

Groton Daily Independent

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Death Notice: Janet Kolker

Janet Kolker, 72, of Groton, died Sunday, August 23, 2015 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

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

6:30pm: Sixth Grade Orientation at GHS

Tuesday, August 25

Faculty In-Service

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, frosted brownie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Tim Flihs • Angela Mettler

10:00am: C&MA Ladies Bible Study

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

Wednesday, August 26

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Senior Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, tomato spoon salad, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Bill & Eileen Schuelke

Birthdays: Jana Duncan • Doris Craig • Carly Wheeting • Dustin LaMee

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

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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The value of family love

By Richard P. Holm MD

I appreciate how the old prayer goes, "Bless the food before us, the family beside us, and the love between us..."

Our youngest son Preston recently had a break-in at his home. They took his computer with his pictures and all the songs he created. They also got away with my old film-dependent camera which was full of undeveloped pictures he had taken. He decried that it wasn't the loss of the computer or the camera; it was the loss of memories and ideas contained within. He was discouraged that he dreamt he caught them breaking into his house and ended up choking them and hitting them with a baseball bat.

It brought back the memory of advice one of my patients gave me one day, "If you want to destroy your enemy, make them hate." I know how self-destructive hate can be. In that sense, the thieves got my son twice, once for the robbery and once for the deep anger they instilled in his heart.

Almost once a year I watch a family self-destruct as children of a dying parent return from afar to criticize the choices that the local family had made, often demanding more aggressive care when the parent is nearing end and it is time to let go.

I have seen lawyers at the bedside of a borderline-competent patient working a change in the will, giving more land to one child than another, resulting in the blackest of disharmony between kids that had grown up together as family, and who will never speak to each other again.

I have seen widows and widowers remarry and find joy once again after the sad death of a spouse, only to have children selfishly scrambling for the spoils of the inheritance, leaving someone in the equation without their fair share. Truly there is nothing more heart-breaking than to see such destructiveness among family members.

But this does not always happen. In fact, more often than not, the death bed of a parent brings great moments of joy. I remember one family in particular surrounded their dying Mother with harmonious hymns in that hospital room as they had the family reunion that hadn't occurred in many years. Families most often come together around a dying parent or sibling joyously sharing family memories, while supporting and loving the one leaving.

Preston found a way to let go of the loss and anger following the robbery and moved on to new equipment and better creativity.



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Angels in Adoption **By Senator Mike Rounds**

Providing children with a loving home is one of the greatest gifts anyone can give. Strong families are an important pillar of society that help bring stability to communities and teach core values to future generations. Every child deserves the love and support that a family provides. I applaud those who are committed to strong and healthy families, especially those involved in adoption and foster care. That is why it is an honor to nominate Bethany Christian Services of Eastern and Western South Dakota as 2015 Angels in Adoption.

For more than 25 years, Bethany Christian Services has been helping children find loving, permanent homes in which to thrive and grow in South Dakota. Bethany accomplishes this by offering support for both international and domestic adoptions, which includes foster care adoption. I have always been pro-life, so participating in the Angels in Adoption program is important to me. Life is a wonderful gift, and families who adopt or foster children in need are giving back the gift of love. I admire organizations like Bethany Christian Services, who facilitate adoptions, help women through pregnancies and find foster parents for abused and neglected youth. Through their dedication and commitment to foster care and adoption, Bethany Christian Services has touched the lives of thousands of children and helped them overcome tough challenges at a young age. Nominating them as Angels in Adoption is the least I can do to say thanks.

Angels in Adoption is a non-profit program sponsored by Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) that seeks to raise awareness about the unique needs of children without families and advocate on behalf of orphans and foster children. Each year, Members of Congress have the opportunity to nominate an "Angel" – an individual, family or organization that has made extraordinary contributions on behalf of children in need of families.

According to CCAI, more than 100,000 kids in the U.S. are eligible for adoption, but nearly 32 percent will wait more than three years before being placed in a permanent home. Worldwide, the numbers are even more staggering. The Angels in Adoption program sheds light on the need for loving families to open their homes to these children. It also seeks to raise awareness about the rewarding and positive difference adoption makes in the lives of children, parents and their communities.

The adoption process can often be cumbersome and difficult, but organizations like Bethany Christian Services work to streamline the process and make certain both the children and adoptive families have a positive experience. I'm proud to partner with CCAI to nominate Bethany Christian Services of Eastern and Western South Dakota as 2015 Angels in Adoption. May the organization – and others like it who offer adoption and foster care services – continue to do great work to help children find forever homes. I am inspired by all families who chose to open their homes and hearts to kids in need, as well as the organizations that support them. The impact adoption can have on families, children and societies is truly life-changing.

Groton DI kicks off fundraising activities

Groton Area's Destination Imagination teams will be kicking off their fundraising activities right away this fall. DI will be selling baby back ribs from 5-8 at the opening football game on August 28. Half racks will be available for \$10 each.

DI is an organization that encourages teamwork, problem solving and creativity. The following quote, taken from a blog - Why DI written by Claudia Wadzinski and found at idodi.org summarizes DI well:

Encoded within the DNA of DI is the process of learning how to best use time and resources (and our mind is our greatest resource), how to work together respectfully and cooperatively, how to think outside of the box, and how to create new and unique solutions to open-ended Challenges. There is a place to shine for every gift, talent or ability. DI incorporates critical thinking, hands-on problem solving, the arts, engineering, and teamwork in a way that nurtures and stimulates both creativity and productivity.

Last year, two Groton High School teams qualified to attend Global Finals in Knoxville, TN. These teams traveled to and from Knoxville from May 19-26. Much of the fundraising goes to assist those students attending Global Finals. It costs approximately \$1500 per student to attend Globals. Any K-12 Groton Area students may participate - registration forms will be coming home with the elementary students. Middle School and High School students will need to go to the MS/HS office to get one.

DI would like to thank the Groton Community for their continued support of this program. In a time when programs such as DI are being eliminated from schools and communities, Grotonites can be very proud of the success that their Destination Imagination program continues to have.

Today in Weather History

August 24, 1960: A man was injured when a barn was blown over by an F2 tornado that touched down near Hayes, in Stanley County. Hail, up to golf ball size accompanied the storm as well as about three inches of rain, causing some damage to crops and a farm house. The sky color in a westerly direction shortly before the tornado hit was described as a distinct shade of green. Evidence suggests that the tornado may have touched down again in northeast Sully County, destroying a barn, a chicken coop, and hay stacks on two farms. Also, precipitation generally in excess of 3 inches and locally 6 to 8 inches was accompanied by severe hail, causing damage to buildings and crops. Hail damage was heaviest in Stanley County. Wind carried away an estimated 400 tons of balled hay in Haakon County. A measured rainfall amount of 5.1 inches in less than six hours occurred in Onida, causing extensive flooding of basements, streets, and cropland. Some other rain fall amounts include 5.58 inches 4 NW of Onida, 4.50 inches 23 N of Highmore, 3.05 inches 2N of Onaka, 3.42 inches in Clear Lake, 3.11 inches in Miller, 3.02 inches in Eureka, 2.55 inches 1 NW of Faulkton, 2.40 inches in Gettysburg, 2.22 inches in Blunt, 2.20 inches at Oahe Dam, and 2.16 inches in Clark.

August 24, 1998:

A line of severe thunderstorms moved rapidly southeast across Sully, Hyde, and Hand counties during the morning hours, producing destructive winds up to 100 mph and hail up to the size of baseballs. The winds and hail damaged or destroyed a wide swath of sunflowers and corn. Four highline power poles south of Highmore on Highway 47 were snapped off. The school in Highmore had twenty screens shredded by the hail and the winds. On a farm northeast of Onida, a grain bin was blown over a distance of 200 yards.

1992: Hurricane Andrew made landfall in southern Florida at 4:30 AM on this day. The strong winds caused catastrophic damage in Florida, with Miami-Dade County cities of Florida City, Homestead, and Cutler Ridge receiving the brunt of the storm. About 63,000 homes were destroyed and over 101,000 others were damaged. This left roughly 175,000 people homeless. As many as 1.4 million people were left without electricity at the height of the storm. In the Everglades, 70,000 acres (280 km²) of trees were knocked down. Additionally, rainfall in Florida was substantial, peaking at 13.98 in (355 mm) in western Miami-Dade County. About \$25 billion in damage and 44 fatalities were reported in Florida.



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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Chance T-storms
High: 72 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 78 °F






The Work Week Outlook

Today	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				
73° 0% NW 15	76° 0% SE 7	80° 15% SE 17	80° 35% S 10	80° 35% S 8
43°	49°	58°	61°	






5 Day Outlook - Aberdeen, SD

Today	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				
70° 0% NW 21	73° 0% N 8	76° 15% SE 15	77° 40% S 12	76° 40% SE 8
45°	49°	57°	60°	

5 Day Outlook - Watertown, SD

Today	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				
79° 0% E 7	84° 0% SE 18	90° 20% SE 20	85° 45% SE 10	85° 45% E 9
48°	57°	64°	62°	

5 Day Outlook - Pierre, SD

Today	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				
75° 0% N 8	81° 0% SE 15	86° 20% SE 17	83° 35% SE 9	84° 35% SE 7
49°	56°	62°	62°	

5 Day Outlook - Mobridge, SD

Published on: 08/24/2015 at 4:09AM

Surface high pressure will continue to promote tranquil and pleasant weather over the region through Tuesday. However, by mid to late week, a system will move east into the region with a chance of showers and thunderstorms.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 69.1 at 4:43 PM

Low: 51.0 at 7:27 AM

High Gust: 34 at 2:56 AM

Precip: 0.03

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1929

Record Low: 38° in 1934

Average High: 81°F

Average Low: 55°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.88

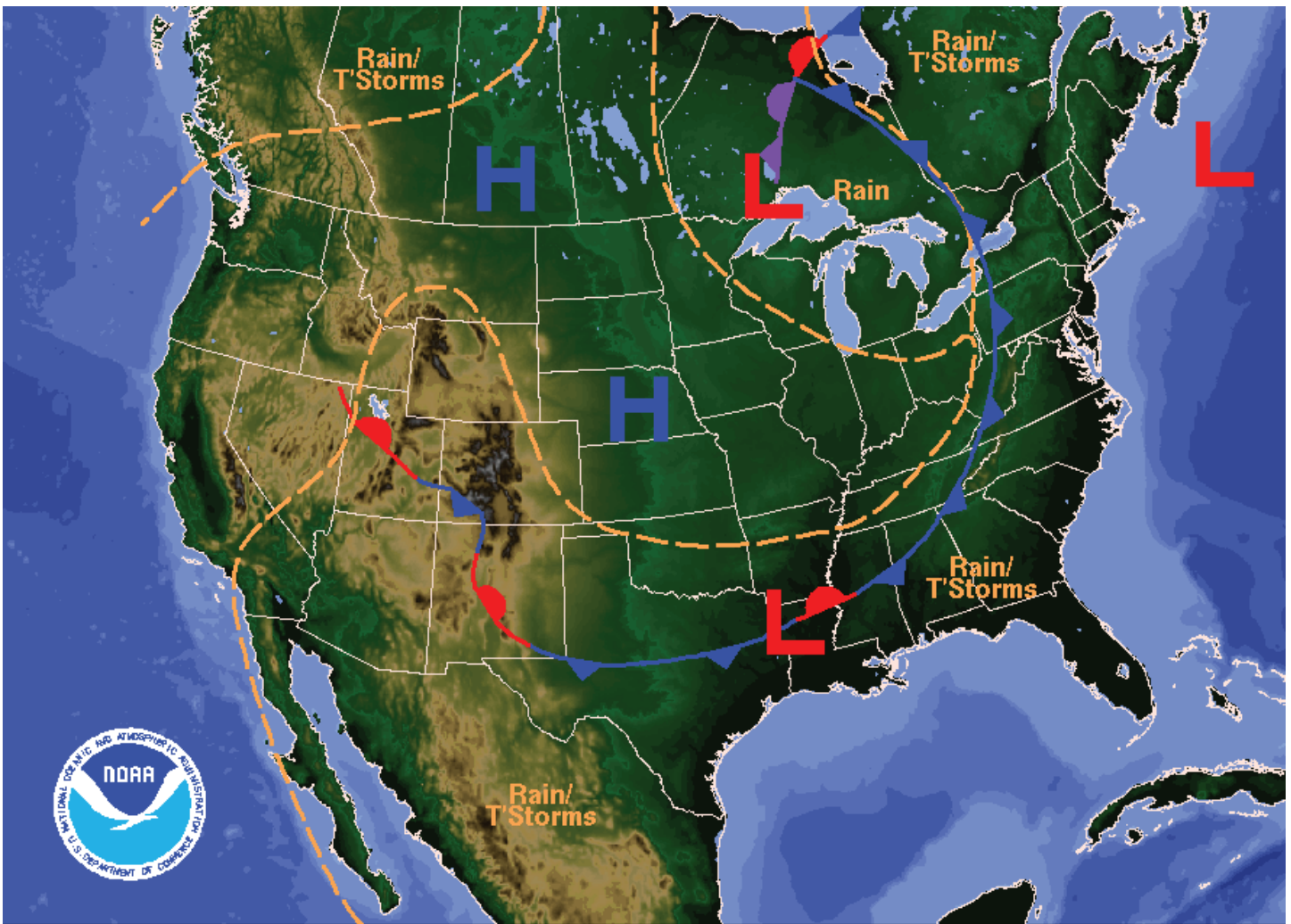
Precip to date in Aug: 4.99

Average Precip to date: 15.74

Precip Year to Date: 16.56

Sunset Tonight: 8:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:46 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Aug 24, 2015, issued 4:15 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



THE STORMS OF LIFE

Joseph Turner was standing in front of one of his paintings of a raging sea. A friend beside him asked, "How did you paint such a realistic picture of a storm at sea. It is so real."

He answered, "I was on a ship in the midst of that storm. Not only did I see it, I was there and felt it." Like that painter, Jesus felt the storms of life.

Whenever we lose a loved one, we must remember that He stood beside a grave and wept.

If ever we are a victim of poverty or lack a place of our own, let's not forget that Jesus had no place to lay His head.

Whenever we feel alone, abandoned or even neglected, we need to recall the times when His followers forsook Him and His disciples deserted Him.

Every event that God brings into our lives is one that Jesus has encountered, endured and experienced and successfully survived. Whatever God brings into our lives is temporary and will pass into the pages of history. Because He has overcome the extremes of life, we can take great comfort in the fact that He is willing to share His victories with us if we look to Him for His salvation.

Prayer: Father, You have been where we are or soon may be, so we know with certainty that we can survive. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Hebrews 2:18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

News from the Associated Press

Man arrested for vehicular homicide after Sioux Falls crash

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is in custody on several charges including vehicular homicide after a fatal crash in the city.

Police say the 25-year-old man was driving a car that collided with a motorcycle at an intersection shortly after 4 p.m. Sunday. The 56-year-old Sioux Falls resident driving the motorcycle died at the scene.

Authorities did not immediately identify the victim.

The man driving the car was arrested on charges of vehicular homicide, driving under the influence and careless driving.

Rapid City casino robbery is fifth in city in past 2 weeks

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police are investigating another armed robbery at a casino.

The holdup late Sunday morning is the fifth in the city in two weeks.

Authorities say a man entered the Chance's Casino through a back door about 11:30 a.m. Sunday, approached the counter brandishing a pistol and demanded money.

The man fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash.

3 teenagers run away from youth rehab center near Custer

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are searching for three teenagers who ran away from a youth rehabilitation center near Custer.

State Corrections Department officials say the 16-, 17- and 18-year-old males ran away from the State Treatment and Rehabilitation Academy late Sunday.

Authorities didn't identify the youths because of their age, but anyone who might know of their whereabouts is urged to contact police.

South Dakota motorists urged to be cautious during harvest

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Although fall harvest is ways off, the South Dakota State University Extension is urging motorists to be cautious while sharing the road with farm equipment.

The SDSU Extension office says most farm equipment operating on roadways is traveling at speeds between 15 to 25 mph, and the "slow moving vehicle" emblem on equipment should be an immediate warning to slow down.

The office is reminding motorists that producers operating large farm equipment are not always able to see vehicles sharing the road with them. Motorists are being urged to check for hand signals, turn signals or approaches from producers.

The SDSU Extension specialists say motorists shouldn't assume that if producers slow down and pull to the right, they are doing so to let vehicles pass.

2 SD women to receive award honoring their WWII service

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota women are set to receive an award honoring their service in the Civil Air Patrol during World War II.

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Monday will present a bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal to WWII Civil Air Patrol veterans Lois Schmidt and Pauline Hanson Brehe.

The medal is being given to members of the organization for their role in protecting the U.S. against German U-boat attacks during World War II and carrying out other wartime domestic missions.

The organization was founded on Dec. 1, 1941, six days before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Daugaard will present the recognition to the women during a ceremony in Pierre.

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Federal delegation crisscrosses state during August break

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's federal lawmakers are still discussing Planned Parenthood and the Iran nuclear deal during their August break, but at county fairs and coffee shops rather than in the halls of Congress.

The all-Republican delegation — Rep. Kristi Noem and Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds — have dozens of events scheduled from Buffalo to Parker over the congressional recess. Lawmakers say the break allows them to hear concerns from regular South Dakotans and to get feedback about where members' priorities should be when they return to Washington in September.

"It's like I'm in rehab," Rounds said, sitting in his Pierre office after a recent meeting with state officials and tribal veterans service officers. "It feels so good to be back where things are normal and common sense is found in people around you."

Rounds, the newest member of the delegation, said he's hearing from residents that they're fed up with a federal government that's bloated and unresponsive. Thune said he hears about local issues like storms and disaster relief, but both he and Noem named the Iran deal as a major topic in discussions with residents. Noem said she's also hearing about trade and tax policy.

At the Turner County Fair in Parker, 68-year-old Judy Harig followed a loudspeaker announcement to find Noem at the Republican booth. Speaking with the third-term congresswoman, Harig recounted her dismay about recently released undercover footage in which Planned Parenthood officials discuss fetal tissue from abortions being used for medical research.

The Sioux Falls resident talked about her sense the Democratic Party has shifted left over the last quarter-century and asked Noem if she ever wonders why she's in Washington and not back on her ranch.

"She said, 'That's why it's important to come back and connect with the people, and ... hear what they have to say,' so she can go back and represent better, which is wonderful to hear," Harig said.

Marlyn and Rose Waltner of Marion came to the county fair to speak with Thune and Noem. They asked Thune what concerns him most, and the three discussed Iran.

"He asked what (our concerns) were, and I felt that he had kind of hit on what was bothering me," Rose Waltner said. "We've been watching the political issues quite closely, and I think our next presidential nominee is going to be very important. It's going to be a tide-shifting moment."

"Are you out here campaigning for Trump?" Gordon Ludens, a farmer from Viborg, joked to Thune.

The state's senior senator, like Noem, has so far declined to wade into the presidential race. Rounds has endorsed former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

Noem and Thune have their own re-election campaigns to worry about, but so far only Democratic state Rep. Paula Hawks has announced a challenge to Noem. State Democratic Party Chairwoman Ann Tornberg said the party is working to run a candidate against Thune, and she said Republicans aren't listening to South Dakotans on issues such as education.

"I think their views are representative of the class that funds their campaigns, and those huge war chests that they've put together with corporate backing are indicative of the voices that they're listening to," she said.

Aside from events with the public and businesses, the three sitting lawmakers said they're enjoying time with family members during the recess. Eating pie at a diner in Murdo with his wife and father, Thune said by the time the August break is over "we'll pretty much touch down most places" in South Dakota.

Rounds said he plans to travel to coffee shops to talk to "normal people." Noem also said she plans to spend a lot of time "crisscrossing our state."

"It's one of my favorite times of the year because the reason I serve South Dakota is for the people," Noem said.

Harig, who spoke to Noem at the Turner County Fair, said she values that her representatives are accessible.

"It's nice to see them here," Harig said. "These are their people. We all are."

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. AMERICANS, BRITON WHO THWARTED TRAIN ATTACK GET FRANCE'S TOP HONOR

French President Francois Hollande presents the men with the Legion of Honor and praises them as an example of the need for action when faced with terrorism.

2. CHINESE SHARES TUMBLE, DRIVING PANIC SELLING IN ASIAN MARKETS

Stocks plunge as China's main index sinks 8.5 percent in tumultuous trading spurred by deepening fears over the slowdown in the world's second-largest economy.

3. TALKS BETWEEN THE RIVAL KOREAS DRAG ON

Seoul says that without a North Korean apology for a land mine attack that maimed two soldiers, anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts will continue.

4. WHAT'S CLINTON'S IOWA MESSAGE FOR 2016

The candidate goes hyperlocal in the state, a stylistic shift from her failed 2008 presidential bid, which began poorly with a third-place finish in the Iowa caucuses.

5. RACIAL IDENTITY OF ACTIVIST QUESTIONED

There's a long history of attacking the backgrounds of people involved in civil rights movements but experts say you don't have to be black to say that black lives matter.

6. WHY THAILAND'S BLAST PROBE IS HINDERED

The investigation into last week's explosion is hampered by broken security cameras in central Bangkok along the main suspect's getaway route.

7. WHO MOBILIZES TO SUPPORT JIMMY CARTER

As the former president undergoes treatment for cancer, residents of his hometown Plains, Georgia, hope to keep his spirits up.

8. AT LEAST 100 PEOPLE MAY SPEAK AT JAMES HOLMES' SENTENCING

The three-day hearing gives survivors a chance to share their harrowing stories with the judge, but it won't change the verdict.

9. CRYING OVER SPILLED WATER

Raising twins in California's epic drought means teaching kids about waste, an AP reporter learns.

10. SECOND CANCERS ARE ON THE RISE

Nearly 1 in 5 new cases in the U.S. now involves someone who has had the disease before.

AP News in Brief

3 Americans, Briton who thwarted train attack receive France's Legion of Honor

PARIS (AP) — Three Americans and a Briton who tackled an attacker loaded with guns and ammunition prevented carnage on the high-speed train carrying 500 passengers to Paris, France's president said Monday as he presented the men with the Legion of Honor and praised them as an example of the need for action when faced with terrorism.

President Francois Hollande said the two Americans who first tackled the gunman were soldiers, "but on Friday you were simply passengers. You behaved as soldiers but also as responsible men."

Hollande then pinned the Legion of Honor medal on U.S. Airman Spencer Stone, National Guardsman Alek Skarlatos, and their longtime friend Anthony Sadler, who subdued the gunman as he moved through the train with an assault rifle strapped to his bare chest. British businessman, Chris Norman, who also jumped into the fray, also received the medal.

The men showed "that faced with terror, we have the power to resist. You also gave a lesson in courage, in will, and thus in hope," Hollande said.

Norman, speaking in French after receiving the medal, said it was less a question of heroism than survival.

Chinese stocks suffer biggest fall since global crisis, triggering heavy losses worldwide

TOKYO (AP) — World stock markets plunged on Monday after China's main index sank 8.5 percent — its biggest drop since the early days of the global financial crisis — amid deepening fears over the health of the world's second-largest economy.

Oil prices, commodities and the currencies of many developing countries also tumbled on concerns that a sharp slowdown in China might hurt economic growth around the globe. Wall Street was expected to suffer heavy losses on the open.

The Shanghai index suffered its biggest percentage decline since February 2007, with many China-listed companies hitting their 10 percent downside limits. The benchmark closed at 3,209.91 points, meaning it has lost all of its gains for 2015, though it is still more than 40 percent above its level a year ago.

China's dimming outlook is drawing calls for more economic stimulus from Beijing, though earlier government efforts to staunch the hemorrhage appear to have done little to stabilize markets.

Asia's gloom spread to European markets, where Britain's FTSE 100 fell 2.7 percent, Germany's DAX 2.6 percent and the CAC 40 of France 2.5 percent. Dow futures were down over 2 percent while the S&P futures were 1.8 percent lower.

South Korea president strikes hard line as talks between Koreas stretch into 3rd day

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's president on Monday vowed a hard line as marathon negotiations by senior officials from the Koreas stretched into a third day in an attempt to defuse a crisis that had the rivals threatening war.

Park Geun-hye said that without a clear North Korean apology for a land mine attack that maimed two soldiers, anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts will continue. Her strong words provide a good hint at why the talks, which started Saturday evening and whose second session began Sunday afternoon and was still going 24 hours later, on Monday, have dragged on.

Both sides want to find a face-saving way to avoid an escalation that could lead to bloodshed, especially the North, which is outmatched militarily by Seoul and its ally, the United States.

But authoritarian Pyongyang must also show its people that it is standing up to bitter enemy Seoul. Pyongyang has denied involvement in the land mine explosions and rejected Seoul's report that Pyongyang launched an artillery barrage last week — so winning an apology will be difficult work. The North, for its part, demands that Seoul stop the propaganda broadcasts started in retaliation for the land mine attack.

For now, the try at diplomacy has pushed aside previous heated warnings of imminent war, but South Korea's military said North Korea has continued to prepare for a fight, moving unusual numbers of troops and submarines to the border.

Clinton's Iowa message for 2016 is less global, more local as she studies up on hometown news

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton has gone hyperlocal in Iowa.

In her many visits to the leadoff caucus state, the Democratic presidential contender has spoken about the Republican governor's efforts to close mental health institutions, mourned a murder in an Iowa City area mall, deplored the deportation of an area pastor originally from Honduras and peppered her remarks with all sorts of other regional references.

In her years as secretary of state, she had the world on her plate. Now all politics is local, as the saying goes.

The approach is a stylistic shift from Clinton's failed 2008 presidential bid, which began poorly with a third-place finish in the Iowa caucuses. Advisers say this is the product of many hours spent in small house

parties talking to residents, calls to close Iowa contacts and a clear sense she must do more to engage with Iowans intimately.

"She's really sitting down and talking to people, and I think that's why," said Andy McGuire, chairwoman of the Iowa Democratic Party. She backed Clinton in 2008 but is remaining neutral this time.

Racial identity of Black Lives Matter leader is called into question ... but does it matter?

Questions about the racial identity of a well-known activist in the "Black Lives Matter" movement have stirred controversy and drawn a blistering response. But the central question remains: Does his race matter?

Shaun King, a blogger who identifies as black and rose to prominence in the aftermath of a police shooting last summer in Ferguson, Missouri, pushed back hard against claims on conservative Internet sites that both of his parents are white and that he had exaggerated an assault he endured two decades ago while attending high school in Versailles, Kentucky.

King posted a response on his blog last week in which he called those claims lies, and said he had always known the white man listed on his birth certificate was not his biological father.

"It is horrifying to me that my most personal information, for the most nefarious reasons, has been forced out into the open and that my private past and pain have been used as jokes and fodder to discredit me and the greater movement for justice in America," King wrote. "I resent that lies have been reported as truth and that the obviously racist intentions of these attacks have been consistently downplayed at my expense and that of my family."

There's a long history of attacking the motives and backgrounds of people involved in civil rights movements — whether it's calling into question political leanings or racial identity based on skin color, something King is confronting now and former NAACP leader Walter White grappled with near the beginning of the last century.

Thailand's police chief says blast probe hindered by broken security cameras in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's police chief said Monday the investigation into last week's bomb blast has been hampered by broken security cameras in central Bangkok along the main suspect's getaway route.

Police are trying to "put pieces of the puzzle together" but have had to use their imagination to fill holes where street side security cameras were broken and unable to record his movements, said national police chief Somyot Poompanmoung.

One week after last Monday's bombing at the capital's revered Erawan Shrine, which left 20 people dead and scores injured, police appeared no closer to tracking down suspects or determining a motive for the attack.

The attack has raised concerns about safety in the capital, which attracts millions of tourists, and has left the city on edge. Police have responded to several calls about unattended bags, which turned out to be false alarms, and have tried to reassure the public and international community that Bangkok is safe.

On Monday, police said that a worker digging at a construction site found a grenade buried in the ground and a police explosives squad was sent to defuse it. Police Lt. Sakon Rungkiatpaisarn said the grenade appeared to have been buried for a while and authorities "do not think it has anything to do with (last Monday's) bombing." The grenade was found in a residential area far from the city center.

'Haven' hometown wants to keep smile on Jimmy Carter's face through cancer treatment

PLAINS, Ga. (AP) — Plains, Georgia, plans on giving back to their resident globe-trotting former president by keeping him upbeat and entertained.

Jimmy Carter and his hometown have always been intertwined, from the day he announced he would run for president and an old train depot downtown became a local campaign office. He and his wife, Rosalynn, have always kept a home there, but the 90-year-old Carter intends to spend a lot more time in the tiny town as he's treated for cancer that has spread to his brain.

The one-block business district specializes in Carter political memorabilia and peanut souvenirs. Visitors stop by after touring dozens of properties associated with the Nobel Peace Prize winner and his extended family, including Carter's boyhood farm and a gas station once run by his brother, Billy.

The Carters live just down the street, in a 1961 home they built before he entered politics. It's now encircled by an iron fence with a guard checkpoint, and locals know Secret Service agents by name, along with their snack preferences.

For Carter and former first lady Rosalynn Carter, Plains is a "haven" from their work in Atlanta and around the globe, he has said. They both were born and grew up in the area. They return here following each challenge, including his 1980 loss to Ronald Reagan and his first radiation treatment last Thursday.

Supporters of Puerto Rico statehood see opportunity as island's woes deepen

MANATI, Puerto Rico (AP) — Revelers arrived in cars sporting the American flag and wore clothes in red, white and blue as they celebrated the anniversary of Puerto Rico's pro-statehood political party with deafening salsa music and speeches.

Like many others worried about the U.S. territory's future, those rallying Thursday night in the coastal town of Manati believe that statehood can help pull it out of a nearly a decade of economic stagnation. "Puerto Rico has to become a state," insisted 63-year-old celebrant Norma Candelario.

With unemployment at 12 percent, and the public debt reaching \$72 billion, advocates for making the Caribbean island the 51st state say the economic woes are strengthening their arguments. As a state, Puerto Rico's municipalities and public utilities would no longer be prohibited from restructuring their debts through bankruptcy. It would also receive more of certain kinds of federal funding that other states get.

"The crisis has made us more visible worldwide," said Carlos Pesquera, a former Puerto Rico transportation secretary who attended the rally. "I would have preferred that the crisis not happen, but we're going to take this as an opportunity to define our status, to see it as a solution."

Puerto Ricans have been divided over their relationship to the U.S. mainland for decades. Since 1967, most voters in three referendums have favored remaining a semi-autonomous territory, which advocates say preserves the island's cultural identity and provides more local control.

Crying over spilled water: Raising twins in California drought means teaching about waste

LOS ANGELES (AP) — On a recent sweltering Saturday afternoon, I submerged my guilt and filled the bathtub halfway for my 3-year-old twins to play in.

It was their first bath in months. The early childhood rituals of spiky-haired tub photos and endless play in lukewarm bath water are foreign concepts to our two girls, who were born in 2011 at the beginning of an epic drought in California that shows no sign of abating.

I told them this was a treat — an exception to the five-minute shower rule strictly enforced by my husband — and reveled in their delight as they pretended to be mermaids, floated and splashed each other with glee. Then, my husband got home and they ratted me out.

"Daddy! Daddy!" one shouted. "Mommy says it's a special day and we can play mermaids, but really she's just wasting water and killing fish!"

I was about to remind her no one likes a tattle tale, but then I stopped.

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Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Monday, August 24, the 236th day of 2015. There are 129 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 24, A.D. 79, long-dormant Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash; an estimated 20,000 people died.

On this date:

In 1572, the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre of French Protestants at the hands of Catholics began in Paris.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces invaded Washington D.C., setting fire to the Capitol (which was still under construction) and the White House, as well as other public buildings.

In 1821, the Treaty of Cordoba was signed, granting independence to Mexico from Spanish rule.

In 1912, Congress passed a measure creating the Alaska Territory. Congress approved legislation establishing Parcel Post delivery by the U.S. Post Office Department, slated to begin on January 1, 1913.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart embarked on a 19-hour flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, making her the first woman to fly solo, non-stop, from coast to coast.

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty came into force.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Communist Control Act, outlawing the Communist Party in the United States.

In 1964, the first Roman Catholic Mass celebrated in English took place at Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis.

In 1970, an explosives-laden van left by anti-war extremists blew up outside the University of Wisconsin's Sterling Hall in Madison, killing 33-year-old researcher Robert Fassnacht.

In 1989, Baseball Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti (juh-MAH'-tee) banned Pete Rose from the game for betting on his own team, the Cincinnati Reds.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew smashed into Florida, causing \$30 billion in damage; 43 U.S. deaths were blamed on the storm.

In 2006, the International Astronomical Union declared that Pluto was no longer a planet, demoting it to the status of a "dwarf planet."

Ten years ago: Tropical Depression 12 strengthened into Tropical Storm Katrina over the central Bahamas. A federal commission voted against closing the New London submarine base in Groton, Connecticut, and the Portsmouth shipyard in Kittery, Maine. Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson apologized for calling for the assassination of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez (OO'-goh CHAH'-vez).

Five years ago: A Chinese passenger jet broke apart and burst into flames as it hit the runway, killing 42 people and injuring 54 others. A suicide bomber and gunmen attacked a hotel near Somalia's presidential palace; at least 32 people were killed, along with two militants. In Florida, political newcomer Rick Scott beat Bill McCollum for the GOP gubernatorial nomination. (Scott went on to win election in November, narrowly defeating Alex Sink.)

One year ago: A magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck Northern California, causing extensive damage in Napa and the surrounding area. Peter Theo Curtis, an American freelance journalist kidnapped and held hostage for nearly two years by an al-Qaida-linked group in Syria, was released less than a week after the horrific execution of American journalist James Foley by Islamic militants. South Korea won the Little League World Series championship game, defeating Chicago 8-4 in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Actor and Oscar-winning director Lord Richard Attenborough died in London five days before his 91st birthday. At the MTV Video Music Awards, Miley Cyrus won Video of the Year for "Wrecking Ball"; Beyonce accepted the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award.

Today's Birthdays: Former Education Secretary Shirley Hufstедler is 90. Actor Kenny Baker ("Star Wars") is 81. Composer-musician Mason Williams is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marshall Thompson (The Chi-Lites) is 73. Rock musician Ken Hensley is 70. Actress Anne Archer is 68. Actor Joe Regalbuto is 66. Actor Kevin Dunn is 60. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is 60. Actor-writer Stephen Fry is 58. Actor Steve

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Guttenberg is 57. Baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. is 55. Actor Jared Harris is 54. Talk show host Craig Kilborn is 53. CBS News correspondent Major Garrett is 53. Rock singer John Bush is 52. Actress Marlee Matlin is 50. Basketball Hall of Famer Reggie Miller is 50. Broadcast journalist David Gregory is 45. Country singer Kristyn Osborn (SHeDaisy) is 45. Movie director Ava DuVernay (Film: "Selma") is 43. Actor-comedian Dave Chappelle is 42. Actor James D'Arcy is 42. Actor Carmine Giovinazzo is 42. Actor Alex O'Loughlin is 39. Actress Beth Riesgraf is 37. Actor Chad Michael Murray is 34. Christian rock musician Jeffrey Gilbert (Kutless) is 32. Singer Mika is 32. Actor Blake Berris is 31. Actor Rupert Grint ("Harry Potter" films) is 27.

Thought for Today: "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage." - Lao Tzu, Chinese philosopher (born and died in the 6th century, B.C.E.).