

Groton Daily Independent

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Homecoming Theme for 2015-2016 is Holidays.

MS/HS Daily Themes

- Monday--Opposite Gender Day
- Tuesday--Toga Day
- Wednesday--Tacky Tourist Day
- Thursday--Color Day (Seniors-black, Juniors-white, Sophomores-blue, Freshmen-yellow, 8th grade-red, 7th grade-green, 6th grade-purple, Staff-pink)
- Friday--Spirit Day

The daily themes for the elementary school will be released soon.

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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Monday, September 14

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, fruit, links, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Super nachos, sweet potato tots, romaine salad, bread sticks, fruit.

Senior Menu: Chicken rice casserole, green beans, spinach salad, chocolate pudding with bananas, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Gerald & Ann Rix

Birthdays: Bob Wehde • Bonnie Larson • Ryan Groeblichhoff

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

10:00am: Boys golf at Madison

4:00pm: Cross Country at Webster

5:00pm: JV Football vs. Redfield-Doland at Doland

7:30pm: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 15

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Mini corn dogs, baked beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, pumpkin bar with topping or carrot cake.

Birthday: Mason Madsen

10:00am: Boys golf at Redfield Golf Course

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

5:00pm: Volleyball hosts Mobridge-Pollock (JV/C Match at 5 pm, followed by varsity)

Wednesday, September 16

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Pizza cruncher, corn, romaine salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ham loaf, sweet potatoes, peas, Acini DePepi fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: • Camille Sippel • Bonnie Nierman

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



Legion Auxiliary News

Michelle Erickson, newly elected president of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #39, Groton, opened the September meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 with a prayer recited by the chaplain. The Pledge of Allegiance and Auxiliary Anthem were recited in unison. Fourteen members were and minutes of the previous meeting held June 1st were read and approved as read. Treasurers report was given and filed.

Report was given on the annual salad buffet held last July. Approximately 140 guests attended, 38 salads were given and 12 auxiliary members worked. Luncheon committee was very satisfied with the results and thanks ever one who helped make it a success. It was suggested to ask the auxiliary to compile a list of all the salads and include a recipe for each salad. It was moved and seconded to continue paying the same amount on our mandatory obligations, Memberships quota for this year is 127. Last years it was 101, for an increase of 26 members.

New business includes making arrangements for Christmas gifts for our veterans. It was decided to again send money to the home office to be distributed as they see necessary.

Girls State was discussed. Girls attending this year included Allison Weber, Lily Cutler, and Katie Miller from Groton and Kiernan McCranie from Claremont and Kaitlyn Rinngenberg from Columbia, It was decided to set guidelines for the girls to follow avoiding any unforeseen problems.

Gold Star Mothers Day is September 29 and a gift will be sent to Lois Pasch, our Gold Star Mother.

The auxiliary will again send dictionaries to the grade school. Tami is in charge.

Pam Hanson, Golden Living Center has requested help from the auxiliary in remembering Veterans of Foreign Wars Days by helping with bingo on that day, September 17 and furnishing lunch. Rose and Connie will be in charge.

The Fall District Meeting for Area IV will be held Saturday, September 12, 2015 with Groton Post #39 as hosts

for the evening and Terry Hanson, Arlington, newly elected commander will be the speaker. The Auxiliary will meet at the Groton Community Center chaired by our district president, Jackie Omland, who will present the new department president, Jane Benzel, giving a power-point presentation.

Wendy Cooper served lunch before the meeting began and chaplain read the closing Prayer for Peace. Next meeting will be October 5, 2015, Marjorie Overacker will serve snacks.

Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915**

**Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal



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GRAND OPENING



Thursday, Sept. 17, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

at our new Downtown Location, 111 N Main

Sign up for door prizes

605/397-FEED (3333)

Fourth annual Ladies Night Out

Monday
September 14, 2015

Social 6:00 PM
Painting 7:00 PM

OLIVE GROVE GOLF COURSE

Wine tasting
featuring With
the Wind Vineyard
and light appetizers.

Featuring

Cocktails & Canvas

\$50

Limited tickets
available at Olde
Bank Floral and
Olive Grove Golf
Course

Bowlers Needed!

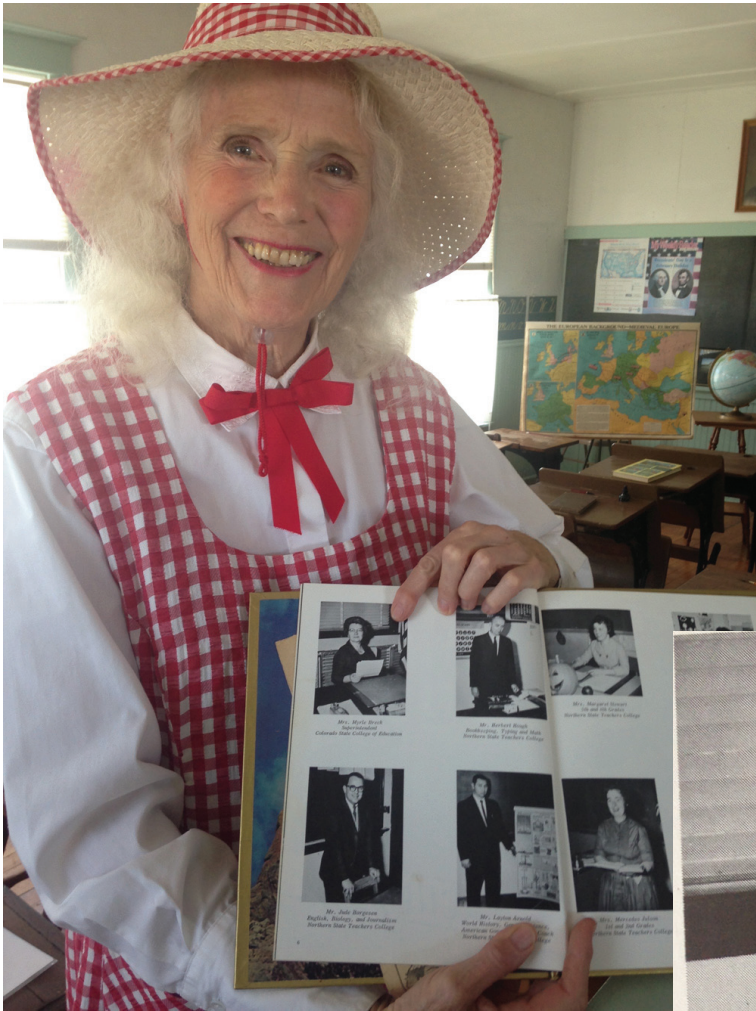
The Groton Coffee Cup League and the Conde National League are looking for regular bowlers and subs for the 2015-16 year. The coffee cup league is an afternoon ladies league that bowls on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00pm. The conde national league is a mixed league that bowls on Monday nights at 7:30pm.

We start on September 14th and 15th and go through March.

You don't have to be good, you just need to want to have fun.

Please contact Vickie Kramp at 382-7293 or leave your name and contact number at Jungle Lanes.

James Valley Threshing Show



Betty Breck was one of the supervisors of the one-room school house on the James Valley Threshing Show grounds in Andover. She is pictured showing a photo of her mom, Myrle Breck, who was the first female city superintendent in the state. She was the superintendent at the Andover School.



*Mrs. Myrle Breck
Superintendent
Colorado State College of Education*

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Donna Anderson was busy as she oversaw the quilting building on the James Valley Threshing grounds in Andover.



Kolton Antonsen, Groton, gave it his best in the youth tractor pull contest.

Jeremiah Hurst, Andover, gets the train set moving at the James Valley Threshing Show. The train set is owned by Jordan Schmig of Andover.



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Two threshing units were in action Sunday afternoon at the parade at the James Valley Threshing Show. Below left, Gilbert Hinkelman, helps with the throwing of the wheat onto the conveyor belt.

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The James Valley Tractor Club gave away a tractor at the James Valley Threshing Show. Matthew Bogue of Beresford was the lucky winner of the tractor.



Philip Overby, Brentford, shows off his newly purchased 1910 Horizontal IHC 6HP screen water cooled engine at the Threshing Show.

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It has been a few years since a blacksmith has been at the James Valley Threshing Show. This year, Michael Quade, Wilmot, was busy making things at the show. He has been a blacksmith for over 30 years.

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The 40 minute parade was full of tractors, steam engines and antique cars. Gary and Linda Anderson are pictured in the right leading the parade as honorary members.



Today in Weather History

September 14, 1993: An early freeze and frost hit the state of South Dakota on the 14th and 15th. On the morning of the 14th some low temperatures included 24 degrees at Rapid City, 19 degrees at Camp Crook and Porcupine, and 31 degrees at Pierre. The 24 degree low at Rapid City broke the old record for the date by 10 degrees and was the earliest in the season it has ever been that cold. The air mass had moderated some by the time it hit eastern South Dakota early on the 15th. Some low temperatures on the 15th included, 28 degrees at Brookings, 30 degrees at Watertown, and 32 at Sioux Falls.

1928: A violent tornado, estimated at F4 intensity with winds over 200 mph, tore across Rockford, Illinois. The tornado first touched down 8 miles south-southwest of Rockford, and moved across the southeast part of the city. The tornado was on the ground for 25 miles with a width varying from 200 to 500 feet. A total of 14 people were killed, with around 100 injuries reported in Rockford alone. Two hundred buildings were damaged or destroyed.

1937 - The mercury soared to 92 degrees at Seattle, WA, a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1944 - A very destructive hurricane swept across Cape Hatteras and Chesapeake Bay, side swiped New Jersey and Long Island, and crossed southeastern Massachusetts. The hurricane killed more than four hundred persons, mainly at sea. The hurricane destroyed the Atlantic City NJ boardwalk. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - The temperature at Fremont, OR, dipped to 2 above zero to equal the state record for September set on the 24th in 1926. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Barrow, AK, received 5.1 inches of snow, a record for September. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather from Minnesota to Texas. Thunderstorms in Iowa produced baseball size hail at Laporte City, and 80 mph winds at Laurens. Hail caused more than ten million dollars damage to crops in Iowa. Thunderstorms in Missouri produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Missouri City and Kansas City. A thunderstorm in Texas deluged the town of Fairlie with two inches of rain in just two hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Hurricane Gilbert made the first of its two landfalls on Mexico, producing 170 mph winds at Cozumel. (The Weather Channel)








1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Texas panhandle during the evening hours. One thunderstorm spawned a strong (F-2) tornado in the southwest part of Amarillo, and deluged the area with five inches of rain. The heavy rain left roads under as much as five feet of water, and left Lawrence Lake a mile out of its banks. Hurricane Gilbert lost some of its punch crossing the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Its maximum winds diminished to 120 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the south central U.S. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Raton NM with a reading of 30 degrees. The afternoon high of 59 degrees at Topeka KS marked their third straight record cool maximum temperature. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the Pacific Northwest. Seattle WA reported a record eight days in a row of 80 degree weather in September. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2008: Hurricane Ike became extratropical on this day. The St. Louis Metropolitan Area experienced hurricane conditions, with Ike's remnants inflicting severe damage to homes. Several areas in Illinois and Indiana, already flooded by the frontal boundary to the north, saw significant additional rainfall. Due to flooding in Chicago, a state of emergency was declared for Cook County due to flooding of the Des Plaines River. Hurricane-force wind gusts were reported to the east of the center across parts of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania with significant wind damage including structural damage to buildings and trees.

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Clear and Breezy then Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 84 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 82 °F



Warm Temperatures Today & Tuesday

Follow us on *Social Media*

Issued: September 14, 2015

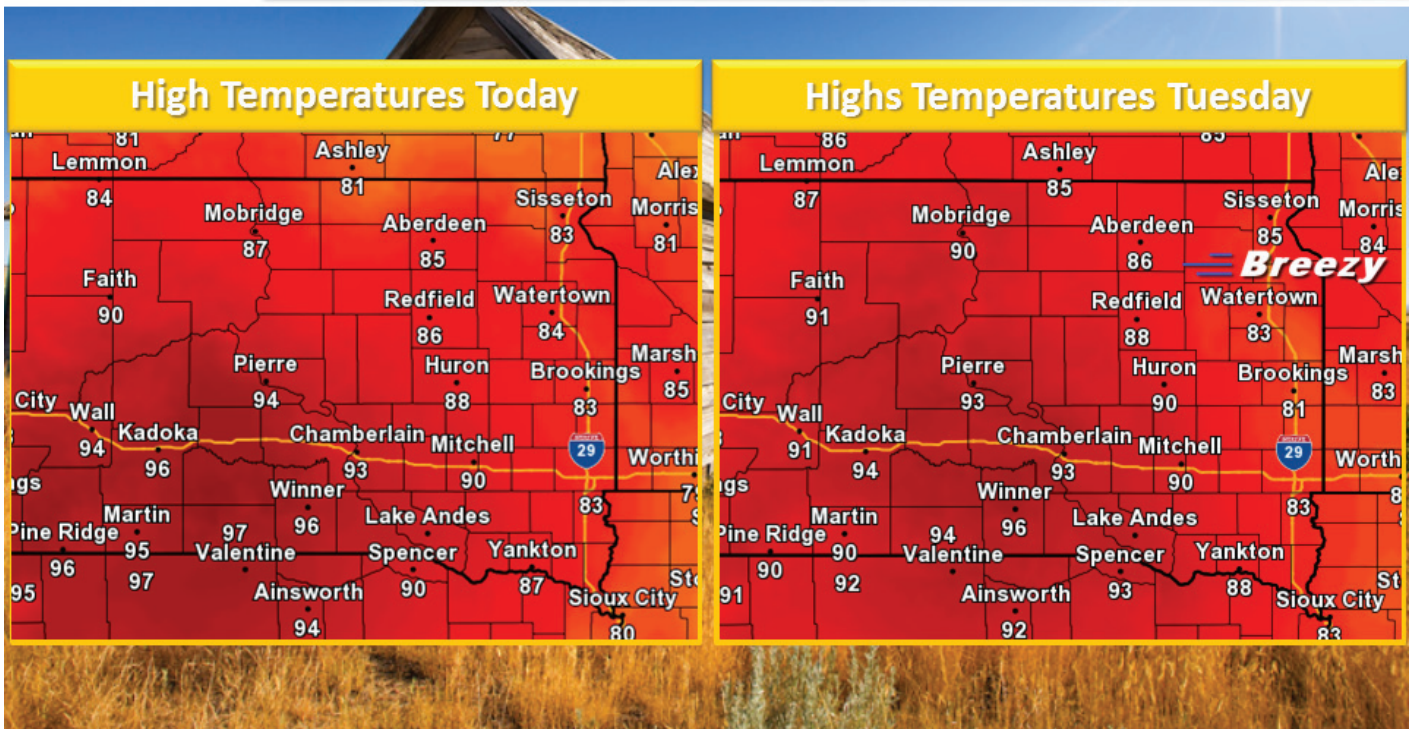
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 09/14/2015 at 4:41AM

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Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1948

Record Low: 26° in 1949

Average High: 73°F

Average Low: 47°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 1.05

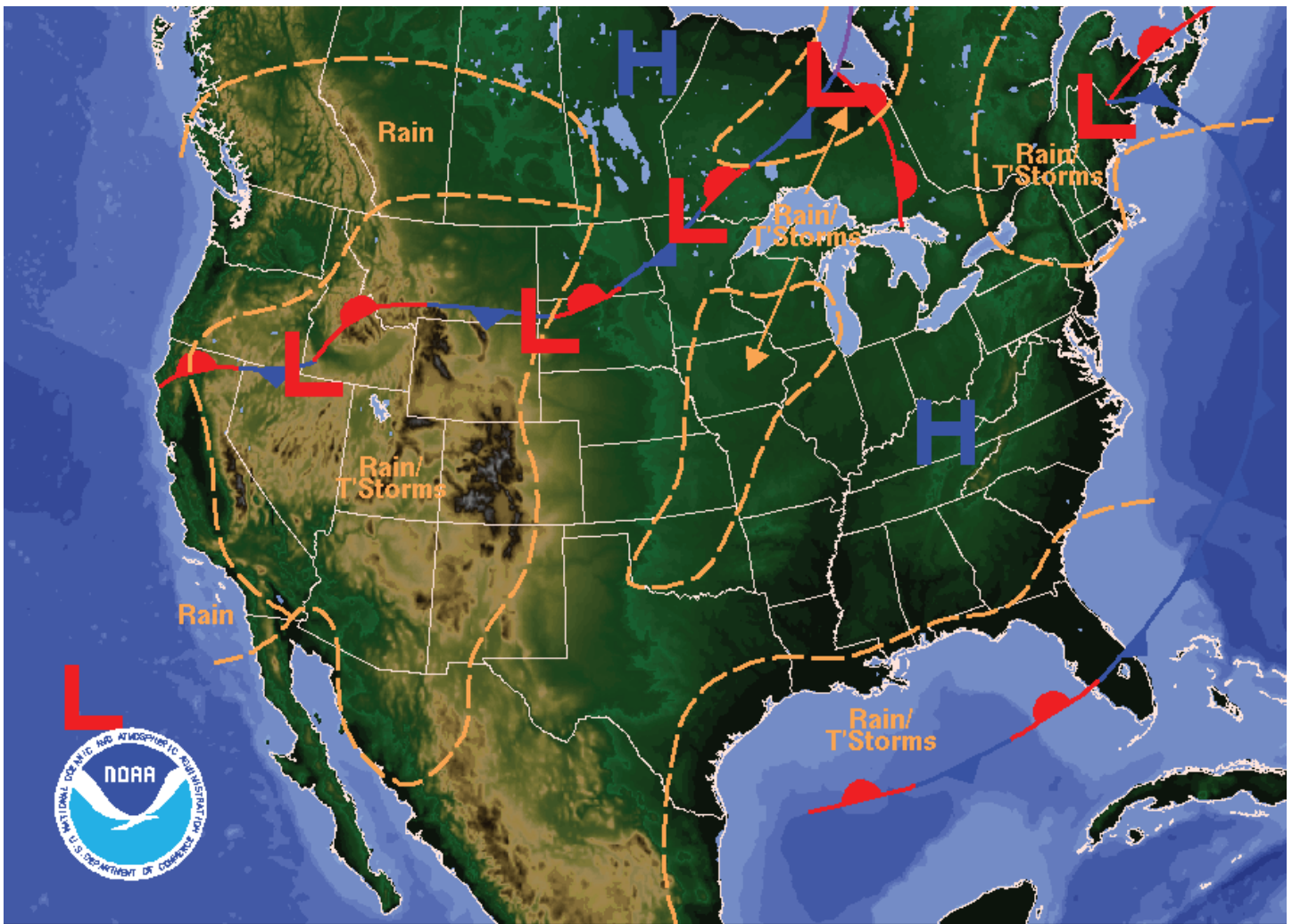
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.16

Average Precip to date: 17.34

Precip Year to Date: 16.96

Sunset Tonight: 7:47 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:11 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Sep 14, 2015, issued 4:21 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



MOP, PLEASE

A fierce storm was raging. It was dark and cold, and Jim's mother was busy cleaning the kitchen. Nearing the end of her work, she said, "Please go outside and get me the mop, would you?"

"But Mom," he pleaded, "I'm afraid of the dark."

"Don't be afraid, son," she said. "Jesus is there to help you."

He opened the door, peered into the darkness, stuck one hand outside and said, "Jesus, would you please hand me the mop?" Is that His responsibility?

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul said, "I can do everything with the help of Christ." Most of us wonder what he meant by "everything." So what did he mean?

As we live in Christ, with Christ, through Christ and for Christ, we can do everything through Christ as long as we are doing His will. His power is always available and His strength is certainly sufficient to meet, face and overcome any challenge that may confront us. But we must abide in His Word, be obedient to His teachings, and follow the directions He gives in His Word.

Prayer: Father, we know that You will never leave us nor forsake us as long as we are faithful to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota man, Missouri woman win Sioux Falls Marathon

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Runners from South Dakota and Missouri took top honors at the Sioux Falls Marathon.

Mitchell resident and Sioux Falls native Thomas Madut won the men's race Sunday with a time of just under 2 hours and 39 minutes. He also won the city's inaugural marathon in 2010.

Hellois Scheeres, of Moberly, Missouri, won the women's race with a time of just over 3 hours and 22 minutes.

The event also included a half marathon and attracted thousands of runners. It raises money for the Children's Miracle Network and Sanford Children's Hospital.

Patrol identifies Rockerville man killed in weekend crash

FAULKTON, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has identified a Rockerville man who died in a weekend crash in Faulk County.

Authorities say 53-year-old Randall Carleton was driving a car that crossed the center line on U.S. Highway 212 and collided head-on with a pickup truck. The crash happened 2 miles west of Faulkton at about 4:40 p.m. Saturday.

The patrol says the driver of the pickup suffered injuries that were serious but not life-threatening. A passenger in the truck suffered minor injuries.

SD man accused of stabbing woman gets 1 year in prison

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of stabbing a woman on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation has been sentenced to one year in prison.

The 37-year-old Michael Archambault was also ordered to spend on year on supervised release. The Eagle Butte man pleaded guilty in June to assault resulting in substantial bodily injury to an intimate partner.

Acting U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says the conviction stems from an incident on Aug. 2, 2014 in which Archambault got into an argument with the woman and stabbed her in one arm.

Archambault is expected to surrender to federal authorities Wednesday to begin serving his sentence.

South Dakota governor recognizes POWs, MIAs this week

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed this week as POW/MIA Recognition Week in South Dakota and is asking residents to honor men and women who fought bravely for the nation's freedoms.

Daugaard says the week is designated to remember and recognize the sacrifices endured by those members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war or remain missing in action. The declaration came at the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

State Veterans Affairs Secretary Larry Zimmerman says South Dakotans should set aside time to honor the POW/MIAs who fought to protect the country's freedoms and lost theirs, as well as remember those engaged in the current struggle to guard the American way of life for future generations.

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Comets return: Football, pride back in town after 27 years

SHARON COHEN, AP National Writer

ALEXANDER, N.D. (AP) — As a blanket of gray clouds rolls over the prairie, the grunts of scrimmage, the shrill chirp of the referee's whistle and cheers from the crowd fill the Saturday afternoon air. This is how a small town turns a page in history.

After 27 years, football is back in Alexander. The Comets have returned.

The first high school football game here in a generation comes thanks to the oil boom that's reversed the fortunes of this tiny school. Enrollment is up after years of decline. And 13 young men in cardinal red, gray and white — some recent North Dakota arrivals — are new celebrities in this rejuvenated town.

"High school sports — that's what people live and breathe for in small-town North Dakota," says Jerry Hatter, Alexander's mayor. "It brings back a sense of pride to the community. ... To see football again in our own little town ... I think it's just neater than hell."

Alexander's return to the gridiron is a story of revival and resilience — for the school and the latest Comets team.

Like many rural schools, Alexander has struggled to keep its doors open. Enrollment from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade dropped to just 41 in 2006-2007. The Bakken oil bonanza changed all that, luring new workers and their children to the area. The school, where all grades attend in a single building, now has 210 students, a number projected to grow. But the Class of 2016 — with just four members — is still small enough to fit at a card table.

Now that football is back, there's buzz all around town. Old-timers are reminiscing about their glory days. The new Comets, whose coach is also an oil worker, are bracing for a tough season. And most everyone else knows where they'll spend Saturday afternoons this fall.

"Having a football team to rally around strengthens the community," says Leslie Bieber, Alexander's superintendent, who spearheaded efforts to rebuild the team. "It allows us to have our identity again."

A lot of townsfolk helped make it happen. Last May, a few hundred people gathered at a semi-formal ball at the firehouse and, on a single night, raised more than \$50,000 for jerseys, helmets and other equipment. Some of that money also will go to the girls and boys basketball and girls volleyball teams that are resuming after 11 years.

The official football launch came on the first Saturday in September as Alexander celebrated Old Settlers' Day for the 70th year with a parade along Elk Street, past the post office, the Hard Ride Saloon, the Lions Burger Fry grill and the Ragged Butte Spring that was a watering hole for cattle in pioneer days.

Horse-drawn open wagons led the way, followed by a clown in a miniature yellow car, vintage autos and fire department vehicles. Then came the floats with the Class of '65, marking its 50th anniversary, and after their long absences, the girls' volleyball team and the Comets, who tossed candy to kids in the crowd.

Taking it all in, Jim Jacobson recalled how Comets football is in his family's DNA. His father, Garvin, was plucked from the wheat fields when he was 15 to play in the first game, around 1925. Jim followed, starting in the late 1950s, and his son, Todd, played the last season in 1987. Now his grandson, Dayden Rafferty, is wearing the uniform.

"Family has been here since '05 and we're still a part of the community," Jacobson says proudly. "Having a team that's your own is something special. We've been missing that for a long time."

Folks who'd been gone for decades began arriving hours before the game. Some were former Comets with weathered faces, silver hair and flawless memories of their gridiron exploits. Other people traveled from South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming for the momentous occasion.

"I thought, 'Why all the hype?'" says Margaret Bottke, class of '56, who made the nearly 600-mile drive from Missoula, Montana. "Now I understand. ... What else would hold a small community like this together?"

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It's church on Sunday and games the rest of the week."

Hundreds of fans, some wearing cowboy hats and boots, others in Comets t-shirts and sweatshirts, huddled in the bleachers or clustered along the sidelines as the game got underway. Others sat on the back of pickups or remained behind the wheel, honking persistently when Alexander scored.

Julie Riggs, who painted a red "25" on her left cheek for the jersey number of her son, Tyler Hayden, says being a Comet provides life lessons. "One of the things these kids learn is there's something bigger than themselves," she said between cheers.

Coach Kevin Clausen has a similar message for his squad: "We're all in it together. There's not one person more important than the other. ...We represent the school, the community, everybody that's ever played here."

The Comets play six-man football, and since North Dakota doesn't have that division, its competitors are Montana schools.

This year's squad is a collection of homegrown kids and transplants from states including Florida, California, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Many have never played football. Several have endured hard times.

Nick Armour, the 16-year-old quarterback who also is a saddle bronco rider, suffered a double tragedy in January. He lost his 18-year-old brother, Brady, and best buddy, Nathan Sims, 16, when they were killed in a car accident.

He and Sims were looking forward to being teammates. "I sure would like to have a really good season for him," he says.

Ryan Bergstrom, 16, a Florida native, normally would work after school to ease the financial load for his mother, who manages a man camp for oil workers. This fall, he says, she told him to pursue his football dream. He's committed to the Comets.

"It's a brotherhood like no other," he says.

Jack Heen, 14, the youngest varsity player, is playing with a heart condition, but has the approval of his doctor and the school nurse, who happens to be his mother. "Life's a lot better when I'm playing sports," he says.

And there's Jay Morgan, 18, the only senior, who arrived this spring from California eager to join the team, though basketball is his true passion. "I love the town and I'm pretty sure I can get the town to love me," he says.

Morgan's plans were almost derailed when his mother needed him to work to help make ends meet. When he told school officials he might have to quit, the teachers, coach and others rallied — with his mother's OK — to help with the bills for the rest of the season.

"When I say we are a family, we ARE a family," Bieber says, growing tearful at times as she talks about the team's return. "Our students are not just our students. They're our kids. They would do it for anyone if he's an athlete or not."

As it turned out, Morgan was a fan favorite. He scored all three Comets' touchdowns.

Unfortunately, the team's first game back was a rout — 65 to 18 — by the much larger Grass Range/Winnett High School team from Montana. But the crowd didn't seem discouraged.

Bruised but unbowed, the Comets walked off the field to shouts of "Good job, you guys! We love you!"

And there was a rousing cheer:

"That's our team and we couldn't be prouder.

"If you don't believe us, we'll yell a little louder!"

Townfolk hope this fall ritual is here to stay. One encouraging sign: A school addition is being built and enrollment is expected to surpass 360 in three years.

Jacobson, who wore his Comets jersey long ago, says it'll take time to develop a strong team.

"They're going to take their lumps ... but they're going to learn and get better," he says. "And they've got to realize the community is always behind them."

Bergstrom, who plays both running back and linebacker, took the shellacking in stride.

"This is the first game in 30 or so years, and we all really tried our best, tried our hardest," he said, "... so even though we lost today it was still a win in the end."

Homicide investigation continues into Clay County death

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement officials in Clay County are continuing their homicide investigation into the drowning death of a 29-year-old woman from Sioux City, Iowa.

Clay County Sheriff Andy Howe said his department still talks every day about the case of Alicia Hummel, who was found dead June 1 in the Missouri River near the boat dock at Myron Grove. He said the case remains active and hasn't gone cold, but he encourages people with information to come forward, even if they believe the department has already heard about it.

"The leads still come in. Some of them are repeats, which is fine," Howe told The Equalizer in Vermillion. "I don't want anybody to assume that we know what they've heard. If there's talk in town, I certainly would hope that people would let us know and not assume that we already know that information."

An autopsy determined that her cause of death was drowning, but the body also had blunt force trauma to the head and incision wounds to the neck.

Howe said the sheriff's department would rather receive too much information regarding the case than not enough.

"There might be some information that everybody is chatting about and that people think that we've already followed up on, which is why I don't mind if people call, even with something that we already know about," he said. "It's not going to bog us down; it's not going to take up any extra time to check off a lead that we've already followed up on."

Howe said authorities haven't identified a specific suspect yet, but they are "paying a lot of attention" to several people as potential suspects.

"We're just trying to piece a lot of stuff together," he said. "We've got a lot of data that we need to spend time with."

Law enforcement authorities are working to find a source of funding for a reward.

The state's Department of Criminal Investigation is assisting the sheriff's department in processing data. The Vermillion Police Department also is helping out in the investigation.

Man accused of killing Adrian Peterson's son to stand trial

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of killing the 2-year-old son of Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson two years ago is set to stand trial in South Dakota.

Joseph Patterson pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder and other charges in the 2013 death of Tyrese Robert Ruffin, who was the son of his girlfriend and Peterson. Opening statements are scheduled to begin Tuesday in Canton, about 20 miles southeast of Sioux Falls.

Here's a closer look at the case:

OCTOBER 2013 INCIDENT

Investigators allege that Patterson assaulted Tyrese on Oct. 9, 2013, while the two were alone in a Sioux Falls apartment. An autopsy concluded that the boy's head sustained four blows, causing his brain to bleed, and doctors determined that the injuries could not have been accidental.

Patterson, 29, has denied that he hurt the boy. He said Tyrese choked on a strawberry fruit snack and that he called 911 to report that the toddler wasn't breathing. Tyrese was taken to a hospital and died two days later.

Peterson said he learned that Tyrese was his son only a couple of months before his death. The NFL star said he had been planning to meet the boy, and he rushed to Sioux Falls when he heard Tyrese was hospitalized. Peterson is not expected to attend the trial.

ROAD TO TRIAL

Patterson was freed on a \$750,000 bond, but it was revoked when he was arrested on aggravated assault and kidnapping charges in an alleged attack on Tyrese's mother, Ashley Doochen, in June 2014.

Authorities say Patterson went to Doochen's apartment, twice choked her and once caused her to become unconscious. She eventually was able to call a relative, and her parents contacted police. Prosecutors say

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Patterson held Doohen at the apartment for more than an hour and injured her.

Patterson was released on bond again after the new charges were filed but his bond was revoked in January because authorities say he violated the terms by harassing Doohen over the phone.

WHAT JURORS WILL HEAR

Doohen, police officers and investigators, an emergency dispatcher and medical experts are among the people expected to testify.

Court records show that the defense team intends to dispute the state's theory that Tyrese died from abusive head trauma.

Defense attorney Timothy Rensch didn't respond to phone messages seeking comment about the case, but he has said in court that evidence at the apartment where the incident occurred supports Patterson's version of events.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

Patterson faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison if convicted of second-degree murder, the most serious charge. He still will have to face another trial for the alleged attack against Doohen.

South Dakota bee operation gets more income from pollination

BRUCE, S.D. (AP) — It might be true that you can catch more flies with honey, but an eastern South Dakota beekeeper's operation makes more profit off of pollinating crops than producing the sweet substance.

Bruce-based Adee Honey gets more than half of its income from pollinating crops in South Dakota and elsewhere, the Tri-State Neighbor (<http://bit.ly/1Q643TJ>) reported. During the winter, the bees are used to pollinate almonds in Southern California and apples in Washington state.

Bret Adee, who runs the pollination side of the operation, serves on the National Honey Bee Advisory Board, reviewing studies coming out of universities and company research nationwide. He maintains a hefty file of papers and clippings showings the benefits of bees.

Much of Adee's collection backs up his belief that pollination is the best way to improve crop yields.

"People think, 'Oh, bees — they make your honey.' They also make your crop," he said.

A paper published in Brazil about 10 years ago shows that bees significantly increase yields for soybeans, even though the crop doesn't need bees to pollinate. Seed numbers were 50 percent higher where the bees pollinated the soybeans, but the seeds weren't as heavy, according to the study.

Similar studies in Canada and Australia also have found that seeds can boost the yield of crops.

In North Dakota and Nebraska, trials have shown that bees increased seed production for sunflowers, and that head moss was less of a threat.

"It can be a win, win, win," Adee said.

Adee is the third generation in his family to work with honey. The business began in Kansas with six colonies of bees, but his father, Richard Adee, moved it to South Dakota after learning that the state with its abundant sweet clover was a good place to raise bees. His business now includes his two sons, his daughter and 80 employees.

South Dakota is the country's second producer of honey, behind North Dakota, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In 2012, South Dakota produced 17 million pounds of honey.

Some SD hunting licenses can now be carried on smartphones

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Hunters, anglers and trappers in South Dakota now have an additional option to carry their licenses.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department is debuting an option that allows people to have their small game, fishing or trapping license scanned directly from their smartphone.

Wildlife officials say people logging into their account through the department's online licensing system will notice that their small game, fishing or trapping license has a bar code in the upper right hand corner. The bar code will allow state conservation officers to scan the license on smartphones.

Hard copies of those licenses are still accepted.

The new system does not apply to federal waterfowl stamps, tags and licenses mailed from the department's licensing office.

Feds: Sage grouse face decline if wildfires can't be stopped

KEITH RIDLER, Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — If increasingly destructive wildfires in the Great Basin can't be stopped, the sage grouse population will be cut in half over the next three decades, scientists say.

A report released Thursday by the U.S. Geological Survey comes just ahead of a court-ordered Sept. 30 deadline faced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to decide whether sage grouse need protection under the Endangered Species Act. Experts say such a listing could damage Western states' economies.

"The sagebrush steppe and sagebrush ecosystem are in trouble," said Matt Brooks, a fire ecologist with the USGS and one of the report's authors.

The study also identified potential ways to avert sage grouse declines by classifying areas for their resilience to disturbance and resistance to invasive species such as cheatgrass, and then applying suitable strategies. Public land managers have already been doing that, but the USGS report could fine tune those efforts.

"It adds to the science that managers, and especially fire managers, can use," said John Freemuth, a Boise State University professor and public lands expert. He said the report could factor into a sage grouse listing decision.

"That's an indication that in the future (managers) will apply resources more effectively to protect the habitat," he said.

The report is also in line with an order by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in January calling for a new wildfire-fighting strategy using a "science-based" approach to protect wide swaths of the intermountain West sagebrush country that supports cattle ranching and struggling sage grouse.

Looming through much of the USGS report is cheatgrass, an invasive, fire-prone species that wipes out sagebrush ecosystems with wildfire as its main weapon.

"Management of cheatgrass is definitely a key," Brooks said.

The study that examined 30 years of data up to 2013 found that burned areas near sage grouse breeding grounds nullified population growth that would normally occur after years with high precipitation. The study also looked ahead 30 years at projected wildfires and recovery rates of burned areas and predicted long-term population declines in the study area that included Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Oregon and California.

"Habitat degradation within the Great Basin ecoregion of the Intermountain West of North America is a contemporary example of how disturbance is driving rapid changes in ecosystem structure and function across enormous spatial scales," the report said.

The 43-page study didn't include a 436-square-mile wildfire in southwest Idaho in August that destroyed 297 square miles of sage grouse habitat, 83 square miles of that considered priority habitat that contained breeding grounds, called leks.

Rehabilitation efforts drew a high-visibility visit by the director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Neil Kornze, to Idaho, who noted the agency's concerns about a potential sage grouse listing as a reason for the trip.

The chicken-sized, ground-dwelling bird ranges across 11 western states, with much of its habitat administered by the BLM. The birds once numbered in the millions but now have an estimated population of 200,000 to 500,000.

Sage grouse are one of some 400 species that use the sage brush steppe. But scientists consider sage grouse an indicator of the overall health of the sagebrush steppe, sometimes called the sagebrush sea for the vast areas it covers and which is also facing challenges.

"It's so much beyond a bird," Freemuth said of the potential listing. "It's people's lifestyle. It's people's recreational opportunities. It's everything. The bird is just the symbol of all that."

Groton Daily Independent

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10 Things to Know for Monday

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRE DESTROYS 400 HOMES, BUSINESSES

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection confirms one fatality in the blaze north of San Francisco.

2. WHY RANCHERS LOSE LIVESTOCK, RANGELAND

Wildfires decimate the Northwest's rural regions as hundreds of cattle perish, grazing lands are lost and hay stacks and barns go up in flames.

3. WHAT EU IS DOING TO ADDRESS REFUGEE CRISIS

European Union interior ministers convene to discuss distributing 160,000 refugees over the next two years, a day after Germany temporarily reintroduced checks at its border with Austria to stem the flow of those fleeing war and persecution.

4. EGYPTIAN FORCES KILL MEXICAN TOURISTS

A military-police force was pursuing "terrorist elements" in Egypt's southwestern desert and mistakenly fired on four cars that turned out to be carrying a tourist group.

5. PRESSURE GROWS ON GOP HOPEFULS

Donald Trump's Republican rivals are preparing for a televised debate by sharpening their attacks on the billionaire who has dominated the contest.

6. HOW WALKER HOPES TO BOOST STRUGGLING CAMPAIGN

The Republican presidential candidate will call for restrictions on organized labor in the U.S., seeking to replicate nationwide his successful effort as Wisconsin's governor to curb the power of unions.

7. ALL EYES ON KENTUCKY CLERK

Kim Davis is expected to return to work on Monday after a judge jailed her for refusing to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

8. TALL CORN CROPS POSE ROAD HAZARD

Some roads are so sheltered by the towering plants that motorists can't see each other until just before they collide, with potentially deadly results.

9. MISS GEORGIA WINS MISS AMERICA PAGEANT

Betty Cantrell rides an opera performance to the title in Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall, besting 51 other competitors in the nationally televised contest.

10. DJOKOVIC BEATS FEDERER FOR 2ND U.S. OPEN TITLE

"I have a tremendous respect for Roger and what his game is presenting to me and to any other player," says the winner.

After years of cuts, school districts face teacher shortages

CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

LISA LEFF, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When a new school year began at the Sierra Sands Unified District 150 miles north of Los Angeles in August, students in four classes were greeted by a substitute.

The small district's human resources department had worked aggressively through the summer to attract new teachers. Staff members made out-of-state recruiting trips, highlighting their area's low cost of living and proximity to Los Angeles. The district revamped its website and asked residents to tap their families and friends for job candidates.

"We were leaving no stone unturned," said Dave Ostash, assistant superintendent of human resources of the 5,000-student district.

Still, when the bell rang on the first day of class, they fell four teachers short.

After years of recession-related layoffs and hiring freezes, school systems in pockets across the United States are in urgent need of more qualified teachers.

Groton Daily Independent

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Shortages have surfaced in big cities such as Tampa, Florida, and Las Vegas, where billboards calling for new teachers dot the highways, as well as in states such as Georgia, Indiana and North Dakota that have long struggled to compete for education graduates.

"When you are 1,000 teachers short, you have to think about how that affects our children," said Oklahoma's superintendent of public instruction, Joy Hofmeister. The Republican has lobbied state lawmakers to raise salaries and reduce testing in a bid to make the profession more attractive. "We are talking about 25,000 to 30,000 kids without a permanent teacher."

In California, which educates more children than any state, the number of teaching certificates issued has dropped by half in the past decade. The state's school districts estimate they will need 21,000 new teachers annually over the next five years.

"There was a point where we were, frankly, overproducing teachers. Now, if you look at the most recent year, we are not producing enough," said Joshua Speaks, a legislative representative at the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

School administrators and academic researchers point to a variety of reasons for the shortages.

During the recession years, many districts shed jobs and those that were hiring had a plenty of applications from laid-off teachers, new graduates and professionals looking for work outside their field. Now as school district budgets recover, they are recruiting from a smaller pool of freshly minted educators, many of whom are considering multiple job offers.

"Two or three years ago, you got 300 applications for every job," said Donna Glassman-Sommer, a public school administrator who runs a new teacher development and hiring program. "Now it's kind of like I've never seen. It's the start of the school year and they have six or 10 openings in a mid-sized school district."

Compounding the problem, she said, veteran teachers are being taken out of the classroom and moved to specialized roles as districts work to put in place changes associated with the Common Core academic standards and a new school funding formula that directs more money to schools with the most disadvantaged students.

Debate over testing, accountability and revamping the nation's lowest performing schools has invariably circled back to teachers.

"People go to higher paying jobs, jobs that are more respected, and employment that doesn't go up and down like a yoyo," said Randi Weingarten, president of American Federation of Teachers.

Elena Avila, 24, a first-time kindergarten teacher at Union Avenue Elementary School in Los Angeles, said she had wanted to be a teacher since an early age, but began to doubt the decision as she got older. She got a degree in classical studies and volunteered before making up her mind.

Now in the Los Angeles Unified School District's intern program, she offers her perception of the opportunities: "If you're prepared to handle anything, then you definitely have all your options open."

Nationwide, the number of students training to be teachers has declined from 719,081 in 2010 to 499,800 in 2014, U.S. Education Department data show. Even districts that were able to meet their needs this year are bracing for a projected shortage ahead.

"It is looming," said Deborah Ignani, deputy chief of human resources for the Los Angeles district.

University of Pennsylvania education and sociology professor Richard Ingersoll, an expert on teacher workforce issues, said a failure to retain teachers is a much bigger part of the equation. He said enticing experienced teachers, especially in chronically understaffed subjects such as math, science and special education, to stay in the profession would be a better solution than ramping up enrollment or allowing people who have not been fully trained to teach, as many districts are now doing.

"Yes, there are some hard-to-staff schools and there can be difficulties across states or regions," Ingersoll said. "But it's not due to a shortage of new teaches but too much turnover."

To fill their vacancies, districts are trying everything from college visits to circus-like stunts.

The Las Vegas-based Clark County School District, which has about 780 teaching positions staffed by long-term substitutes, started a campaign by having the superintendent fly on a zip-line over a street in downtown Las Vegas. The Fresno Unified School District in California's San Joaquin Valley has begun advertising openings at movie theaters.

"It's become our mantra: Everyone is a recruiter," said Cyndy Quintana, a human resources administrator in Fresno.

At Sierra Sands Unified, half of the new employees are not fully credentialed; they're working toward alternative certifications while they teach.

It wasn't until three weeks into the school year that all the vacancies were filled. For the four newest teachers, there was no time to prepare, only to dive in.

"They're going and hitting the ground running," Ostash said.

AP News in Brief

Northern California wildfire leaves 1 dead, destroys some 400 homes

MIDDLETOWN, Calif. (AP) — Some 400 homes were among the hundreds of structures destroyed as fast-moving wildfires raged through communities in Northern California, leaving at least one person dead and sending residents fleeing along roads where some buildings and vehicles were still in flames.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection confirmed Sunday one fatality in the wildfire north of San Francisco that raced through dry brush and exploded in size within hours. In addition to the homes, officials also counted two apartment complexes and 10 businesses destroyed by the flames, department spokeswoman Lynn Valentine said.

Valentine couldn't provide details on the circumstances of the death. A call to the Lake County Sheriff's office wasn't immediately returned.

In addition, up to 1,000 structures such as barns, sheds and other outbuildings were burned, said Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant.

The devastation comes after a separate wildfire to the southeast destroyed at least 81 homes.

As wildfires rage in the West, ranchers face loss of livestock and federal grazing lands

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — For weeks, rancher Darrel Holliday has rounded up frightened cows and calves off the smoldering hills of the Strawberry Mountain Range, a wilderness area in eastern Oregon of old-growth forest and grass where wildlife and cattle roamed.

Holliday's entire federal forest grazing allotment of about 32,000 acres — 50 square miles — burned last month as a wildfire ravaged the area. The land is now a smoke-filled expanse of blackened tree sticks and ash a foot and half deep.

"We're picking up cows that should have calves with no calves. We assume they might have died out there," said Holliday, who is still missing 22 of his 180 cow-calf pairs. He's among dozens of ranchers similarly wrestling with the loss of animals and grazing land in a region where cattle production is one of the leading agricultural industries.

The vast majority of the 1.6 million acres — nearly 2,600 square miles — that burned in Oregon, Idaho and Washington this year are federally owned, data show, with large swaths of that public land used as rangeland for livestock grazing.

Many of Holliday's recovered animals have burnt hooves or are lame from walking on hot coals, he said. Miles of fences have burned. And the land, for which Holliday pays a fee, will likely be closed to grazing for at least two years while it recovers, he said.

EU holds emergency talks on sharing refugees as Germany wearies of going it alone

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union interior ministers meet for emergency migration talks on Monday, a day after Germany reintroduced checks at its border with Austria to stem the continuing flow of refugees.

The ministers will try to narrow a yawning divide over how to share responsibility for thousands of migrants arriving daily and ease the burden on frontline states.

Their talks will focus on distributing 160,000 refugees over the next two years, and the German decision to have checks at a border that for 20 years has usually been open as part of the EU's landmark Schengen passport-free zone has added urgency.

The arrival of around 500,000 migrants so far this year has taken the EU by surprise and it has responded slowly.

Lacking a quick and comprehensive policy answer, countries have begun tightening border security or, in the case of Hungary, erecting fences. Greece is simply overwhelmed by the numbers and cannot properly screen migrants let alone lodge them.

The Latest: Germany raises forecast, expects to see 1 million migrants this year

BERLIN (AP) — The latest developments as European governments rush to cope with the huge number of people moving across Europe. All times local (CET):

11:40 a.m.

Germany's vice chancellor says the country can expect 1 million migrants this year, raising the previous estimate by 200,000.

Sigmar Gabriel said in a letter to members of his Social Democratic Party that "everything points the fact that we won't have 800,000 migrants as has been predicted by the Interior Ministry but 1 million."

Egyptian security forces mistakenly fire on Mexican tourist group; at least 12 people killed

CAIRO (AP) — At least 12 people were killed and 10 injured in Egypt's southwestern desert Sunday when security forces mistakenly fired on a group of Mexican tourists, Egyptian officials said.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry confirmed the incident and said at least two of the dead were Mexican nationals. It said in a statement that the victims were still being identified, and Foreign Ministry personnel were working with the families of the victims.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto posted a statement on his Twitter feed Monday morning saying his government "condemns these acts against our citizens" and demanding a thorough investigation.

A joint military-police force was pursuing "terrorist elements" in the area and fired on four cars that turned out to be carrying tourists, according to Egypt's Interior Ministry. The ministry said the victims were Egyptian and Mexican.

Egyptian officials claim the safari convoy had wandered into a restricted area of the western desert. The tour company involved "did not have permits and did not inform authorities," Rasha Azazi, a spokesperson for the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism, told The Associated Press, adding that any trips to that area are required to be cleared by officials.

AP Exclusive: Walker hopes to boost struggling campaign; proposes vast restrictions on unions

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Scott Walker on Monday will call for sweeping restrictions on organized labor in the U.S., seeking to replicate nationwide his successful effort as Wisconsin's governor to curb the power of unions.

At a town hall meeting in Las Vegas, Walker will propose eliminating unions for employees of the federal government, making all workplaces right-to-work unless individual states vote otherwise, scrapping the federal agency that oversees unfair labor practices and making it more difficult for unions to organize.

Many of Walker's proposals are focused on unions for workers at all levels of government, while others would also affect private-sector unions. Labor law experts said such an effort, if successful, would substantially reduce the power of organized labor in America.

While Walker could enact some of the proposals via presidential executive order, others would require an act of Congress or changes in federal regulations. The goal, Walker said, is "to achieve fairness and opportunity for American workers."

"This will not be easy," Walker said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Many — including the union bosses and the politicians they puppet — have long benefited from Washington rules that put the needs of special interests before needs of middle-class families."

Many will be watching as Kentucky clerk jailed over gay marriage opposition returns to work

MOREHEAD, Ky. (AP) — Many were keeping their eye on a rural Kentucky county clerk's office Monday morning, Kim Davis' expected first day back at work after a judge jailed her for refusing to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

The Rowan County clerk, who believes gay marriage is a sin, became a hero to many conservative Christians after she stopped issuing marriage licenses following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized gay marriage.

She was jailed for five days after U.S. District Court Judge David Bunning found her in contempt of court for refusing his order to issue marriage licenses.

In Davis' absence, her deputy clerks have issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

On Monday, Davis can either allow her office to continue issuing licenses or again disobey the judge who already sent her to jail. Davis hasn't said what she will do when she returns to work, but deputy clerk Brian Mason said last Wednesday that if he has to, he will disobey his boss and continue issuing licenses rather than refuse the judge's orders.

Miss Georgia Betty Cantrell wins miss 2016 America pageant at Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Miss Georgia Betty Cantrell is the new Miss America, but her crowning moment was nearly overshadowed by a three-decade old pageant scandal, and a still-raw debate over whether the NFL's reigning champions cheated on their way to a Super Bowl victory.

Cantrell rode an opera performance of "Tu Tu Piccolo Iddio" from "Madame Butterfly" to the title in Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall on Sunday night, besting 51 other competitors in the nationally televised pageant. She won a preliminary competition earlier in the week, also with an opera performance.

"I'm still so overwhelmed, I don't know what to say other than thank you!" Cantrell told reporters moments after being crowned Miss America.

She won a \$50,000 scholarship along with her title.

Cantrell is due to make the traditional pageant-winner's frolic in the Atlantic City surf on Monday morning.

Djokovic deals with Federer, fans for 2nd US Open title, 3rd major of 2015, 10th of career

NEW YORK (AP) — After winning a point in the U.S. Open final, and bent on proving a point, Novak Djokovic leaped and roared and threw an uppercut, then glared at some of the thousands of spectators pulling for Roger Federer.

Following another point in that game, Djokovic nodded as he smiled toward the stands. And moments later, Djokovic shook his right arm, bloodied by an early fall, and screamed, "Yes! Yes!" to celebrate a missed forehand by Federer.

Djokovic appeared to be all alone out there in Arthur Ashe Stadium, trying to solve Federer while also dealing with a crowd loudly supporting the 17-time major champion proclaimed "arguably the greatest player in the history of the sport" during prematch introductions.

In the end, Djokovic handled everything in a thrill-a-minute final on a frenetic night. Thwarting Federer with his relentless defense and unparalleled returning, Djokovic took control late and held on for a 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 victory Sunday to earn his second U.S. Open title, third major championship of the year and 10th Grand Slam trophy in all.

"We pushed each other to the limit," the No. 1-ranked Djokovic said, "as we always do."

Kentucky clerk won't interfere with gay marriage licenses

CLAIRE GALOFARO, Associated Press

MOREHEAD, Ky. (AP) — A defiant Kentucky clerk said Monday she will not interfere with her deputies if they keep issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, but she declared they will not be authorized by her and questioned their validity.

It was Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis' first day back in the office after a stint in jail for five days for defying a federal judge.

"I don't want to have this conflict. I don't want to be in the spotlight. And I certainly don't want to be a whipping post," Davis said, reading from a hand-written statement outside the courthouse where she works. "I am no hero. I'm just a person that's been transformed by the grace of God, who wants to work, be with my family. I just want to serve my neighbors quietly without violating my conscience."

Davis, an Apostolic Christian, stopped issuing licenses after the Supreme Court effectively legalized gay marriage. U.S. District Judge David Bunning held her in contempt and ordered her to jail. In her absence, her deputies issued at least seven licenses to gay couples and altered the forms to exclude Davis' name.

The deputy clerk who issued the licenses, Brian Mason, said Monday that will continue to hand out the licenses despite his boss's objections.

The governor, the attorney general and the county attorney have said the licenses are valid. Only Davis and her attorneys claim otherwise.

Davis, who believes gay marriage is a sin, has become a hero to many conservative Christians after she stopped issuing the licenses.

On Friday, Davis' attorneys filed an appeal seeking another delay in issuing licenses.

In their motion to the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, her attorneys argued that all the same-sex couples who sued Davis for a license received one from her deputies while she was in jail. Therefore, they said, her office should not be required to issue them to any more couples once she returns to work.

Bunning wrote that his mandate to issue licenses applied to all couples, not only those who filed suit. But Davis' lawyers allege that order was issued improperly, and again have asked for a delay.

The tension in Rowan County reached fever pitch last week, as protesters, presidential candidates and news crews from across the county descended on the small town of Morehead.

Seeking '16 spark, Walker proposes vast union restrictions

SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Scott Walker called Monday for sweeping restrictions on organized labor in the U.S., seeking to replicate nationwide his successful effort as Wisconsin's governor to curb the power of unions.

At a town hall meeting in Las Vegas, Walker will propose eliminating unions for employees of the federal government, making all workplaces right-to-work unless individual states vote otherwise, scrapping the federal agency that oversees unfair labor practices and making it more difficult for unions to organize.

Labor law experts said such an effort, if successful, would substantially reduce the power of organized labor in America.

"This will not be easy," Walker said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Many — including the union bosses and the politicians they puppet — have long benefited from Washington rules that put the needs of special interests before needs of middle-class families."

While some of Walker's proposals would affect private-sector unions, many specifically target unions for workers at all levels of government.

"Our plan will eliminate the big government unions entirely and put the American people back in charge of their government," Walker planned to say later Monday, according to excerpts of his speech released by his campaign. "Federal employees should work for the taxpayers — not the other way around."

While Walker could enact some of the proposals via presidential executive order, others would require an act of Congress or changes in federal regulations. The goal, Walker said, is "to achieve fairness and opportunity for American workers."

Experts were taken aback by the scope of Walker's proposals, which seek to undo decades of law and would gut the landmark National Relations Labor Act — adopted in 1935 and signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the height of the Great Depression.

"I've never seen anything like this," said Ann Hodges, a professor at the University of Richmond who has studied labor law for more than 40 years. "This will take the breath away from anyone who's worked in labor relations for any length of time. ... It's pretty draconian."

Walker's plan also calls for prohibiting automatic withdrawal of union dues to be used for political purposes and forbidding union organizers to access employees' personal information, such as their phone numbers.

Lee Adler, a labor law expert at Cornell University, said Walker's proposals would eliminate workers' rights and make it more difficult for people to join the middle class.

"Mr. Walker could only be making these type of proposals to satisfy his most backward-looking, wealthy contributors, just as he pursued, as governor, policies advanced by these people that sought to destroy school teachers and other public employees' rights in Wisconsin," he said.

Walker rose to national prominence in 2011, when just six weeks after taking office as governor, he proposed effectively ending collective bargaining for most public workers in Wisconsin. In the face of protests that often numbered in the tens of thousands, Walker muscled the changes through the state legislature — even after Democratic lawmakers fled the state in an unsuccessful effort to stave off his plans.

Democrats responded by forcing Walker into a recall election in 2012, which he won — making him the first governor in U.S. history to do so. He went on to make Wisconsin a right-to-work state earlier this year. Under right-to-work laws, workers can't be required to pay union dues as a condition of employment.

His decision to focus on fighting unions at the national level comes as Walker seeks to gain momentum for a presidential campaign that has fallen behind following billionaire businessman Donald Trump's rise to the top of early opinion polls. And some of Walker's comments drew derision — such as when he said earlier this month that he's not a career politician, even though he's been in office since he was 25 years old.

Walker was all the buzz in Iowa a couple months ago, said attorney Mike Mahaffey, a past state chairman of the Iowa Republican Party. "He does not come up as much as he did two months ago," Mahaffey said. "And that's a problem."

Another former Iowa GOP chairman, Matt Strawn, said while fighting unions may not be the biggest is-

sue on the minds of Iowans, it's a good one for Walker to take on because it reminds them of his victories in neighboring Wisconsin.

Walker, 47, says he intends to be more aggressive in this week's second GOP debate, while insisting he isn't concerned about his standing in the race.

"None of this intimidates us," Walker said at a recent campaign appearance. "I think if people are looking for someone who is truly going to shake things up and wreak havoc on Washington, they want someone who's got real solutions and someone who is truly tested. I'm the only one on that stage that fits the bill."

GOP tax plans benefit rich despite populist campaign talk

NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Jeb Bush went to Detroit and talked about leveling the playing field. Marco Rubio wrote a book about helping the working class. Rand Paul is promising to expand the Republican Party beyond its traditional base.

Yet all three Republican presidential candidates have offered tax proposals that would, for reasons such as nomination politics and tax rate realities, overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest.

In doing so, they have drawn criticism from Democrats who call it proof that the GOP's eventual nominee will mainly try to help the rich.

Even some conservatives expressed concerns after Bush released his proposed tax cut last week. Then there was the analysis Thursday from the Washington-based Tax Foundation that concluded his plan would initially help the top 1 percent of earners 10 times as much as it would those in the bottom 10 percent.

"Republicans should be countering the caricature of themselves as slavishly devoted to the interests of rich people and corporations, not playing into it," according to an editorial in the conservative National Review. The magazine nonetheless praised Bush's effort to reduce income and business tax rates.

The trio's tax plans do contain elements aimed directly at middle- and working-class voters. Rubio proposes to expand the child tax credit and Bush wants to double the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is designed to help the working poor.

But experts note that any broad income tax cut inevitably will benefit the rich more than anyone else, because they pay much more in federal income taxes than the middle class or poor.

About 40 percent of the country does not pay federal income tax. The top 1 percent of earners pays about 35 percent of the income tax.

"It is a mechanical problem," said Howard Gleckman of the Tax Policy Center, a joint project of the centrist Brookings Institute and left-leaning Urban Institute.

"If you start from the place where any tax plan has got to cut tax rates, you start with a plan that is already regressive and it becomes challenging and complicated to ameliorate that."

Michael Strain of the conservative American Enterprise Institute said Republicans have good reason to push for across-the-board cuts, despite the inevitable benefit to the wealthy.

"There's a genuine concern on the part of conservatives about economic growth and having tax code that fosters economic growth because of a belief that you need a growing economy to help everyone in the country," Strain said.

John Cogan, a Stanford economist who served in the Reagan administration and consulted on the Bush plan, argued that the tax reductions can help cure the inequality that critics contend they exacerbate. "Economic growth is absolutely essential to reducing the degree of inequality," Cogan said.

That's how Bush, a former, Florida governor, has tried to sell his plan. On Thursday, he brushed aside Democratic criticisms that the proposal was a giveaway to his wealthy donors and could increase the deficit, under his own supporters' estimates, by more than \$3 trillion.

The U.S. must get back to "high, sustained economic growth," Bush said during a CNN interview. "We need to boost people's spirits by giving them more money to be able to make decisions for themselves."

Bush's plan condenses seven different brackets to three — 28 percent for top earners (who are now taxed at as high as a 39.6 percent rate), 25 percent and 10 percent for families making up to \$87,000.

He would drop the corporate rate from 35 percent to 20 percent. To help middle- and working-class families, he would double the standard deduction and raise the Earned Income tax Credit.

Bush surprised observers by pledging to eliminate a tax break that benefits investment managers — a small but symbolically potent change to a Wall Street benefit that comes weeks after rival Donald Trump called for such a move.

Florida Sen. Rubio wrote a book in December outlining proposals to help low-income and middle-class families.

In February he signed on to a sweeping tax proposal that does not cut top rates as much as Bush's plan but does eliminate taxes on investment income. That would slash federal tax bills for many of the wealthiest in the country.

Paul, a Kentucky senator, followed with a proposal to drop the tax rate to 14.5 percent across the board, which analysts argue may be an even bigger windfall for the rich.

Conservative commentator Ramesh Ponnuru wrote in a column Thursday that the GOP should look to cutting other levies, like the payroll tax, which fall the heaviest on lower- and middle-income laborers. He said the GOP tax cut plans might end up being compared to Mitt Romney's in 2012, which a majority of voters thought helped the rich, according to exit polls.

Northern California wildfire kills 1, destroys 400 homes

ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

MIDDLETOWN, Calif. (AP) — Some 400 homes were among the hundreds of structures destroyed as fast-moving wildfires raged through communities in Northern California, leaving at least one person dead and sending residents fleeing along roads where some buildings and vehicles were still in flames.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection confirmed Sunday one fatality in the wildfire north of San Francisco that raced through dry brush and exploded in size within hours. In addition to the homes, officials also counted two apartment complexes and 10 businesses destroyed by the flames, department spokeswoman Lynn Valentine said.

Valentine couldn't provide details on the circumstances of the death. A call to the Lake County Sheriff's office wasn't immediately returned.

In addition, up to 1,000 structures such as barns, sheds and other outbuildings were burned, said Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant.

The devastation comes after a separate wildfire to the southeast destroyed at least 81 homes.

Residents fled from Middletown, dodging smoldering telephone poles, downed power lines and fallen trees as they drove through billowing smoke.

Teri Molini said she first heard word of the fire Saturday afternoon and raced out of her house with the family dog, blankets and mementos. Four hours later, she could see the flames from where she sought shelter.

"We said, 'OK, this thing's a beast,'" Molini, 53, said.

Whole blocks of houses were burned in parts of the town of more than 1,000 residents that lies about 20 miles north of the famed Napa Valley. On the west side of town, house after house was burned to their foundations, with only charred appliances and twisted metal garage doors still recognizable.

Firefighters on Sunday afternoon could be seen driving around flaming utility poles to put out spot fires. Homeowner Justin Galvin, 33, himself a firefighter, stood alone at his house, poking its shin-high, smoking ruins with a piece of scrap metal.

"This is my home. Or it was," said Galvin, who spent all night fighting another massive fire in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Valentine said most of the destruction occurred in Middletown and Hidden Valley Lake, as well as numerous homes along a shuttered state highway.

Wind gusts that reached up to 30 mph sent embers raining down on homes and made it hard for fire-

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fighters to stop the Lake County blaze from advancing, Berlant said.

Four firefighters who are members of a helicopter crew suffered second-degree burns during the initial attack on the fire. They remained hospitalized in stable condition.

The fire continued to burn in all directions, triggering the evacuation of a stretch along Highway 281, including Clear Lake Riviera, a town with about 3,000 residents. It was threatening critical communications infrastructure as well as a power plant, Cal Fire said.

The 78-square-mile fire erupted Saturday afternoon and rapidly chewed through brush and trees parched from four years of drought. Entire towns as well as residents along a 35-mile stretch of State Route 29 were evacuated. Gov. Jerry Brown on Sunday declared a state of emergency to free up resources.

Brown had already declared a state of emergency for a separate 102-square-mile wildfire about 70 miles southeast of Sacramento that has destroyed at least 81 homes and turned the grassy, tree-studded Sierra Nevada foothills an eerie white.

The fire was 25 percent contained.

Mark Ghilarducci, director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, said this summer's fires are the most volatile he has seen in 30 years of emergency response work. The main cause behind the fast-spreading fires is dry conditions from the drought.

"The bushes, the trees have absolutely no moisture in them, and the humidities are so low that we are seeing these 'fire starts' just erupt into conflagrations," Ghilarducci said.

Lake County saw devastation in just the last two months. In late July, a wildfire east of Clear Lake destroyed 43 homes as it spread across 109 square miles. As firefighters drew close to surrounding that blaze, another fire erupted several miles from the community of Lower Lake on Aug. 9 and more than doubled in size overnight.

Residents in the area had to evacuate from their homes two times in as many weeks.

East of Fresno, the largest wildfire in the state continued to march westward and away from the Giant Sequoia trees, fire spokesman Dave Schmitt said. The fire, which was sparked by lightning on July 31, has charred 203 square miles and was 31 percent contained Sunday, the U.S. Forest Service said.

Firefighters have maintained a precautionary line around Grant Grove, an ancient grove of Giant Sequoia trees, and set prescribed burns to keep the flames from overrunning it.

Some fire came through the area but it hasn't done much harm, fire spokesman Frank Mosbacher told the Fresno Bee.

The grove is named for the towering General Grant tree that stands 268 feet tall. There are dozens of Sequoia groves in the Sierra Nevada, and some trees are 3,000 years old.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Monday, September 14, the 257th day of 2015. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem "Defence of Fort McHenry" after witnessing the American flag flying over the Maryland fort following a night of British bombardment during the War of 1812; the poem later became the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

On this date:

In 1715, Benedictine monk Dom Pierre Perignon, credited with advances in the production of champagne, died in Hautvillers, France, at age 76.

In 1861, the first naval engagement of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off Pensacola, Florida.

In 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice (nees), France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car she was riding in.

In 1944, the Great Atlantic Hurricane passed close to North Carolina and Virginia before heading up the

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northeastern U.S. coast; nearly 400 people died, most at sea.

In 1954, the Soviet Union detonated a 40-kiloton atomic test weapon.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI opened the third session of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, also known as "Vatican II." (The session closed two months later.)

In 1965, the much-reviled situation comedy "My Mother the Car," starring Jerry Van Dyke as a man who acquires an antique automobile that's the reincarnation of his mother (voiced by Ann Sothern), premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1975, Pope Paul VI declared Mother Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton the first U.S.-born saint.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly actress Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before; Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir Gemayel (bah-SHEER' jeh-MAY-el), was killed by a bomb.

In 1985, Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon released the Rev. Benjamin Weir (weer) after holding him captive for 16 months. The situation comedy "The Golden Girls" premiered on NBC.

In 1994, on the 34th day of a strike by players, Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced the 1994 season was over.

Ten years ago: The United Nations opened a three-day summit marking the 60th anniversary of the world body. More than a dozen coordinated bombings killed at least 178 people in Baghdad. Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines each filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. (Both carriers emerged from bankruptcy reorganization in 2007.) Movie director Robert Wise ("West Side Story"; "The Sound of Music") died in Los Angeles at age 91.

Five years ago: Sarah Shourd, one of three American hikers detained by Iran, was freed on \$500,000 bail after 410 days in prison. Reggie Bush announced he was forfeiting his 2005 Heisman title, citing a scandal over improper benefits while he was a star running back at Southern California; it was the first time college football's top award had been relinquished by a recipient. Dodge Morgan, who became the first American to sail around the world without stopping in 1986, died in Boston at age 78.

One year ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton, making her return to Iowa for the first time since the 2008 presidential campaign, implored Democrats to choose shared economic opportunity over "the guardians of gridlock." North Korea's Supreme Court sentenced Matthew Miller, a 24-year-old American, to six years with labor for entering the country illegally and trying to commit an act of espionage. (Miller was released in November 2014 along with another detained American, Kenneth Bae.) Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt said he would resign after his center-right coalition lost a parliamentary election to a left-leaning opposition led by Social Democrats. South Korean teenager Hyo-Joo Kim beat Australian veteran Karrie Webb by one shot to win the Evian Championship and become the third youngest major winner at 19 years, 2 months. Miss New York Kira Kazantsev won the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey. (For her talent performance, Kazantsev sang Pharrell Williams' "Happy" while sitting cross-legged on the stage and banging a red plastic cup on the floor.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Zoe Caldwell is 82. Feminist author Kate Millett is 81. Actor Walter Koenig (KAY'-nihg) is 79. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 75. Singer-actress Joey Heatherton is 71. Actor Sam Neill is 68. Singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 68. Rock musician Ed King is 66. Actor Robert Wisdom is 62. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 60. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman is 59. Actress Mary Crosby is 56. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 56. Country singer John Berry is 56. Actress Melissa Leo is 55. Actress Faith Ford is 51. Actor Jamie Kaler is 51. Actress Michelle Stafford is 50. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev is 50. Rock musician Mike Cooley (Drive-By Truckers) is 49. Actor Dan Cortese is 48. Contemporary Christian singer Mark Hall is 46. Actor-writer-director-producer Tyler Perry is 46. Actor Ben Garant is 45. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Tri Polar) is 45. Actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 44. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 42. Rapper Nas is 42. Actor Austin Basis is 39. Country singer Danielle Peck is 37. Pop singer Ayo is 35. Actor Sebastian Sozzi is 33. Actor Adam Lamberg is 31. Singer Alex Clare is 30. Actress Jessica Brown Findlay is 28. Actor-singer Logan Henderson is 26.

Thought for Today: "What one has not experienced, one will never understand in print." - Isadora Duncan (1877-1927).