continues, we're going to keep fighting for Americans' priorities here in Washington and working to give the American people the efficient, effective, and accountable government they deserve."

SIOUX FALLS, S.D.—U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), chairman of the Senate Republican Conference and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, delivered this week's Republican address to the nation. Thune taped the ad-



Earlier this week, Thune penned an op-ed in which he outlined some of his recent Senate accomplishments that have benefited South Dakota, including multiple Commerce Committee bills that have cleared the committee and several that have passed the full Senate.

A full transcript of the address follows:

"Hi, I'm Senator John Thune from the great state of South Dakota.

"When Republicans were campaigning last fall, we made a promise to the American people: If we were elected to the majority, we would get Washington working again.

"That wasn't a campaign slogan.

"That was a commitment.

"And we've been working hard to deliver on that promise ever since.

"The first eight months of 2015 have been some of the most productive in recent memory.

"In the Senate, we've built a track record of success, with bill after bill to deliver real results for the American people.

"One thing we were determined to do this year was pass a balanced budget.

"It's hard to believe, but the last time the House and Senate passed a joint balanced budget resolution, Facebook hadn't been created yet.





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"That was something Republicans were determined to change.

"Every American family has to balance its budget, and Americans have a right to expect that the federal government will do the same.

"This spring, we passed the first House and Senate balanced budget resolution since 2001 – and we did it without raising taxes.

"In addition to a balanced budget, another Republican priority is expanding opportunities for American workers.

"The Obama administration has presided over the worst economic recovery in 70 years."

"As a result, too many hardworking families are stuck living paycheck to paycheck, with few chances for advancement and little access to better-paying jobs.

"That's not the way it should be in America.

"In June, the House and Senate passed a trade bill that will support the creation of more good-paying jobs for American workers and help American farmers, ranchers, and small businesses sell their products and services around the globe.

"The transportation bill the Senate passed last month would also help American workers by providing funding for important construction projects that would support tens of thousands of jobs.

"The economy in my home state of South Dakota, where I am today, depends heavily on a strong, efficient transportation system, and the bill we passed would give states and local governments the resources they need to improve our nation's highways, roads, and bridges.

"Another important bill the Senate took up in July was the Every Child Achieves Act, a major education reform bill that would help get Washington bureaucrats out of the way of our children's education.

"This legislation would end burdensome federal mandates that have resulted in problems like 'teaching to the test' and restore control of education to those who know students best – like parents, teachers, and local school boards.

"Still another Republican priority is protecting Social Security and Medicare for our nation's seniors, and in April we passed the first real entitlement reform in over a decade.

"The bill we passed extends Medicare's solvency, protects seniors' access to care, and provides significant savings to taxpayers over the long term.

"We also took action this year to provide increased mental health resources to our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for our country.

"Finally, Republicans remain committed to the safety and security of our nation."

"Earlier this year, the Republican-led Congress passed legislation to ensure that the American people, through their elected representatives, would have a voice in any nuclear agreement with Iran.

"The importance of this legislation became apparent last month when the Obama administration agreed to a deeply flawed deal with Iran that will bolster Iran's ability to support terrorist activities, increase its access to conventional weapons and ballistic missiles, and advance its nuclear research and development.

"Without the legislation we passed earlier this year, there would be no chance for the American people to weigh in on one of the most important national security issues facing our country.

"Eight months into the Republican-led Congress, we've changed the way Washington operates."

"We've brought Democrats and Republicans together to solve the challenges facing American families, and we've been able to put forward real solutions as a result.

"In all, we've passed more than 80 bills to grow our economy, protect our nation's citizens, strengthen our security, and reform government.

"And we're just getting started."

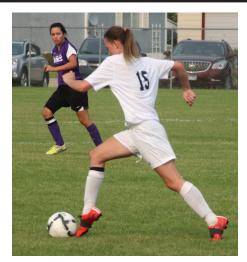
"We've accomplished a lot over the past eight months, but we know we have a lot more work to do, and we have a president who is fighting us every step of the way.

"As the 114th Congress continues, we're going to keep fighting for Americans' priorities in Washington and working to give the American people the efficient, effective, and accountable government they deserve."

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Hunter Schaller



Allison Wilson



Trevor Pray



Johnny DeLoera

able.

boys at 2 p.m.

Groton Area soccer teams had their first home games on Friday, hosting Belle Fourche. The results from the games were not avail-

Groton hosts St. Thomas More

with the girls at noon and the



Anthony Sippel



Katelyn Koehler



Madison Sippel This photo by Joann Donley

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The Great Maple Tree Event Sunday, August 23, 2015 ~ 5 p.m.

NO 10 a.m. Service





Guest Speakers Rev. Craig and Janene Werling

Bounce House Inflatable for the Kids

Bring your own lawn chair!

The event will be held across the street from the Pierpont church under the Maple Tree.

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Today in Weather History

August 22, 1985: Intense thunderstorms moved from near Shadehill Reservoir in northwest South Dakota late in the evening of the 21st, to northern Brown County after sunrise on the 22nd. These thunderstorms produced strong winds, large hail, heavy rainfall and lightning. Considerable crop and property damage was caused mainly by the strong winds and hail. Winds gusts ranged from 55 mph at Mobridge to 60 mph in and around Akaska. Winds of 70 mph were reported at Onaka and Faulkton. The strongest wind gust was reported in Hoven with a peak gust of 72 mph. Widespread damage was reported throughout the area. Many mobile homes, storage sheds, silos, and roofs were damaged or destroyed. Nine miles south and four miles west of Keldron, over two inches in diameter hail fell for 40 minutes, breaking windows and piling in ditches to a depth of four feet. These intense thunderstorms also produced brief heavy rainfall ranging from three quarters of an inch to over four inches.

August 22, 2011: The Missouri River at Pierre, Fort Pierre, and Chamberlain/Oacoma fell throughout the month of August as releases on the Oahe Dam were slowly decreased. The Missouri River at Chamberlain/Oacoma fell below flood stage on August 22nd. The extensive damage to homes and roads began to surface as the water receded. The river continued to fall into September.

1816 - The growing season for corn was cut short as damaging frosts were reported from North Carolina to interior New England. (David Ludlum)

1923 - The temperature at Anchorage, AK, reached 82 degrees, a record for August for the location which was later tied on the 2nd in 1978. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front lowered temperatures 20 to 40 degrees across the north central U.S., and produced severe thunderstorms in Ohio and Lower Michigan. An early morning thunderstorm near Sydney MI produced high winds which spun a car around 180 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

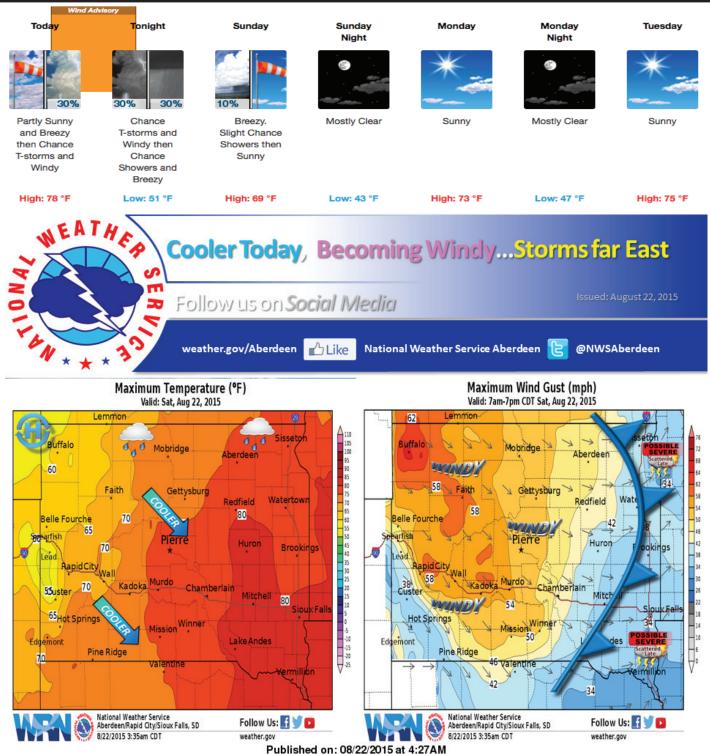
1988 - Afternoon highs of 88 degrees at Astoria, OR, and 104 degrees at Medford, OR, were records for the date, and the number of daily record highs across the nation since the first of June topped the 2000 mark. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Evening thunderstorms in the central U.S. produced golf ball size hail at May City IA, and wind gusts to 66 mph at Balltown IA. Lightning struck a barn in Fayette County IA killing 750 hogs. Evening thunderstorms in Montana produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Havre. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992 - Hurricane Andrew makes landfall in Southern Florida as a Category 5 storm with wind guests estimated in excess of 175 m.p.h. Estimated damages exceeded \$20 billion, more than 60 people were killed and approximately 2 million people were evacuated from their homes. (University of Illinois WW2010)



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A cold front will move across South Dakota today, reaching the border with Minnesota by late afternoon. Storms, a few severe, are expected across Minnesota a head of that front late this afternoon and evening. Behind the front, northwest winds will be gusty. High Wind Warnings and Wind Advisories have been issued for much of the region into Tonight. Temperatures will also turn cooler today behind the front.

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Yesterday's Weather High: 82.7 at 4:30 PM

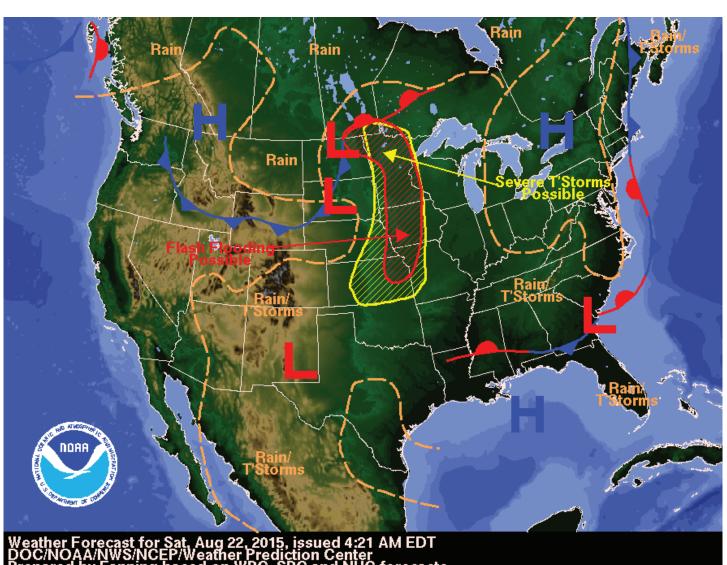
Low: 60.0 at 7:30 AM High Gust: 23 at 11:55 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 105° in 1971

Record Low: 36° in 1904 **Average High:** 81°F Average Low: 55°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.72 Precip to date in Aug: 4.91 **Average Precip to date: 15.58 Precip Year to Date: 16.48** Sunset Tonight: 8:29 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:43 a.m.



Sat, Aug 22, 2015, issued 4:21 AM EDT EP/Weather Prediction Center based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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THE PAIN PASSES

Pierre Renoir, the famous French painter, was severely afflicted with arthritis. Over the years his hands became twisted and whenever he painted the pain was intense. However, he would not quit.

One day a friend who was watching him paint asked, "How can you paint with the pain causing you so much torture?"

Thoughtfully he answered, "The pain passes, but the beauty remains."

Job was a godly man who was wealthy and influential. For most of his life he was prosperous and free from any serious problems. One day his life fell apart. Within a short time he lost nearly everything he had and was severely criticized and condemned by his friends. But, he never lost his faith in God.

Though he never learned the reason for his losses and suffering, he never questioned God's judgment. He believed that an all-powerful God was acting in ways that were in his best interest. In the midst of his trials he said, "When He has tried me I shall come out as gold."

Prayer: Lord, may we always believe that what You bring into our lives will ultimately work for our best. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Job 23:10-12 But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

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News from the App Associated Press

Scholarship program helps fund remedial classes

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A nonprofit organization's \$50,000 gift to a Sioux Falls community college is helping students pay for remedial math and English classes this fall.

The Prep for Success Scholarship program at Killian Community College is funded by the de Groot Foundation.

Kilian president Mark Millage says the non-credit courses prepare students for college-level learning, but students often walk away rather than pay up to \$1,000. Some 30 percent of South Dakota students entering college require remedial preparatory courses.

Millage says the gift helps remove the cost barrier for students willing to put forth the time and effort to succeed at a college level.

Attorneys argue powers during hearing on federal water rule DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Attorneys argued over state and federal powers for more than four hours Friday on an effort by 13 states to block a new rule that gives U.S. authorities jurisdiction over some state waters.

North Dakota is leading a lawsuit filed on June 29 challenging an Obama administration rule that gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers authority to protect some streams, tributaries and wetlands under the Clean Water Act.

The law goes into effect next week. The states are asking U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson in North Dakota to suspend the new guidelines they claim are unnecessary and infringe on their sovereignty.

"The states don't need this rule to be successful," Paul Seby, a Colorado attorney representing the states, told Erickson Friday.

Dan Derke, an attorney for the federal government, said North Dakota's objection wrongly assumes some waterways will be affected and the state is already going through some of the permitting procedures they're complaining about. He argued about waterway definitions with several state officials called to testify in favor of the injunction the states are seeking.

The rule is a response to calls from the U.S. Supreme Court and Congress for the EPA to clarify which smaller waterways are protected. Landowners — and especially farmers — are worried even a ditch or puddle could fall under federal regulations. Derke said the law aims to help landowners understand which waters fall under the Clean Water Act.

"This rule for the first time has specific exclusions," Derke said in his closing.

The other states joining the lawsuit are Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Seby called four state officials to testify about a rule they say would cost the state millions of dollars and cut into more important programs. State Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said there's "confusion and anxiety" among farmers and other landowners over the initiative.

"If this goes into effect on the 28th, on the 29th we have no idea what the impacts will be," Goehring said. North Dakota officials said they were worried about the effect the rule would have on what Goehring called "the land of 30,000 potholes." Dave Glatt, chief of the environmental health section of the North Dakota Department of Health, said those wetlands would have to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis and would "increase costs dramatically" in his department.

"There's only so much staff to go around," Glatt said.

Derke said many of the decisions on jurisdiction of waterways are already being done on a case-by-case basis.

The request for a preliminary injunction came after North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and attorneys general and officials from 30 states sent a letter last month to the EPA and the Army Corps

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asking that the law be postponed at least nine months.

"That letter was ignored," Seby said.

Erickson did not say when he might issue his decision.

Omaha pastor and wife among 4 killed in fiery head-on crash DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A popular Omaha minister who founded a nonprofit organization devoted to giving hope to inner city teens was among four people killed in a fiery head-on crash on Interstate 90 near Alexandria, authorities said Friday.

Tyler Schenzel, 54, served as an associate pastor and youth pastor at Omaha's Waypoint Church and founded the Hope Center for Kids with his wife, Theresa Schenzel, 59.

"Their mission is helping people find hope in their lives when hope was lost," said Silas West, Waypoint's executive pastor. "That's how they lived. That's the message on their hearts."

The Schenzels and another couple had set out on a road trip to see Mount Rushmore when a pickup truck heading the wrong way in Interstate 90's westbound lanes struck their vehicle head on about 4:30 p.m. Thursday, according to the South Dakota Highway Patrol. Both vehicles burst into flames. Investigators couldn't identify the make or model of the westbound vehicle due to the severity of the wreckage.

The crash killed the pickup truck driver, 75-year-old David Wise, of Salem, the Schenzels and the west-bound vehicle's driver, 28-year-old Ryan Hrubes, of Omaha.

Another passenger in the vehicle traveling from Omaha, 26-year-old Emily Hrubes, was injured. The Highway Patrol said her injuries were serious but not life threatening.

The afternoon crash brought traffic on the interstate to a standstill, and officers diverted traffic onto state Highway 38. Debris from the crash struck a westbound SUV, but its two occupants were not injured.

The Hope Center for Kids, a nonprofit organization devoted to inspiring hope in youth and children through education, employability, collaboration and faith, said its locations in Omaha and Freemont remained open for youth and children members on Friday. It released a statement calling the Schenzels beloved and integral members who will be deeply missed.

"We are saddened beyond belief by this news and our prayers are with their families and the families of the other couple involved Ryan and Emily Hrubes, as well as the driver of the other vehicle," the statement said.

Silas said that Ty Schenzel left the Hope Center he founded in May. He had been on staff at Waypoint for about two years but was integral in helping the church's launch in 2007 in the role of an overseer. West said Schenzel's titles of associate pastor and youth pastor fail to convey how much he was valued at Waypoint and throughout the city.

"He was so much more than that here in Omaha and to our church," West said.

An evening gathering was being planned at Waypoint Church to provide prayers and comfort to friends of the families.

Augustana College renaming itself to Augustana University

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) Augustana College says it will rebrand itself as Augustana University on Sept. 1. The decision by the private school's Board of Trustees comes after nearly two years of strategic planning, analysis and discovery.

School officials say the new name reflects Augustana's growing number of programs and centers for undergraduate and graduate students, recognizes the growth on campus and captures the school's goals for the future.

They say it became apparent that the school needed to invest in growth and its ability to serve others to meet the demands of a workforce hungry for entrepreneurial and thoughtful professionals.

Students, campus community members, alumni and others are invited to attend a formal announcement at Kirkeby-Over Stadium on Sept. 1.

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Judge: Wal-Mart buyers must give deposition in Sturgis case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge is requiring that two buyers for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. give a deposition next week ahead of an upcoming trademark dispute trial.

The four-year-old case pitting Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Inc. against Rushmore Photo and Gifts and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is set to go to trial on Oct. 19.

U.S. Chief District Judge Jeffrey Viken on Thursday approved Sturgis Motorcycle Rally's motion to compel, setting up the deposition for Wednesday.

Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Inc. sued Rushmore Photo and Gifts and Wal-Mart in 2011 over its Sturgis trademark. The group says that the trademark is needed to protect the quality of products connected with the rally that draws hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Mom sues school, others after girl falls from parade float

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The mother of a girl who was injured when she fell from a parade float during homecoming in 2013 has filed a lawsuit claiming negligence by her daughter's tribal school, the police and others.

In the lawsuit filed this week in federal court in Pierre, Tamaleon Wilcox says her daughter fell from the float when it suddenly accelerated, and that the flatbed trailer ran over the girl's legs and ankle.

The lawsuit says the St. Francis Indian School float was pulled by a Rosebud Police Department vehicle driven by Officer Daniel Reynolds. The girl, who was a junior high school student at the time, suffered a broken leg and other injuries. She is not named in the lawsuit.

Wilcox, of Mission, says the school, the police department and Reynolds "breached the duty owed to (her daughter) when Defendant Reynolds stepped on the gas to catch up with other parade floats" causing the student to "fall off the float and onto the roadway where the tires from the flatbed trailer then ran over her legs and ankle."

The federal government is listed as a defendant. Wilcox wants the government to pay treatment costs, which the lawsuit says were in excess of \$30,000. She also asks for a sum to "fully compensate" for the distress caused to her daughter.

The Associated Press sent an email to the U.S. Attorney's office seeking comment Friday.

Wilcox initially sought \$3 million in compensation under the Federal Tort Claims Act — a civil procedure that requires a person to file a claim with the government and prevents them from suing until the claim is resolved — but the U.S. Department of Interior denied the request in February.

Northern Plains once again in for some smoky skies

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Northern Plains region is once again in for some smoky skies.

Forest fires in the Pacific Northwest are producing a tremendous amount of smoke, and it's blowing east, National Weather Service meteorologist Bill Abeling told KQDJ radio (http://bit.ly/1Jvln5P).

"It causes the skies to look a little hazy, it causes the red sunsets," he said. "When the smoke gets dense enough then it does cause some air quality problems, and for people that are sensitive it certainly can cause some health problems."

People who have asthma or allergies can be particularly susceptible, according to health officials.

Air quality will be affected in Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas beginning late Friday until the fires are under control, according to Abeling.

"The wildfires are so widespread across Washington, into Idaho, Oregon, and the air flow from the west to the east is bringing a lot of that smoke across the Rocky Mountains into the Northern Plains," he said. Smoke from forest fires in Canada blanketed the region for more than a week earlier this summer.

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AP News in Brief

The Latest on Koreas: South Korea and North Korea hold high-level talks at border village

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The latest on the tensions on the Korean Peninsula (all times local):

6:50 p.m.

High-level talks between North Korea and South Korea have begun in an effort to defuse mounting tensions that have pushed the rivals to the brink of a possible military confrontation.

An official from South Korea's Unification Ministry, who didn't want to be named because of office rules, says Saturday's talks are being held at the border village of Panmunjom.

AP Analysis: Koreas again seem on brink of war. What's different this time?

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — For years, North Korea's litany of threats has been largely dismissed — Seoul, after all, is still not drowning in a "sea of fire," despite Pyongyang's repeated promises to make it so.

As the clock ticks down on a Saturday ultimatum for the South to remove propaganda loudspeakers or face war, however, there's worry that Pyongyang could finally mean what it says.

So what's different this time?

Partly, it's North Korea's apparent willingness to back up an earlier vow to attack the anti-Pyongyang loudspeakers and also on the specificity of its Saturday deadline.

There was surprise when South Korea's military reported Thursday that North Korea had fired across the border, and was then met by dozens of shells from the South. If the North attacked once, some argue, it may be more likely to back up its newest threat, especially if a very specific deadline is being ignored, as Seoul has indicated it will do.

3 Americans praised for subduing gunman on European train; attacker's motives unclear

PARIS (AP) — One serves in the Air Force, another recently served in Afghanistan in the National Guard, another is studying physical therapy in California — and all three Americans are being hailed as heroes for tackling and disarming a gunman they happened to encounter on a high-speed train between Amsterdam and Paris.

Air Force serviceman Spencer Stone remained hospitalized Saturday after being stabbed in the attack Friday night as the train traveled through Belgium, though the Pentagon said the injury was not life-threatening. Another passenger was wounded by a handgun in the attack and also remained hospitalized Saturday, according to the mayor of the northern French city of Arras where the train eventually stopped.

It's unclear whether there was a political motive to the gunman's actions. French authorities are questioning the attacker, identified by police as a 26-year-old of Moroccan origin, and are expected to speak to at least one of the Americans on Saturday about what happened. Counterterrorism police are leading the investigation, according to the Paris prosecutor's office.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, speaking in Arras, said the Americans "were particularly courageous and showed great bravery in very difficult circumstances," and that "without their sangfroid we could have been confronted with a terrible drama."

He called for caution before jumping to conclusions. French authorities are on heightened alert after Islamic extremist attacks in January left 20 people dead, including the three gunmen. In June, a lone attacker claiming allegiance to Islamic radicals beheaded his employer and set off an explosion at an American-owned factory in France, raising concerns about other scattered, hard-to-predict attacks.

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Documents: EPA knew cleanup of abandoned mine could trigger 'blowout' of tainted water

WASHINGTON (AP) — Internal documents released late Friday show managers at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were aware of the potential for a catastrophic "blowout" at an abandoned mine that could release "large volumes" of wastewater laced with toxic heavy metals.

EPA released the documents following weeks of prodding from The Associated Press and other media organizations. EPA and contract workers accidentally unleashed 3 million gallons of contaminated wastewater on Aug. 5 as they inspected the idled Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado.

Among the documents is a June 2014 work order for a planned cleanup that noted that the old mine had not been accessible since 1995, when the entrance partially collapsed. The plan appears to have been produced by Environmental Restoration, a private contractor working for EPA.

"This condition has likely caused impounding of water behind the collapse," the report says. "In addition, other collapses within the workings may have occurred creating additional water impounding conditions. Conditions may exist that could result in a blowout of the blockages and cause a release of large volumes of contaminated mine waters and sediment from inside the mine, which contain concentrated heavy metals." A subsequent May 2015 action plan for the mine also notes the potential for a blowout.

In the Deep South, Trump says he'd 'like to have the election tomorrow'

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Republican front-runner Donald Trump rallied thousands of supporters in south Alabama by telling them: "I would like to have the election tomorrow. I don't want to wait."

"I know how Billy Graham felt," he said Friday night as he addressed the largest crowd yet of his thriving presidential campaign. The 40,000-seat Ladd-Peebles Stadium was about half-full when he began his speech.

Trump evoked Graham — the evangelist who packed stadiums around the world — as he brought his message to the Deep South.

Trump was welcomed by an array of Alabama politicians, including Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions, who praised him for the attention he's drawn to immigration issues. And Trump led off his speech with more criticism of immigrants living in the country illegally, drawing loud cheers when he repeated his promise to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

He reiterated his intention to end "birthright citizenship" for children of immigrants here illegally.

The Latest on Bangkok: Thai police trace suspect's route to and from bombing site

BANGKOK (AP) — The latest on the bombings in the Thai capital (all times local):

2:15 p.m.

Thai authorities say they have made "much progress" in their investigation of Monday's bombing in central Bangkok that killed 20 people.

A spokesman for Thailand's ruling junta said they have been able to use closed circuit television to learn the transportation route that the main suspect took to and from the downtown Erawan shrine.

New Army chief taking calculated approach to key decision on barriers to women in combat

FORT BENNING, Georgia (AP) — The Army's new chief of staff, Gen. Mark Milley, is taking a calculated approach to arguably the most consequential decision of his early tenure — whether to recommend that

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any all-male combat roles remain closed to women.

Central to his thinking, he said in an Associated Press interview Friday, is the question of whether allowing women to serve in the infantry, armor and other traditionally male-only fields would affect Army "readiness" for war.

"Does it improve it, or does it hurt it?" he is asking as he and leaders of the other military services weigh whether to recommend to Defense Secretary Ash Carter that he keep some positions off-limits to women. Under a January 2013 edict, all remaining all-male positions will be opened to women unless the defense secretary approves exceptions by January 2016. Carter said on Thursday that he expects to see the services' recommendations by October.

Milley, who took over as Army chief on Aug. 14 and has seen women in combat during his numerous tours as a commander in Iraq and Afghanistan, said he is not ready to say which direction he is leaning.

"Right now I would call myself right on the line," he said in the interview while flying to Fort Benning to attend an Army Ranger School graduation that included the first women ever to pass the rigorous Ranger training course. After the ceremony he briefly met privately with the two trailblazers, Capt. Kristen Griest, 26, and 1st Lt. Shaye Haver, 25.

Mother of unarmed black man shot to death by white officer says she's still seeking justice

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Georgia Ferrell says she's still seeking justice after a jury couldn't unanimously decide the fate of a white North Carolina police officer accused in the 2013 shooting death of her son, an unarmed black motorist.

"I've got to keep fighting," Ferrell said outside a courthouse late Friday afternoon after she heard a judge declare a mistrial in the voluntary manslaughter case of Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer Randall Kerrick. "We must get justice."

A racially diverse jury of eight women and four men deliberated over four days. All told, it took four votes on the charge of voluntary manslaughter against Kerrick in the death of Jonathan Ferrell, a former Florida A&M football player.

Judge Robert C. Ervin, the grandson of former North Carolina Sen. Sam Ervin, twice asked the jury if continuing their talks would help overcome the impasse.

"Honestly, we have exhausted every possibility," the foreman said after Ervin asked a second time Friday. Hours earlier, the foreman had said the jury was making progress in resolving the 8-4 deadlock.

Police, FBI searching for motive after fatal shooting at federal building in New York City

NEW YORK (AP) — Investigators are trying to figure out why an armed veteran slipped through a side door of a federal building in Manhattan, fatally shooting a security guard before killing himself.

Federal agents swarmed Kevin Downing's home in Fort Lee, New Jersey, hours after the Friday evening shooting, searching for anything that could help them understand the shooting.

They said the 68-year-old former federal employee and armed forces veteran opened fire at the federal building on Varick Street that houses an immigration court, passport processing center and a regional office for the Department of Labor.

As he approached a metal detector, Downing shot FJC Security Services guard Idrissa Camara, police said. Camara was supposed to leave work at 4 p.m. but had agreed to stay for an extra shift, his company said.

After shooting the senior security guard in the head at close range, Downing walked toward an elevator where he encountered another employee, and then shot himself in the head, said James O'Neill, a chief with the New York Police Department.

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Houston's Fiers throws no-hitter against Los Angeles Dodgers in 3-0 win

HOUSTON (AP) — Growing up, Mike Fiers remembers watching Nolan Ryan throw no-hitter after no-hitter. After pitching his first one Friday night, Fiers finally got to meet the man who spun so many gems.

Fiers pitched the second no-hitter in the major leagues in nine days, leading the Houston Astros to a 3-0 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Ryan, now an Astros executive who threw a record seven no-hitters, applauded from a suite as Fiers was mobbed by his teammates near the mound after finishing the 11th gem in Astros history.

Then Ryan went down to the dugout to welcome the right-hander into a most fancy fraternity — the No-Hit Club.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, August 22, the 234th day of 2015. There are 131 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 22, 1485, England's King Richard III was killed in the Battle of Bosworth Field, effectively ending the War of the Roses.

On this date:

In 1787, inventor John Fitch demonstrated his steamboat on the Delaware River to delegates from the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1846, Gen. Stephen W. Kearny proclaimed all of New Mexico a territory of the United States.

In 1851, the schooner America outraced more than a dozen British vessels off the English coast to win a trophy that came to be known as the America's Cup.

In 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war against Belgium.

In 1922, Irish revolutionary Michael Collins was shot to death, apparently by Irish Republican Army members opposed to the Anglo-Irish Treaty that Collins had co-signed.

In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corp. conducted its first experimental television broadcast, using a 30-line mechanical system.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Vice President Richard Nixon were nominated for second terms in office by the Republican National Convention in San Francisco.

In 1962, French President Charles de Gaulle survived an attempt on his life in suburban Paris.

In 1968, Pope Paul VI arrived in Bogota, Colombia, for the start of the first papal visit to South America.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon was nominated for a second term of office by the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach.

In 1985, 55 people died when fire broke out aboard a British Airtours charter jet on a runway at Manchester Airport in England.

In 1989, Black Panthers co-founder Huey P. Newton was shot to death in Oakland, California. (Gunman Tyrone Robinson was later sentenced to 32 years to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: The last Jewish settlers left Gaza, making way for the Palestinian government. During a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Salt Lake City, President George W. Bush compared the fight against terrorism to both world wars and other great conflicts of the 20th century. Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson suggested on "The 700 Club" that American operatives assassinate Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez (OO'-goh CHAH'-vez), whom he called a "terrific danger" to the United States. (Robertson later apologized, saying he had spoken out of frustration.)

Five years ago: Chilean President Sebastian Pinera confirmed that all the miners trapped deep underground for 17 days were still alive after a probe came back with a handwritten note, "All 33 of us are fine in the shelter." (The miners were rescued the following October.) A proposed mosque near ground zero drew hundreds of fever-pitch demonstrators, with opponents carrying signs associating Islam with blood

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and supporters shouting, "Say no to racist fear!" Arjun Atwal captured the Wyndham Championship in Greensboro, North Carolina, by one stroke to become the first Indian-born PGA Tour winner.

One year ago: Tensions between Russia and Ukraine escalated sharply as Moscow sent more than 130 trucks rolling across the border in what it said was a mission to deliver humanitarian aid. The United Nations reported the death toll from three years of Syria's civil war had risen to more than 191,000 people. Gunmen attacked a Sunni mosque in Iraq during Friday prayers and killed at least 64 people.

Today's Birthdays: Heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley is 95. Broadcast journalist Morton Dean is 80. Author Annie Proulx (proo) is 80. Baseball Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski is 76. Actress Valerie Harper is 76. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Bill Parcells is 74. Writer-producer David Chase is 70. CBS newsman Steve Kroft is 70. Actress Cindy Williams is 68. Pop musician David Marks is 67. International Swimming Hall of Famer Diana Nyad is 66. Baseball Hall of Famer Paul Molitor is 59. Country singer Holly Dunn is 58. Rock musician Vernon Reid is 57. Country singer Ricky Lynn Gregg is 56. Country singer Collin Raye is 55. Actress Regina Taylor is 55. Rock singer Roland Orzabal (Tears For Fears) is 54. Rock musician Debbi Peterson (The Bangles) is 54. Rock musician Gary Lee Conner (Screaming Trees) is 53. Singer Tori Amos is 52. Country singer Mila Mason is 52. Rhythm-and-blues musician James DeBarge is 52. International Tennis Hall of Famer Mats Wilander is 51. Actress Brooke Dillman is 49. Rapper GZA (JIHZ'-ah)/The Genius is 49. Actor Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje (ah-day-WAH'-lay ah-kih-NOY'-yay ah-BAH'-jay) is 48. Actor Ty Burrell is 48. Celebrity chef Giada DeLaurentiis is 45. Actress Melinda Page Hamilton is 44. Actor Rick Yune is 44. Rock musician Paul Doucette (Matchbox Twenty) is 43. Rap-reggae singer Beenie Man is 42. Singer Howie Dorough (Backstreet Boys) is 42. Comedian-actress Kristen Wiig is 42. Actress Jenna Leigh Green is 41. Rock musician Bo Koster is 41. Rock musician Dean Back (Theory of a Deadman) is 40. Talk show host James Corden (TV: "The Late Late Show with James Corden") is 37. Rock musician Jeff Stinco (Simple Plan) is 37. Actor Brandon Adams is 36. Actress Aya Sumika is 35.

Thought for Today: "There are mighty few people who think what they think they think." - Robert Henri, American artist (1865-1929).