

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 1 of 22

- 1- Treeline Tree Service Ad
- 1- Service Notice: Wayne Feller
- 1- Nehls Thank You
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Daily Homecoming Week Themes
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- School board story
- 3- Treeline Tree Service Ad
- 5- Groton Cross Country meet results
- 5- Netters beat Florence/Henry
- 6-7: 2015 Groton Area Report Card
- 8- Fire Chiefs get training grant
- 9- Today in Weather History
- 10- Local Weather Forecast
- 11- National Weather Map
- 11- Local Weather
- 12- Daily Devotional
- 13 - News from the Associated Press

Nehls Thank You

We want to thank our family and friends for the cards, gifts, phone calls and the nice anniversary dinner. We are so thankful for everything.

Eddy and Virginia Nehls

Service Notice: Wayne Feller

Services for Wayne Feller, 72, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Friday October 2nd at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Pastor Elizabeth Johnson will officiate. Burial will follow in Bates-Scotland Cemetery, rural Verdon.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Thursday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Wayne died September 27, 2015 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls.

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**

© 2015 Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, September 29

School Breakfast: Cereal, juice, fruit, yogurt, milk.

School Lunch: Chili, corn bread, lettuce salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato and sour cream, creamed peas, fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: • Adam Atherton • Ben Brandt • Bob Johnson • Ken Dinger • Lauren Wheeting • Neil Johnson

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study
1st Round of boys and girls soccer playoffs

4:00 pm: 8th grade FB at Aberdeen Central (Healy Field at Holgate MS)

5:30 pm: Title 1 Open House at Elementary School

6:00 pm: Volleyball at Tiospa Zina with C match and JV match at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match

Wednesday, September 30

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, green beans, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked chicken breast, noodles roman, lemon buttered broccoli, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Rich & Tami Zimney

Birthdays: • Dustin Dinger • Caitlin Howard • Tanya Torguson

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

6:45pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League
7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

FFA Land Judging Contest in Webster

Sperry Stump Removal
Tyler: 605/216-8431
Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915
TreeLine Tree Service



Pictured left to right are Julie Milbrandt, Emily Eichler, Renee Swisher, Ann Gibbs and Kayla Krause. The JK, kindergarten and first grade teachers gave their presentations at the school board meeting last night.

Kindergarten class in crowd control

Groton Area elementary teachers talked about the number of students in this year's kindergarten class, and basically said this year is crowd control more than teaching.

Kindergarten teacher Ann Gibbs said, "We are very, very concerned. We have many students with lack of exposure and I am seeing things I have never seen in my 25 years of teaching." Gibbs was talking about students who should be in junior kindergarten instead of kindergarten. Renee Swisher, kindergarten teacher, said, "There are now 50 students and the number of high need students is creating an issue in Groton." They reported that there are seven kindergarten students who should be in kindergarten. "They don't know how to spell their name or hold a pencil or use a scissors," Swisher said. Gibbs added, "We have a lot of temper tantrums that we have to deal with and the students in the upper level are not getting any attention." Gibbs added that one upper tier student is suddenly complaining of a headache or a stomach ache or other ailments just so they can get attention.

"We don't just want to get through this year," Swisher said, "we want to do the very best and every child deserves the very best." It was pointed out that money could be a driving force in pushing the students into kindergarten, which is a full day class. Families cannot afford child care for half a day as the junior kindergarten class is a half-day class and pre-school costs money as well.

Emily Eichler, first grade teacher, said, "Groton is a very academic school. We don't get the awards for no reason. We take teaching very seriously."

Board member Marty Weismantel asked what could be done in the short term. Gibbs said that having three groups of kindergarten students would be ideal. "If we can have the smaller groups, we can reach out to them better," she said. The kindergarten class would go from two groups of 25 to three groups of about 16 per class. "Kayla Krause could be the third kindergarten teacher, but then you would need to find someone to do junior kindergarten," Gibbs said.

Swisher said that something that could be considered in the future is putting a cap on kindergarten students. She said that both Webster and Oakes have a cap of 45 students. "Maybe that's something we

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 3 of 22

should look at," she said. "If you don't get a secure foundation now in reading and math and social skills, you won't get them later."

"We are worried about our higher tier kids who are not getting the attention they deserve," Gibbs said.

Some of the classrooms are still very warm, and that also has been a concern for the elementary school. Emily Eichler reported that some classrooms are still 80 degrees and that studies have shown that productivity drops when the temperature gets above 68 degrees.

Kayla Krause reported that she had 20 students last year and it was very difficult to give the proper one-to-one help and she got a little emotional when talking about it. Swisher then said, "We get emotional and because we are passionate about what we do."

Reading and math are strong areas for kindergarten students, according to Ann Gibbs. Gibbs, Krause and Swisher went to a kindergarten academy in Beresford this summer. Swisher said it was a great event. Swisher said it was a wonderful event and thanked the board for sending them.

A trifecta of Schwans gave their report at the school board meeting Monday evening. Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported on the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting that was held. Students will be given a chance to win a new Kindle Fire HD. All students will be allowed to have their name in the hat. If a student received a proficient or advanced, they will get their name in the hat one extra time. Kindles will be ordered by September 30.

The carnival date has been set for April 23. The playground is in need of updating and they are looking at having fundraisers to get extra money for the playground.

The Groton Fire Department is in the process of purchasing possibly four new basketball hoops for the playground. They are checking prices and determining what would be the most beneficial.

Everything went well for the homecoming event. Schwan said he is looking at doing some community based activities the morning of the homecoming to get the students more involved. "The community does a lot for the district and we should try to do something for the community," he said.

The cross walk at the elementary school was covered up with the chip seal project and it was reported that the cross walk will be painted in the very near future.



Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915**

**Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 4 of 22

Dr. Anna Schwan, middle/high school principal, reported that the district is still grappling with weighted classes and dual credits. She said that opinion is split as to whether or not to allow college classes to replace high school classes.

All of the float building was done on school grounds and Schwan said the staff really appreciated keeping the students on school grounds instead of running all over town. The middle school held a dance and the "5th" Quarter also sponsored activities after the game.

The high school band earned a "I" rating at the Gypsy Day Parade in Aberdeen on Saturday.

Dr. Schwan will be attending the Ed Porthan Instructional Leadership Training being offered in Hartford (West Central). There will be three days in October, three in November and two in December for the three phases of training. According to the leadership training information, "Administrators who successfully complete the training are able to provide world-class feedback to teachers, work successfully with difficult teachers, conduct developmentally appropriate conferences, create legally sound and educationally fit improvement plans and coach exemplary teachers to higher levels of performance."

Dr. Schwan attended an English as a Second Language conference in Sioux Falls along with Joann Donley. The state department updated the attendees with new ESL program requirements. Schwan is highly qualified to teach ESL and will work with Donley in lesson planning for language instruction.

Students on ICU were not eligible to participate in Jungle Day activities held Thursday afternoon or float building Friday morning. When the work was done they were dismissed. If students are on ICU, they will be required to attend school on in-service days to get caught up.

Superintendent Joe Schwan reported on the official school enrollment. State aid is based on school enrollment on the last Friday of September and Groton, it was 585. That is down from 596 last year, but up from the projection of 583. Currently, there are 72 students attending the Groton Area School District under the state open enrollment statute. For this year, there are 16 students who have open enrolled into the district and 14 that have open enrolled out of the district. Those coming in are 11 from Aberdeen, four from Langford and one from Sisseton. Going out are nine to Aberdeen, two to Langford and three to Webster.

The food service inspection at the Elementary School received a score of 100 out of 100 points. The inspection was conducted by the South Dakota Department of Health on September 21.

Business Manager Mike Weber reported that there is talk of creating a 1/2 cent sales tax in South Dakota to raise money for education. It would raise \$90 million and it would give property tax relief in the amount of \$40 million in South Dakota. There is still discussion on the Big Stone to Ellendale transmission line. Weber said if it is taxed as commercial property, the district will get a boost from it. If it is taxed as a utility, the revenue would be captured by the state and then redistributed statewide.

The valuation of the property in the Groton Area School District is skyrocketing and as a result, taxpayers will be seeing a decrease in the mil levy for school taxes. The district will eventually lose state aid, but Weber reported that the district's valuation will be more than plenty to run the district. The district's valuation jumped from \$771,319,615 in 2014 to \$911,238,705 in 2015 and to \$1,081,645,046 in 2016. Back in 2005, the district had a valuation of \$353,188,569.

The mil levy for ag property will drop from 4.122 to 3.581; for owner occupied property, it will drop from 6.592 to 6.088; and for other/utility, it will drop from 11.446 to 10.742. The Arena will be paid off in five years and that mil levy will drop from .333 to .283. Patrons of the former Bristol and Conde schools do not pay on the Arena and are not access the mil levy.

The board approved the budget for the 2015-16 school year at \$4.7 million for the general fund, \$1.1 million for the Capital Outlay Fund, and \$822,000 for the Special Education Fund. Weber said, "We are in pretty good shape."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 5 of 22

Cody Swanson, K-12 vocal instructor, talked about the spring show choir trip. It is a performing trip where they will perform in front of a large audience. There have been some conflicts with dates, and Swanson proposed having the group leave the Monday after graduation and returning that Friday. The main concern is that it is the last week of school and the students would have to have all of their finals taken before they left on the trip. Dr. Schwan said it could present issues for the teachers if the finals are given a week early. Then the teachers would have to come up with something for the final week. The board did not make a decision and will have a couple of weeks to think about out.

Superintendent Schwan reported on the districts 2015 report card. "Our numbers are very impressive," he said. All of the grades tested were anywhere from 7 percentage points to 40 percentage points higher than the state average. The report is found in today's Groton Daily Independent.

Groton Cross Country Meet

The Groton "Steve Grode" Invitational Cross Country Meet was held Monday at the Olive Grove Golf Course.

In the girls varsity division, Jasmine Schaller placed seventh with a time of 21:37.75, Hannah Lewandowski placed 14th with a time of 23:15.01, Emily Thompson placed 24th with a time of 25:23.08, Erin Smith was 28th with a time of 27:14.28, AnneMarie Smith was 30th with a time of 28:51.53 and Jenifer Fjelstad was 31st with a time of 29:30.60.

Webster won the team title with 17 points followed by Waubay/Summit with 19, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood with 27, Britton-Hecla with 29, Groton Area with 40 and Rosholt with 58.

Micah Poor placed 22nd in the boys varsity division with a time of 20:37.16 and Mitchell Koens was 27th with a time of 22:16.09.

Warner won the team title with 14 points followed by Webster Area with 15, Aberdeen Christian with 23, Sargent Central/Lidgerwood with 41 and Rosholt with 46.

In the girls junior varsity race, Summer Smith was 12th with a time of 16:43.42 and Gabbie Kramer placed 14th with a time of 18:40.98.

In the boys junior varsity race, Isaac Smith placed fifth with a time of 12:50.07, Lee Williams placed ninth with a time of 13:13.04 and Noah Poor was 16th with a time of 15:41.48.

In the elementary "Munchkin" run:

Boys K-2nd Grade: 1, Owen Sperry; 2, Ryder Jangula; 3, Jady Helvig.

Girls K-2nd Grade: 1, Rylee Dunker; 2, Jerica Locke; 3, McKenna Tietz.

Boys 3rd-5th Grade: 1, Layne Tietz; 2, Jacob Lewandowski; 3, Cole Simon.

Girls 3rd-5th Grade: 1, Anna Fjeldheim; 2, Brook Gengerke; 3, Carly Guthmiller.

Netters beat Florence/Henry

The Groton Area volleyball team went to Florence/Henry Monday night and came home with a 3-1 win. Game scores were 25-21, 19-25, 25-23 and 25-19.

The junior varsity team also won by game scores of 25-20 and 25-20.

In serving, Groton Area was 80 of 81 with eight ace serves. Marlee Jones had four ace serves and Payton Maine had two.

In sets, Groton Area was 141 of 143 with 31 assists. Jones had 29 and Katie Koehler had two.

Groton Area was 144 of 172 in spikes with 54 kills. Audrey Wanner had 16 kills and Gia Gengere had 11.

Carly Wheeting and Gengerke each had one block and in digs, Groton Area had 33 with Maine having 18 and Wanner seven.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 6 of 22

Groton Area School District 06-6 2015 Report Card

Submitted by Joe Schwan, Superintendent
September 22, 2015

Since the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act, the South Dakota Department of Education (DOE) has collected and reported information about the performance of South Dakota schools, including information from standardized assessments. Recently, the adoption of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics prompted the adoption of a new assessment, the Smarter Balance Assessment, which was administered to students in grades 3-8 and 11 during the spring of 2015.

Additional information on school performance is gathered from the American College Test (ACT) and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and other locally administered assessments. The ACT is paid for and taken by the majority of Groton Area's junior and senior students and is considered as a primary component of the admission requirements for our state's post-secondary college institutions.

This letter is intended to serve as a brief overview of our District's scores. The reports can be viewed in their entirety online and are available in print in the Groton Area School District Office, Groton Area MS/HS Principal's Office, Elementary Principal's Office, MS/HS Library, Elementary Library, and Groton City Hall.

Attendance

A recent change to how the South Dakota Department of Education tracks school attendance was approved by the State Board of Education. The change requires districts to track the number of students who were in attendance for 94% or more of the days that the student was enrolled in school. Groton Area Elementary had an attendance rate of 83.03% compared to the state attendance rate of 81.08%. Groton Area Middle School had an attendance rate of 74.07% compared to the state attendance rate of 76.47%

State Assessment Reports

The information in the following chart reflects the percentage of students tested that achieved at levels three or four in the content areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. Each content area shows the percentages of students for Groton Area compared to the same grade-level students across South Dakota.

Percentage of Students Scoring at Levels 3 or 4

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Groton Area	State	Groton Area	State
Grade 3	83%	48.6%	74%	51.4%
Grade 4	85%	45.4%	63%	45.6%
Grade 5	81%	48.9%	49%	37.2%
Grade 6	55%	45.3%	41%	34.5%
Grade 7	64%	49.3%	52%	39.4%
Grade 8	78%	48.1%	49%	39.0%
Grade 11	66%	59.3%	54%	38.5%

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 7 of 22

Graduation and High School Completion

The high school completion indicator includes a calculation of those students who graduated “on-time” with their four-year cohort as well as those that were able to complete the graduation requirements but that required more than four years to do so. Groton Area High School earned a completion rate of 98.18% compared to the state average of 90.06%

College and Career Readiness

Groton Area students continue to be prepared for college or career after graduating high school. The most accepted measure of college readiness in our geographic area is the ACT test.

Average ACT Scores Trends

Grad Year	Total Tested		English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
2007	31	6,975	21.7	21.3	22.3	21.7	21.7	22.1	22.0	21.9	22.1	21.9
2008	39	6,959	20.7	21.2	23.1	21.9	22.7	22.3	22.3	22.0	22.3	22.0
2009	41	6,676	22.3	21.2	23.5	21.8	23.8	22.3	23.7	22.0	23.5	22.0
2010	35	6,871	22.5	21.1	22.7	21.6	23.6	22.0	23.2	21.9	23.1	21.8
2011	41	6,983	21.9	21.0	22.7	21.8	23.2	22.0	22.9	22.1	22.8	21.8
2012	48	9,878	23.2	21.0	24.4	21.8	24.0	22.1	23.7	22.0	24.0	21.8
2013	32	6,723	21.5	20.9	22.7	21.8	23.3	22.1	22.3	22.1	22.6	21.9
2014	31	6,724	21.2	21.0	23.2	21.8	22.9	22.3	22.6	22.1	22.6	21.9
2015	45	6,615	21.7	21.0	23.8	21.7	22.6	22.4	22.3	22.1	22.6	21.9

School Performance Index (SPI) Ratings

The school performance index is a 100 point rating systems used to measure and report school performance based on specific, predetermined criteria. There are two distinct indices used, one for elementary and middle schools and one for high schools. The 100 points are divided into subcategories of student achievement (80.00 points) and attendance (20.00 points) for the elementary and middle schools and the subcategories of student achievement (50.00 points), high school completion (25.00 points) and college and career readiness (25.00 points) for the high schools.

Groton Area Elementary earned 57.89 points for academic achievement and 16.61 points for attendance for a total combined school performance index rating of 74.50. **We are pleased to report that Groton Area Elementary has earned the designation of a South Dakota Exemplary School awarded to only the top 5% of elementary schools in the state.**

Groton Area Middle School earned 45.36 points for academic achievement and 14.81 points for attendance for a total combined school performance index rating of 60.17.

Groton Area High School earned 29.60 points for academic achievement, 24.77 points for high school completion, and 20.56 points for college and career readiness for a total combined school performance index rating of 74.93.

The district will provide full print copies of the accountability report and report card in the Superintendent’s office, the Principals’ offices, school libraries, and Groton City Hall.

This information and more is publicly available online at <http://www.doe.sd.gov>. Click the state report card link.



**Back Row: Dale Ringgenberg, Groton; Derwin Kampa, Aberdeen Rural; Darrell Berreth, Hecla
Front Row: Leon Patterson, Claremont; Loy Stange, Stratford; Pat Tollefson, Aberdeen;
Corey Mitchell, Columbia; Kevin Barton, Frederick; Jeff Johnson, Stratford.**

Brown County Fire Chief's Association gets training grant

The grant award is for the 2015 IIASD Service Corporation Firefighter's Essentials II Training Program – \$750. The grant was awarded on Monday, September 21st at the Hecla Fire Department. Independent Insurance Agents of South Dakota is giving back to a community service organization that does so much to protect our industry and communities.

The Independent Insurance Agents of South Dakota (IIASD) is proud to support SD Volunteer Fire Departments through their Fire Department Grant Program. In 2011, they distributed the first grant of \$5000 to Vale Fire Department. In support of the service and protection the South Dakota Fire Departments provide to the insurance industry and our communities, the IIASD Board voted to continue funding the program at the State Level by setting aside \$10,000 - \$15,000 each year to assist volunteer fire departments with training and equipment funding.

This year, IIASD is partnering with the State Fire Marshall's Office in supporting the Firefighter Essentials Grant Program which provides revenue to support fire safety and education programs required to maintain certification. IIASD Service Corp is providing a match of \$750 to fire departments across the state who hosted the Firefighters Essentials education program. These grants help to defray costs such as training manuals, instructor fees and certification expenses. Among the recipients this year is the Brown County Fire Chief's Association. Delivery of the grant award was handled by IIASD President-Elect, Pat Tollefson of Insurance Plus.

Today in Weather History

September 29, 1982: An early snowfall in the Black Hills resulted in the breakage of tree branches and caused power outages in parts of Lead and Nevada Gulch.

1927 - An outbreak of tornadoes from Oklahoma to Indiana caused 81 deaths and 25 million dollars damage. A tornado (possibly two tornadoes) cut an eight-mile long path across Saint Louis MO, to Granite City IL, killing 79 persons. The damage path at times was a mile and a quarter in width. The storm followed a similar path to tornadoes which struck in 1871, 1896, and 1959. (The Weather Channel)

1959 - A storm produced 28 inches of snow at Colorado Springs, CO. (David Ludlum)

1983 - Heavy rains began in central and eastern Arizona which culminated in the worst flood in the history of the state. Eight to ten inch rains across the area caused severe flooding in southeastern Arizona which resulted in thirteen deaths and 178 million dollars damage. President Reagan declared eight counties of Arizona to be disaster areas. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - A week of violent weather began in Oklahoma which culminated in one of the worst flooding events in the history of the state. On the first day of the week early morning thunderstorms caused more than a million dollars damage in south Oklahoma City. Thunderstorms produced 4 to 7 inches of rain from Hobart to Ponca City, and another round of thunderstorms that evening produced 7 to 10 inches of rain in north central and northeastern sections of Oklahoma. (Storm Data)

1987 - A slow moving cold front produced rain from the Great Lakes Region to the Central Gulf Coast Region. A late afternoon thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 62 mph at Buffalo NY. Warm weather continued in the western U.S. In Oregon, the afternoon high of 96 degrees at Medford was a record for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - High pressure brought freezing temperatures to parts of Vermont and New York State. Burlington VT dipped to 30 degrees, and Binghamton NY reported a record low of 34 degrees. The high pressure system also brought cold weather to the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Alamosa CO reported a record low of 18 degrees, and Gunnison CO was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of just five degrees above zero. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - Seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date, as readings soared into the 80s and low 90s in the Northern Plateau and Northern Plains Region. Record highs included 91 degrees at Boise ID, and 92 degrees at Sheridan WY. The high of 100 degrees at Tucson AZ marked their 51st record high of the year, and their 92nd day of 100 degree weather. (National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 10 of 22

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Patched Frost then Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 68 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 60 °F



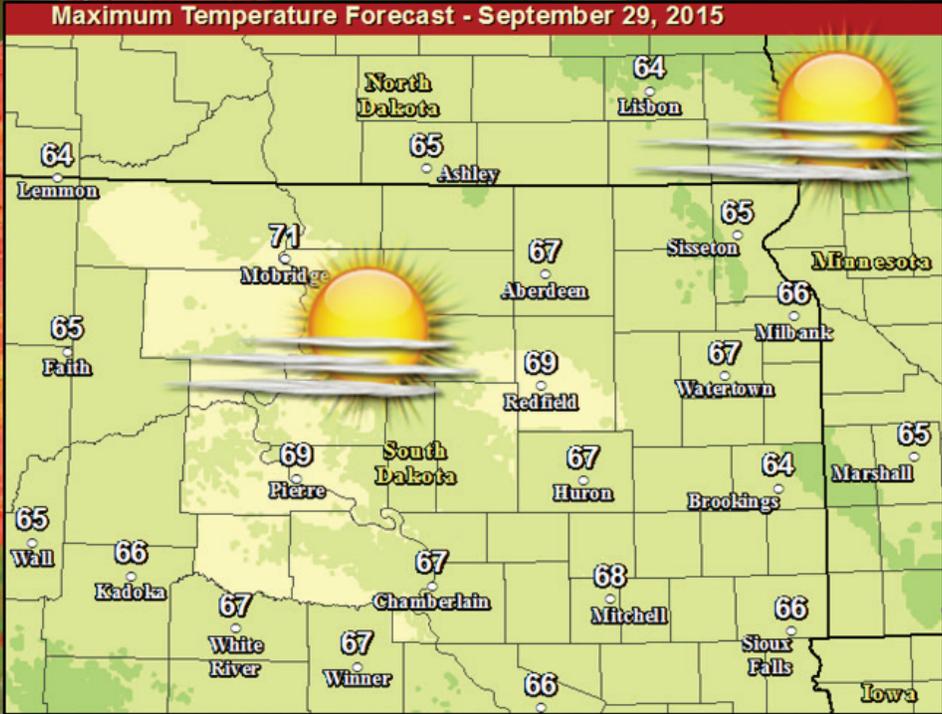

High Pressure In Control

Tuesday

- Sunny skies
- Light winds shifting to the south
- Lows: Mid 40s

Wednesday

- Increased cloud cover
- Highs: Upper 60s, low 70s
- Lows: Upper 40s



Maximum Temperature Forecast - September 29, 2015

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen
 National Weather Service Aberdeen
  @NWSAberdeen | Updated: 9/29/2015 5:15 AM Central

Published on: 09/29/2015 at 5:19AM

Cool and dry conditions will be in place today as high pressure pushes southeast. Winds will gradually shift to the south during the day, though they will be light. Looking ahead, only slight chances for precipitation exist at least through Thursday, all the while remaining seasonable temperature-wise.

Groton Daily Independent

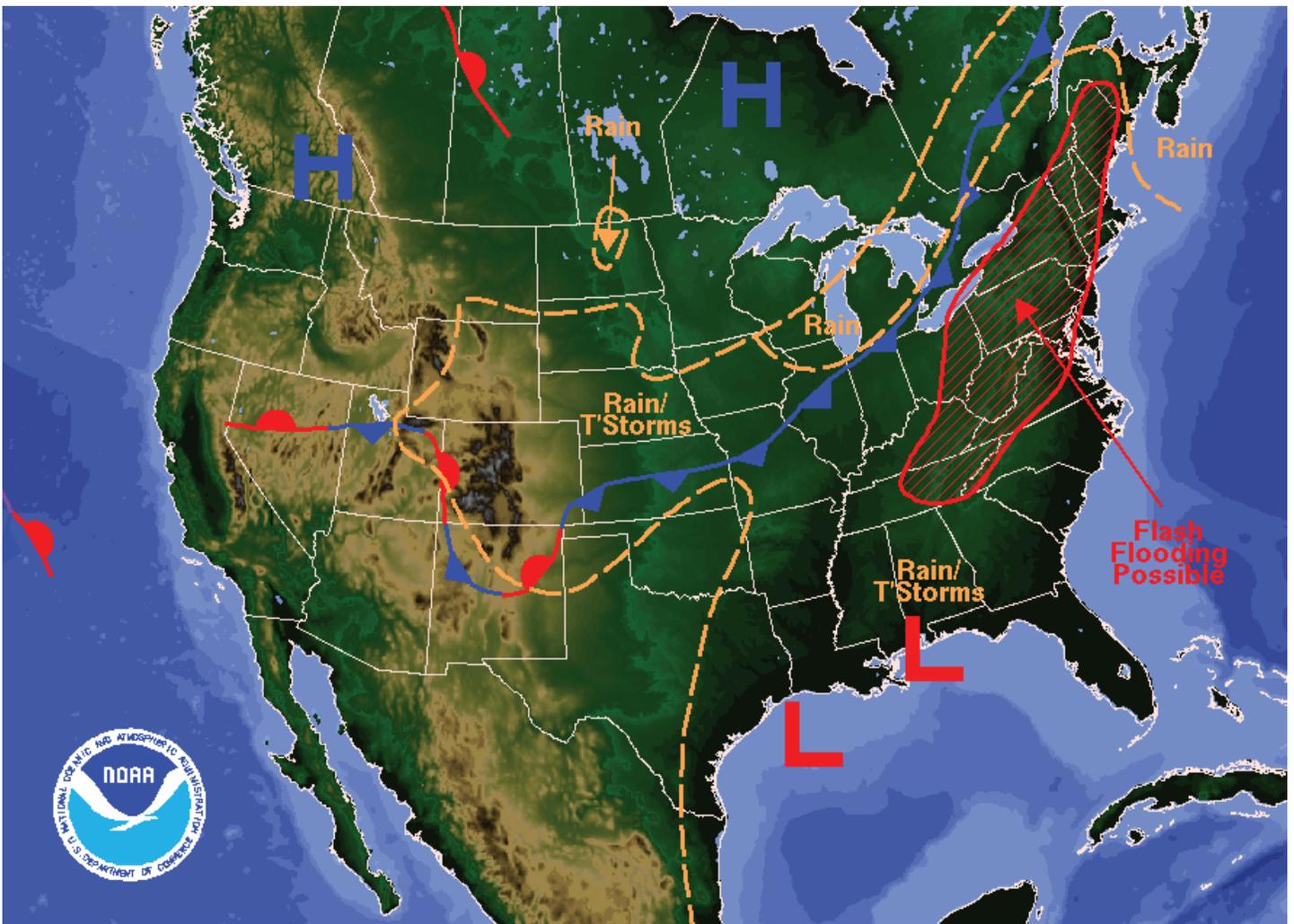
Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 11 of 22

Yesterday's Weather

High: 70.2
Low: 52.4
High Gust: 17
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 95° in 1897
Record Low: 11° in 1939
Average High: 66°F
Average Low: 40°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 2.12
Precip to date in Sept.: 1.32
Average Precip to date: 18.41
Precip Year to Date: 18.12
Sunset Tonight: 7:18 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:30 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Sep 29, 2015, issued 4:49 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 12 of 22



GOING AFTER THE RIGHT THINGS

Everyone admires a "go-getter." Their energy and enthusiasm are an inspiration and often motivate others to "get involved in life." One important fact, however, is to know what you want and why you want it before you go and try to get it. Getting for the sake of getting can be a disaster!

A good example of a go-getter is King David. He accomplished many things for God and the people he served and led. He left a great legacy for us in his writings that can provide guidance for our lives.

A great example of David "going" after the "right thing" is in Psalm 27. "This one thing I ask of the Lord – this thing I seek most – is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in His temple."

The word "temple" refers to "the presence of the Lord." We cannot read the Psalms without believing David's greatest desire was to live in God's presence each day of his life. Surely, this should be our greatest desire as well. Why?

When we search for and enjoy being in the presence of the Lord, we can be confident of His peace and protection, His guidance, goodness, grace and gifts.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to always seek You first, knowing that when we do, what we get is Your will for our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 27:1-4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 13 of 22

News from the Associated Press

SD Treasurer's office setting up unclaimed property booth

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Treasurer's office is expanding the outreach efforts of its unclaimed property program by setting up a booth at an upcoming Sioux Falls event.

State Treasurer Rich Sattgast says the Unclaimed Property Division will have a booth at the Benson's Flea Market Saturday and Sunday at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Building.

Unclaimed property refers to accounts in financial institutions, businesses and government agencies that have had no activity for three years or longer.

The division currently has more than \$280 million in unclaimed funds. The state holds the money in a custodial capacity until the money can be returned to the rightful owners.

Sattgast is encouraging people attending the market to stop by the booth to ensure they are not missing money.

Monday's Scores The Associated Press

Volleyball

Beresford def. Lennox, 25-22, 25-23, 23-25, 25-22

Canistota def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-8, 25-15, 25-22

Chester def. Deubrook, 25-7, 25-13, 25-9

Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley, Minn. def. Waubay/Summit (VB), 20-25, 25-21, 25-16, 25-16

DeSmet def. Howard, 25-19, 25-13, 21-25, 25-18

Great Plains Lutheran def. Wilmot, 19-25, 25-20, 21-25, 25-13, 15-12

Groton Area def. Florence/Henry, 25-21, 19-25, 25-23, 25-19

Irene-Wakonda def. Canton, 25-9, 25-22, 25-21

Langford def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-20, 25-15, 25-9

Leola/Frederick def. Warner, 25-19, 25-16, 25-7

Menno def. Marion, 25-23, 25-14, 17-25, 25-21

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Parkston, 25-9, 25-16, 25-13

Oelrichs def. Red Cloud, 25-14, 20-25, 25-20, 23-25, 15-12

Sergeant Bluff-Luton, Iowa def. Dakota Valley, 25-20, 25-20, 17-25, 25-11

Stanley County def. Crow Creek, 25-17, 25-10, 25-7

Wagner def. Vermillion, 25-17, 26-24, 25-20

South Dakota proposes plan to expand Medicaid

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota may join 30 other states in expanding its Medicaid program if federal officials approve a plan Gov. Dennis Daugaard is set to outline to the nation's top health and human services administrator in Washington on Tuesday.

The Republican governor is meeting with Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell to explain the plan, and the federal government has so far been more open to discussions than in the past, said Tony Venhuizen, chief of staff to Daugaard. The proposal, which is in its early stages, would make about 48,500 South Dakota residents newly eligible for the program.

It's expected to cost the state between \$30 and \$33 million starting in 2020, which would be offset by federal funding, said Kim Malsam-Rysdon, a senior adviser to the governor.

Some Republican governors around the country have steadfastly resisted expanding Medicaid, in part because of opposition to the federal health overhaul.

Daugaard has said that he's open to expanding the program but said he's concerned how much funding

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 14 of 22

an expansion would require. The federal government in 2014 rejected a plan from the state to partially expand Medicaid, a federal-state health care program for low-income and disabled people.

"The governor has never said never to expansion," Venhuizen told The Associated Press. "It's always been a matter of keeping an eye on the state costs and finding a plan that works for South Dakota..."

The proposal pays for the state's share of the expansion in part by expanding access to services that are fully funded by the federal government, with the goal of freeing up enough state funding to pay for the addition of more residents to the Medicaid program.

Officials are focusing on people who are eligible for Medicaid but can get services through the Indian Health Service. The goal is make services through the Indian Health Service more accessible so that people don't have to go an outside health care provider, which can happen if the IHS is unable to offer a specific service.

Those services at the IHS are fully funded by the federal government through Medicaid rather than through the typical split in financing between the state and the federal government. Venhuizen stressed that the money would come from Medicaid, and wouldn't drain the IHS budget.

Venhuizen said the administration also wants to improve access to care on the state's reservations.

The state is also asking for a change in the classification of some services to have them fully paid for by the federal government.

Jeff Sandene, interim president of the Sanford Health Plan, said the expansion would help more South Dakota residents get access to care and preventative services, which would help bring down costs over the long term.

State Senate Democratic leader Billie Sutton called expanding Medicaid "a huge step" if the federal government agrees to the proposal.

Venhuizen said work on the plan is still in the early stages and would require collaboration with the tribes, the Indian Health Service and others. He said Tuesday's meeting will help signal whether the federal government is open to the proposal.

"We want to let the secretary know that the governor is interested in having this discussion and exploring this option, and have her hear that from him personally," Venhuizen said.

SD inmate who escaped from minimum-security prison arrested

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A state prison inmate who escaped from a minimum-security prison in Rapid City in early August is back in custody.

The South Dakota Department of Corrections says 31-year-old Raymond Freeman was arrested Monday in Rapid City.

Freeman was placed on escape status Aug. 1 after he failed to return to the corrections facility from a work release job.

Freeman is serving five years in prison for drug convictions in Hughes County. His prison term began in June 2014.

Government wants protection restored for Utah prairie dogs

DAN ELLIOTT, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A lawyer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service told an appeals court Monday that a federal judge in Utah went too far when he struck down protections for a kind of prairie dog found only in that state.

Attorney Anna Katselas asked the Denver-based 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn the decision and restore protection for the prairie dogs under the Endangered Species Act.

"The district court went far afield," Katselas told a three-judge appeals panel.

Jonathan Wood, an attorney for residents of Cedar City, Utah, who challenged the prairie dog rules, argued the federal government has no constitutional authority to protect a species found in only one state.

Wood, of the Pacific Legal Foundation, represents residents who say the prairie dogs have become so

numerous they're overrunning parts of town, and they want relief from the federal rules.

Last year, U.S. District Judge Dee Benson agreed with the residents, ruling that the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution doesn't allow the federal government to regulate animals found on private land in only one state.

On Monday, Katselas argued that Congress' power extends beyond commerce.

"The idea that this has to be commercial activity, and commercial activity alone, is wrong," she said.

The appeals court didn't say when it would rule.

The reasoning behind Wood's arguments hadn't gotten much traction in court before Benson's ruling in November. The federal government and animal rights groups contend it was a radical departure from previous court decisions.

Activists say the lower court's ruling could undermine the Endangered Species Act and could weaken protections for animals all over the country because most animals listed as endangered species are only found in a single state.

On the other side, 10 states have stepped in to support the decision: Utah, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming and Michigan.

After Benson's decision was handed down, Utah wildlife authorities adopted a plan that has allowed some 2,500 animals to be trapped on private land and moved out of town, something that had previously been difficult and complicated. The plan also lets residents shoot animals that get too close to houses.

The Utah prairie dog is the smallest of five species of the burrowing rodents.

Their numbers dwindled to about 2,000 as land was cleared to make room for farming, ranching and housing. Considered key to the ecosystem, they were listed as endangered in 1973. With federal protections, they've rebounded to 28,000 as of this spring, according to the state tallies, and have been upgraded to threatened status.

Body recovered from SD river believed to be of missing man

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement authorities in southeast South Dakota believe that the body recovered from the Vermillion River over the weekend is that of a man who was reported missing in mid-September.

Vermillion Police Chief Matthew Betzen says authorities are "reasonably sure" that the body recovered Sunday is that of 31-year-old Evan Stajduhar. Betzen says authorities do not suspect foul play at this time.

Betzen says a caller reported seeing the body, which has then pulled from the river just south of the city of Vermillion. Betzen says an autopsy is underway.

Stajduhar has been missing since Sept. 16.

Nature foundation unveils \$3.3M in monarch butterfly grants

JIM SUHR, Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A national wildlife group awarded \$3.3 million in grants Monday in its initial push to stem the worrisome decline of monarch butterflies, hoping the effort helps restore as much as 33,000 acres of habitat for the black-and-orange insect.

The 22 grants announced by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will be matched by more than \$6.7 million from the recipients, who are in more than a dozen states and among 115 applicants for funds in the conservation effort launched earlier this year.

"We were delighted to have drawn such a large number of excellent proposals," said Lila Helms, the foundation's executive vice president of external affairs. The grants "will fund on-the-ground projects that will quickly contribute to a healthier, more sustainable monarch population."

Many of Monday's biggest grants — roughly \$250,000 apiece — went to efforts to bolster grasslands and other habitat in key monarch butterfly migration corridors. One project looks to restore more than 1,000 acres of monarch habitat in the Dakotas, while another includes the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's quest to create or improve 7,000 habitat acres along two of the butterfly's major north-south migration

routes.

States with recipients of Monday's grants include Arizona, California, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Washington.

Roughly \$1.2 million of the grant money this year comes from St. Louis-based agribusiness Monsanto Co., maker of the Roundup weed killer that critics have partly blamed for knocking out monarch butterflies' habitat. Monsanto said in March it was committing \$4 million overall, most of it to the foundation's Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund.

Monarch butterflies are being considered for federal protection because their numbers throughout the continental U.S. have plunged by more than 90 percent in the past two decades, worrying environmentalists and scientists. Much of the drop-off has been blamed on destruction of habitat that includes milkweed, where monarchs lay their eggs and which provides the sole source of food for caterpillars that later develop into the distinctive butterflies.

Some monarch populations migrate thousands of miles from breeding and wintering grounds in California and Mexico. But along the route, there is less of the milkweed — widely attributed to increasing acreage for corn and soybeans, logging, construction and a drought that peaked in 2012.

Environmentalists say the butterfly's decline has coincided with the increased use of Roundup, and more acreage planted with its herbicide-resistant Roundup Ready crops.

Monsanto has said one-third of a \$3.6 million contribution matches what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was contributing. The rest was set aside for the coming years. Monsanto also planned to contribute \$400,000 to experts and groups working on the butterfly's behalf.

3 dead, 1 injured in 2-vehicle crash in northeastern SD

MINA, S.D. (AP) — Three people are dead and one is seriously injured following a two-vehicle crash in northeastern South Dakota.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the incident occurred Sunday near the Mina overpass.

Authorities say a sport utility vehicle was traveling east on U.S. Highway 12 when 62-year-old driver Charles Neuharth lost control, crossed the center line and collided almost head on with a westbound car driven by 23-year-old Shelby Thayer.

Both drivers were killed as was 86-year-old Frieda Trautman, who was a passenger in the SUV. The Highway Patrol says a second passenger in the SUV, 62-year-old Marilyn Neuharth, sustained life-threatening injuries.

Authorities say the three occupants of the SUV, all from Eureka, were wearing seatbelts. Thayer, of Aberdeen, was not.

The Highway Patrol says the incident remains under investigation.

South Dakota regulators holding hearing on pipeline project

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota regulators are deciding whether to approve construction of a proposed \$3.8 billion pipeline that would move oil from western North Dakota's Bakken oil patch.

South Dakota's Public Utilities Commission on Tuesday is beginning a two-week hearing on whether to permit the Dakota Access Pipeline, which would move at least 450,000 barrels of North Dakota crude daily through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois, where shippers can access Midwest and Gulf Coast markets.

About 270 miles of the 1,130-mile pipeline would be in eastern South Dakota, where some landowners have environmental concerns.

Opponents have placed seven billboards and signs throughout Lincoln and Minnehaha counties at locations under which the pipeline would run, in hopes of making the public aware of the pipeline's proximity to population centers and eastern South Dakota's productive cropland.

A march against the pipeline took place Saturday at a park in Sioux Falls, the Argus Leader newspaper reported (<http://argusne.ws/1VIEyzk>).

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 17 of 22

"We really want people to be aware of what's going to happen with this pipeline hearing," said Peggy Hoogestraat, a landowner and vocal opponent of the project.

Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners has said the project will create up to 12,000 temporary jobs for welders, mechanics, pipefitters and heavy equipment operators, pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into local economies. Construction companies in South Dakota have filed letters of support with the state.

The Public Utilities Commission will make a final decision on permitting by mid-December, Chairman Chris Nelson said.

The project also needs approval from regulators in North Dakota, Iowa and Illinois. Energy Transfer Partners already has the shipping commitments it needs from oil producers and hopes to have the pipeline running late next year.

10 Things to Know For Today

The Associated Press

1. OBAMA, PUTIN AT ODDS OVER SYRIA

At the U.N., the U.S. president and his Russian counterpart sharply disagree over how to handle the devastating civil war, especially on the future status of embattled leader Bashar Assad.

2. RUINOUS WAR IN SYRIA COULD CAUSE BREAK UP ALONG SECTARIAN OR REGIONAL LINES

The devastation is so widespread that experts wonder whether the disparate groups can share a unifying national sentiment.

3. U.S. LAUNCHES STRIKE ON STRATEGIC AFGHAN CITY CAPTURED BY TALIBAN

The militant group's conquest of Kunduz is the first of a major urban area since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

4. WHAT NASA'S MARS ORBITER REVEALS

The spacecraft's instruments show strong evidence that water trickles down some Martian slopes, which could suggest the presence of microscopic life forms.

5. ISLAMIC STATE GROUP SAYS IT GUNNED DOWN AN ITALIAN CITIZEN IN BANGLADESH

It would mark the extremists' first attack in the secular South Asian nation which has struggled against hardline Islamic groups.

6. BRAZIL BELEAGUERED BY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISIS

The currency is hitting historic lows, unemployment is at a five-year peak and the grinding deadlock has frozen leaders' ability to push through necessary measures.

7. UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR ALASKA PIPELINE

Gov. Bill Walker says Shell's decision to pull out of oil drilling means the state must find another use for the project.

8. U.S. COLLEGES STRUGGLE TO INTEGRATE HUGE INFLUX OF CHINESE STUDENTS

Educators are even broadcasting football games in Mandarin and giving students orientation before they leave their country.

9. TREVOR NOAH STEPS INTO JON STEWART'S SHOES

On his first night as host of "The Daily Show", the South African comedian promised not to make his predecessor seem like a "crazy old dude who left his inheritance to some random kid from Africa."

10. AARON RODGERS THROWS FOR 5 TOUCHDOWNS

The Green Bay Packers quarterback has a big Monday night in a 38-28 victory against the Kansas City Chiefs.

AP News in Brief

For Obama and Putin, more awkward moments, but few breakthroughs on Syria

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin's first formal meeting in more than two years started with an awkward handshake and ended without a breakthrough

on Syria, a crisis that has strained their already tense relationship.

On the biggest issue that divides them in Syria — the status of embattled leader Bashar Assad — Obama and Putin left their discussions Monday exactly where they started. The U.S. still insists Syria's future cannot include Assad, while Putin appears to only want to bolster the standing of his longtime ally, casting him as the best defense against Islamic States militants.

Even so, both leaders appeared interested in whether their meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly could yield progress toward ending Syria's 4½ year civil war. After the 90-minute sit-down at U.N. headquarters, Putin and U.S. officials who described the meeting on Obama's behalf each spoke of the need for cooperation.

"Strange as it may seem, there were many common points," Putin told reporters. "There were also disagreements which we agreed to work together. I hope this work will be constructive."

U.S. officials said the leaders agreed to explore ways to pursue a resolution to a crisis that has left more than 250,000 dead, even as they made clear Obama wasn't bending on his insistence that Assad not be part of the eventual solution.

After 4 years of ruinous war, Syria may face partition, or looser structure

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria has already been shattered by more than four years of civil war, and with no solution in sight, some players on the ground and observers outside have concluded its fate will be to break up along sectarian or regional lines — in a best-case scenario, tenuously held together by a less centralized state.

A true partition would risk yet more mayhem, including ethnic or sectarian cleansing and battle over every bend in the border. But so spectacular is Syria's disaster that many wonder whether its disparate groups can share a unifying national sentiment again.

The sectarian dynamic was evident last week in a U.N.-backed truce deal in the key Zabadani region near the Lebanese border, which reportedly envisions the transfer of thousands of Shiites and Sunni fighters from one area to another.

In all, half the prewar population of 23 million has been displaced and a quarter million killed, propelling a huge wave of refugees to neighboring countries and now to Europe.

The government, dominated by President Bashar Assad's Alawite sect, controls Damascus, the Alawite heartland along the Mediterranean coast, other cities and connecting corridors in between. Kurds run their own affairs in the northeast. The militant Islamic State group controls much of the Sunni heartland in the east. Other Sunni rebels control pockets in the north and south. The Druze remain loyal but are starting to talk about autonomy in their southern areas as well.

President Barack Obama to chair UN gathering of world leaders on countering terrorism

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — President Barack Obama is chairing a U.N. gathering of world leaders to discuss countering terrorism, a day after he and the leaders of Russia, China and Iran addressed the General Assembly on its 70th anniversary.

At Tuesday's meeting, the United States is rallying support for the fight against groups like the Islamic State, which is attracting foreign fighters who could return to their home countries to launch attacks.

Russia on Wednesday will chair its own meeting on countering extremism as this month's U.N. Security Council president.

Both countries laid out competing visions Monday on Syria's conflict.

Also set for Tuesday are high-level meetings on the humanitarian consequences of the war in Syria and the wider refugee and migrant crisis that is the largest since the upheaval of World War II.

Big Senate vote propels stopgap spending bill past conservative opposition

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is set to pass a spending bill to prevent the government from shutting down this week over the opposition of the most conservative Republicans in the chamber.

Tuesday's expected vote comes after a 77-19 tally on Monday easily beat a token filibuster threat. The House is then expected to approve the measure — stripped of a tea party-backed measure to take taxpayer funding away from Planned Parenthood as the price for keeping the government open — before Wednesday's midnight deadline.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky is under fire from tea party conservatives who demand that he fight harder against Planned Parenthood even at the risk of a government shutdown, but McConnell is more concerned with protecting his 2016 re-election class.

Last week, Democrats led a filibuster of a Senate stopgap measure that would have "defunded" Planned Parenthood. Eight Republicans did not support that measure, leaving it short of a simple majority, much less the 60 votes required to overcome the filibuster.

The pending measure is "the only viable way forward in the short term," McConnell said. "It doesn't represent my first, second, third or 23rd choice when it comes to funding the government, but it will keep the government open through the fall."

Alaska, industry officials fear fallout of Shell's decision to pull plug on Arctic drilling

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Royal Dutch Shell's dry hole in the Chukchi Sea may be disappointing to shareholders, but it's potentially devastating to Alaska.

The company's decision to end oil exploration in offshore Alaska for the foreseeable future means the state must find another source to fill the 800-mile trans-Alaska pipeline and solve its economic woes, Gov. Bill Walker said.

"We need to get some oil in the pipeline, and we need to do it as quickly as possible and in the safest method possible," Walker said. He is suggesting the federal government open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to natural gas drilling.

The petroleum industry funds upward of 90 percent of state government. Declining oil production and low prices have left Alaska with a billion-dollar budget gap, and state leaders saw rays of hope in Shell's offshore prospects.

Confirmation of the estimated 15 billion barrels in the Chukchi lease area could have led to additional exploration by other leaseholders. And a transition to production — though a decade or more off — would have meant jobs, potential revenue and a source to replenish the trans-Alaska pipeline, now running less than one-quarter full.

FACT CHECK: Math in GOP White House front-runner Donald Trump's tax plan doesn't always add up

WASHINGTON (AP) — In proposing a major overhaul of the U.S. tax system, Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump vows to reduce the tax rates paid by millions of Americans, spur economic growth not seen in decades and do so without adding to the national debt.

"It's a tax reform that I think will make America strong and great again," Trump said Monday. Here is a look at some of the claims Trump made when announcing his tax plan and how they compare with the facts.

TRUMP: "It will provide major tax relief for middle income, and for most other Americans, there will be a major reduction."

THE FACTS: Trump's plan will undoubtedly reduce the amount of money Americans pay in income taxes.

Kyle Pomerleau, an economist at the Tax Foundation, which advocates for lower tax rates, said the cost of Trump's cuts could easily total more than \$7 trillion over the next decade.

US military launches airstrike on key Afghan city captured by Taliban as Afghan troops regroup

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The U.S. military carried out an airstrike on Tuesday on the northern Afghan city of Kunduz, which was captured by the Taliban the previous day in a major setback to the government of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

On the ground, Afghan forces were regrouping to try and take back this city of nearly 300,000 people — the first urban area seized by the Taliban since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion that ousted their regime.

The city fell Monday, after hundreds of Taliban gunmen launched a coordinated, multi-pronged attack at several points around the city. After a day of fierce fighting, they managed to overrun government buildings and hoisted their flag in the city square. The fast-moving assault took the military and intelligence authorities by surprise.

U.S. Army Col. Brian Tribus, the spokesman for the U.S. and NATO missions in Afghanistan, said the early Tuesday morning airstrike was conducted "in order to eliminate a threat to the force" — though there were no foreign troops left inside the city. He did not elaborate if more airstrikes would follow.

Afghanistan rushed military reinforcements to the region and began an operation to retake the city, according to a Defense Ministry statement. A newly-built police headquarters and the prison in Kunduz were already freed from the Taliban and taken back, the statement said.

Big utilities entering market for small-scale solar power on customer rooftops

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Traditional power companies are getting into small-scale solar energy and competing for space on your rooftop.

The emerging competition comes as utilities and smaller solar installers fight over the future of the U.S. energy system. While the market for residential solar power remains a financial drop in the bucket for a big utility, the installation of solar panels overall grew by more than 50 percent in 2014 and is on track for another record-breaking year at time when the traditional utility business is pretty flat.

"The whole theory is you need to serve your customer or someone will serve them for you," said Raiford Smith, a vice president at CPS Energy in San Antonio, Texas, where 3,000 customers are interested in getting utility-owned rooftop panels. "I think the entire market is in a race for rooftop."

These moves may have a range of effects for customers. The utilities experimenting in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan and Texas could make solar more affordable for average consumers by energizing competition and driving down prices. Some utility programs may be beneficial to people who cannot afford big up-front investments, get affordable loans or find existing solar leases too cumbersome.

Smaller solar companies fear the incumbents will use their power to drive competitors from the market. After all, every time an installer puts solar panels on a home, a utility company sells less power and makes less money.

Volkswagen emissions scandal: 1.8 million vehicles at commercial vehicles division affected

BERLIN (AP) — Volkswagen's commercial vehicles division says 1.8 million of its vehicles are among those affected by the emissions-rigging scandal.

Volkswagen AG has admitted using a piece of engine software to cheat on diesel car emissions tests in the U.S. It said last week the engines concerned are in some 11 million vehicles worldwide, far more than the 482,000 originally identified by U.S. authorities.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 21 of 22

Details have emerged gradually of how many were made by which VW division. On Tuesday, Guenther Scherelis, a spokesman for the commercial vehicles unit — which makes vans and pickups — confirmed a report in the daily Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung that 1.8 million of its vehicles were affected. He didn't give further details.

Also affected are 5 million VW brand cars, 2.1 million Audis and 1.2 million Skodas.

The Latest: Migration group: A record 522,000 migrants have crossed sea to Europe this year

PARIS (AP) — The latest developments as European governments struggle to cope with tens of thousands of people trekking across Europe to find safety. All times local:

11:55 a.m.

The International Organization for Migration says a record number of people have crossed the Mediterranean into Europe this year, now topping a half a million.

As of Tuesday, the group says 522,124 people have traveled by sea to reach the continent this year. Some 388,000 have entered via Greece, and more than 175,000 of the total came from war-torn Syria — the largest single refugee source as a country.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, September 29, the 272nd day of 2015. There are 93 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 29, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, creating the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts; during the signing ceremony, the president said the measure would create an American Film Institute.

On this date:

In 1789, the U.S. War Department established a regular army with a strength of several hundred men.

In 1829, London's reorganized police force, which became known as Scotland Yard, went on duty.

In 1907, the foundation stone was laid for the Washington National Cathedral.

In 1910, the National Urban League, which had its beginnings as The Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, was established in New York.

In 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders concluded the Munich Agreement, which was aimed at appeasing Adolf Hitler by allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

In 1943, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Italian Marshal Pietro Badoglio signed an armistice aboard the British ship HMS Nelson off Malta.

In 1955, a one-act version of the Arthur Miller play "A View From the Bridge" opened in New York. (Miller later turned it into a two-act play.)

In 1962, Canada joined the space age as it launched the Alouette 1 satellite from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The musical "My Fair Lady" closed on Broadway after 2,717 performances.

In 1975, baseball manager Casey Stengel died in Glendale, California, at age 85.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was found dead in his Vatican apartment just over a month after becoming head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1982, Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules laced with deadly cyanide claimed the first of seven victims in the Chicago area. (To date, the case remains unsolved.)

In 1990, the Washington National Cathedral, begun in 1907, was formally completed with President George H.W. Bush overseeing the laying of the final stone atop the southwest pinnacle of the cathedral's St. Paul Tower.

Ten years ago: John G. Roberts Jr. was sworn in as the nation's 17th chief justice after winning Senate confirmation. New York Times reporter Judith Miller was released from 85 days of federal detention

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 19 - No. 070 ♦ 22 of 22

after agreeing to testify in a criminal probe into the leak of a covert CIA officer's identity. Three suicide car bombs exploded nearly simultaneously in Balad, a mostly Shiite town north of Baghdad, killing some 60 people.

Five years ago: Anti-austerity protests erupted across Europe; Greek doctors and railway employees walked off the job, Spanish workers shut down trains and buses, and one man rammed a cement truck into the Irish parliament to protest the country's enormous bank bailouts. Actor Tony Curtis, 85, died in Henderson, Nevada.

One year ago: In a blistering speech to the United Nations, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that Hamas and the Islamic State group were "branches of the same poisonous tree," both bent on world domination through terror, just as the Nazis had done. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai (ahsh-RAHF' gah-NEE' ah-mahd-ZEYE') was sworn in as Afghanistan's new president, replacing Hamid Karzai in the country's first democratic transfer of power since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion toppled the Taliban.

Today's Birthdays: Conductor Richard Bonyngé is 85. Writer-director Robert Benton is 83. Singer Jerry Lee Lewis is 80. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., is 73. Actor Ian McShane is 73. Jazz musician Jean-Luc Ponty is 73. Nobel Peace laureate Lech Walesa (lehk vah-WEN'-sah), the former president of Poland, is 72. Television-film composer Mike Post is 71. Actress Patricia Hodge is 69. TV personality Bryant Gumbel is 67. Rock singer-musician Mark Farner is 67. Rock singer-musician Mike Pinera is 67. Country singer Alvin Crow is 65. Actor Drake Hogestyn is 62. Broadcast journalist Gwen Ifill is 60. Olympic gold medal runner Sebastian Coe is 59. Singer Suzzzy Roche (The Roches) is 59. Comedian-actor Andrew "Dice" Clay is 58. Rock singer John Payne (Asia) is 57. Actor Roger Bart is 53. Singer-musician Les Claypool is 52. Actress Jill Whelan is 49. Actor Luke Goss is 47. Rock musician Brad Smith (Blind Melon) is 47. Actress Erika Eleniak is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Devante Swing (Jodeci) is 46. Country singer Brad Cotter (TV: "Nashville Star") is 45. Actress Emily Lloyd is 45. Actress Natasha Gregson Wagner is 45. Actress Rachel Cronin is 44. Country musician Danick Dupelle (Emerson Drive) is 42. Actor Alexis Cruz is 41. Actor Zachary Levi is 35. Country singer Katie McNeill (3 of Hearts) is 33. Rock musician Josh Farro is 28. Actor Doug Brochu is 25. Singer Phillip Phillips is 25. Actress Clara Mamet is 21.

Thought for Today: "Nobody knows enough, but many know too much." - Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach, Austrian author (1830-1916).