

Groton Daily Independent

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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

Thursday, October 1

School Breakfast: Egg and cheese omelet, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken dummies, sweet potato tots, fruit, broccoli and dip.

Senior Menu: Roast beef, potatoes, carrots and onions, gravy, honey dew melon or peaches, dinner roll.

Birthdays: • Joe Gustafson • Turner Thompson

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran India Circle

2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

4:00pm: 7th Grade FB host Roncalli

4:30pm: 7th/8th VB host Webster

4:30pm: Cross Country at Sisseton

5:00pm: 8th Grade FB hosts Roncalli

6:00pm: VB hosts Webster with C/JV matches starting at 6 pm followed by the varsity match

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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The Life of Wayne Feller



Services for Wayne Loren "Coach" Feller, Jr, 72, of Groton will be 11 a.m., Friday, October 2, 2015 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 following a farm accident.

Wayne was born on September 18, 1943 in Aberdeen to Wayne and Ruth (Bjerke) Feller. Wayne grew up on the family farm near Ferney where he was the oldest of 5. Wayne attended Prairie Pride Country School until the 8th Grade and graduated from Groton High School in 1961. Wayne was active in Lazy Farmers 4-H, GHS football and Band. He was also quite the socialite at GHS. Wayne continued his education

at Northern State University, graduating with a degree in Business. He was united in marriage with Paula Hatch and they had two children, Scott and Sara, whom he was very proud of.

Wayne started his career at Hub City Iron and later worked for the Aberdeen American News and Kessler's. Wayne was well known to all customers at Kessler's and was sure to tell a joke or a story of his children and grandchildren. It was very obvious how proud he was of them. Wayne dedicated his time to coaching his children and many others for Aberdeen Hockey Association. He loved looking into genealogy and telling his family about their history. Wayne made sure everyone knew what was going on with his letters and pictures sent thru snail mail, although he was recently introduced to the internet and Facebook and would love to make funny comments on people's Facebook posts. In his spare time, Wayne enjoyed watching the history channel and traveling to see family and friends. He had recently been to New York and Kansas City to visit family. He was always willing to help his son on the farm; or help anyone who needed anything.

Wayne is survived by his children, Scott (Natasha Swanson) Feller of Ferney, Sara (Lee) Jefferson of Lees Summit, MO, grandchildren: Jackson, Jaliyah and Amira Jefferson. Wayne is also survived by his sister, Shirley (Tom) Kucera of Sioux Falls, sister, Nancy (Josh) Bartos of Webster his brother, Jason (Nataliya) Feller of Dallas, TX and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents and his brother, Leslie Feller.

Casketbearers will be Guy DiBenedetto, David Kucera, Tom Kucera, Ryan Heinz, Jarod Heinz, Richard Hildebrant and David Feller.

Stadel, Fordham to hold senior recital at Northern State University

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Jamie Stadel and Austin Fordham will have their senior recital at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 8 in Northern State University's Krikac Auditorium.

Stadel is the daughter of Dave and Cindy Stadel. She grew up in Aberdeen and is a 2012 graduate of Central High School.

Fordham is the son of Mike and Tina Fordham. He grew up in Groton and is a 2012 graduate of Groton Area High School.

Stadel plays alto saxophone and oboe. On alto saxophone, she will perform "Sonatina" by Lex van Delden and "Syrinx" by Claude Debussy (transcribed by Jean-Marie Londeix). On oboe, she will perform "Three Romances, Op. 94" by Robert Schumann. She will be accompanied by Mary Marion.

Fordham plays the tuba. He will perform "Serenade No. 12" by Vincent Persichetti; "Air and Bourrée" by J.S. Bach (Arr. William Bell); "Concertino for Tuba and Band" by Frank Bencriscutto; and "New World Symphony Quartet" by Dvorák (Arr. Fordham). He will be accompanied by Ron Parker.

Stadel has studied with Fred Hemke at Northern. She will graduate from NSU in May 2016 with a degree in instrumental music education and an arts administration certificate.

"I chose Northern because of the quality and reputation of the music program," she said.

Her future plans are to teach or to attend graduate school.

Fordham has studied with Jessica Perkins at NSU. He will graduate in May 2016 with a degree in K-12 music education.

Since he grew up in Groton, Fordham said he was familiar with Northern's music program.

"My high school band director was a Northern graduate, and suggested Northern to me when I showed interest in furthering my education in music," he said. "A lot of the music faculty also knew me by name before I even graduated high school, and due to that, I felt as if the professors truly do care about each student."

After graduation, Fordham hopes to start his career as a high school band director.



Jamie Stadel and Austin Fordham

Yo-Yo Effect Hits South Dakota Pump Prices

Sept. 29, 2015 – Although the nation's regular gasoline price average has fallen for 27 of the past 31 days, South Dakota's statewide average has been down, but is now showing signs of reversing course. Today's South Dakota average price for regular unleaded stands at \$2.37 a gallon. In Sioux Falls, motorists have seen a nine cent increase in the average pump price.

	Today	Last Week	Change	1-Sep	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.422	\$2.396	\$0.026	\$2.482	-\$0.060	\$3.469
Brookings	\$2.374	\$2.432	-\$0.058	\$2.606	-\$0.232	\$3.274
Huron	\$2.512	\$2.622	-\$0.110	\$2.653	-\$0.141	\$3.465
Mitchell	\$2.340	\$2.444	-\$0.104	\$2.592	-\$0.252	\$3.271
Pierre	\$2.580	\$2.564	\$0.016	\$2.869	-\$0.289	\$3.382
Rapid City	\$2.479	\$2.539	-\$0.060	\$2.775	-\$0.296	\$3.425
Sioux Falls	\$2.184	\$2.092	\$0.092	\$2.459	-\$0.275	\$2.151
Vermillion	\$2.189	\$2.323	-\$0.134	\$2.519	-\$0.330	\$3.189
Watertown	\$2.275	\$2.329	-\$0.054	\$2.434	-\$0.159	\$3.533
Yankton	\$2.315	\$2.336	-\$0.021	\$2.621	-\$0.306	\$3.361
South Dakota	\$2.375	\$2.374	\$0.001	\$2.613	-\$0.238	\$3.322

According to FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com, the nationwide pump price average today is \$2.29 per gallon, a penny more than it was a week ago, three cents below the price two weeks ago, 20 cents lower than the price one month ago and \$1.05 less than the price average one year ago.

"As the fall refinery maintenance season continues to ramp-up in response to the very busy summer, gasoline price declines could slow and temporarily change direction," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota.

Motorists in four states are paying averages below \$2 per gallon today with South Carolina (\$1.96) leading the way followed by Mississippi and New Jersey (both at \$1.97) and Alabama (\$1.98). Alaska (\$3.02) has the nation's most expensive fuel followed by California (\$2.98), Nevada (\$2.93), Hawaii (\$2.88) and Utah (\$2.69).

"There are a lot of questions right now about where global oil demand is headed," said Buskohl. "For example, many analysts are saying we could see less consumption in China as the carbon emissions cap-and-trade program they just announced is implemented. Others maintain that country's economy is merely taking a breather before resuming aggressive expansion."

West Texas Intermediate crude oil closed out yesterday's formal trading session on the NYMEX down \$1.27, settling at \$44.43 per barrel. The last time WTI closed above \$50 was on July 21.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

Friends . . . Near and Far

Editor's Note: This is the 40th in a series featuring your friends, near and far.

Shane Buntrock

Where are you living today? Mesa, Arizona
JobWise what are you doing today? Attorney in private practice with my firm Buntrock & Gardner Law, PLLC

How long have you been working at the current job? I have worked as an attorney since 1995.

How did you get your current job? Started my own firm in 2013.

If you have previous employments list them and how long you were there. Johnson Heidepriem Miner & Marlow, Yankton, SD 1995-1999; Sanders & Parks, PC Phoenix, AZ 1999-2006, Rowley Chapman Barney & Buntrock, Ltd 2006-2013, Buntrock & Gardner Law PLLC 2013-present.

What year did you graduate from high school? GHS in 1985

Where did you attend college and what was your degree? South Dakota State University B.S 1989

What advice would you give the high school students today? Work hard and have fun. Smile. Keep your eye on what comes after high school

List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life. Education, my Family and work with the Arizona Burn Foundation

Married Life: Sara Mannes Aberdeen, SD

How did the two of you meet? Through mutual friends in high school

Do you have any children? Yes. Haley Elizabeth Brown, 23 married, attending law school at Gonzaga University Law in Spokane Washington. Jackson 20, attending Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ, Madison, 18, attending Utah State University in Logan, Utah. Jake, 11, 6th grade.

Do you feel that your high school and college education prepared you adequately for post education life? I think that for my time, my high school and college education helped me. They certainly did not provide all the answers as we must learn and figure out through experience and continued learning.



From Left to Right: Jackson, Madison, Sara, Shane, Jake, Haley

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Today in Weather History

September 30, 2006: Severe to exceptional drought conditions improved dramatically by the end of the month across central and north central South Dakota as above normal rainfall was recorded for the month of September.

1896: A hurricane formed on September 22 and lasted until September 30. It formed directly over the Lesser Antilles and hit Cuba, Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. Its maximum sustained winds were at 130 mph. The heaviest rainfall deposited in association with the storm was 19.96 inches at Glennville, Georgia. This hurricane was responsible for an estimated 130 deaths and \$1.5 million in damage (1896 dollars).

1959 - Three tornadoes spawned by the remnants of Hurricane Gracie killed 12 persons at Ivy VA. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A nineteen month drought in southern California came to a climax. The drought, which made brush and buildings tinder dry, set up the worst fire conditions in California history as hot Santa Anna winds sent the temperature soaring to 105 degrees at Los Angeles, and to 97 degrees at San Diego. During that last week of September whole communities of interior San Diego County were consumed by fire. Half a million acres were burned, and the fires caused fifty million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1977 - The temperature at Wichita Falls, TX, soared to 108 degrees to establish a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Thunderstorms, which had inundated northern sections of Oklahoma with heavy rain, temporarily shifted southward producing 4 to 8 inches rains from Shawnee to Stilwell. Baseball size hail and 80 mph winds ripped through parts of southeast Oklahoma City, and thunderstorm winds caused more than half a million dollars damage at Shawnee. (Storm Data)

1987 - Afternoon thunderstorms in Michigan produced hail an inch in diameter at Pinckney, and wind gusts to 68 mph at Wyandotte. A thunderstorm in northern Indiana produced wet snow at South Bend. Seven cities in the northwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including readings of 98 degrees at Medford OR and 101 degrees at downtown Sacramento CA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed over Florida, and in the western U.S. The afternoon high of 94 degrees at Fort Myers FL was their tenth record high for the month. Highs of 98 degrees at Medford OR and 99 degrees at Fresno CA were records for the date, and the temperature at Borrego Springs CA soared to 108 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thirteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, as readings soared into the upper 80s and 90s from the Northern and Central High Plains Region to Minnesota. Bismarck ND reported a record high of 95 degrees, and the temperature reached 97 degrees at Broadus MT. Afternoon thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced wind gusts to 60 mph at Wendover UT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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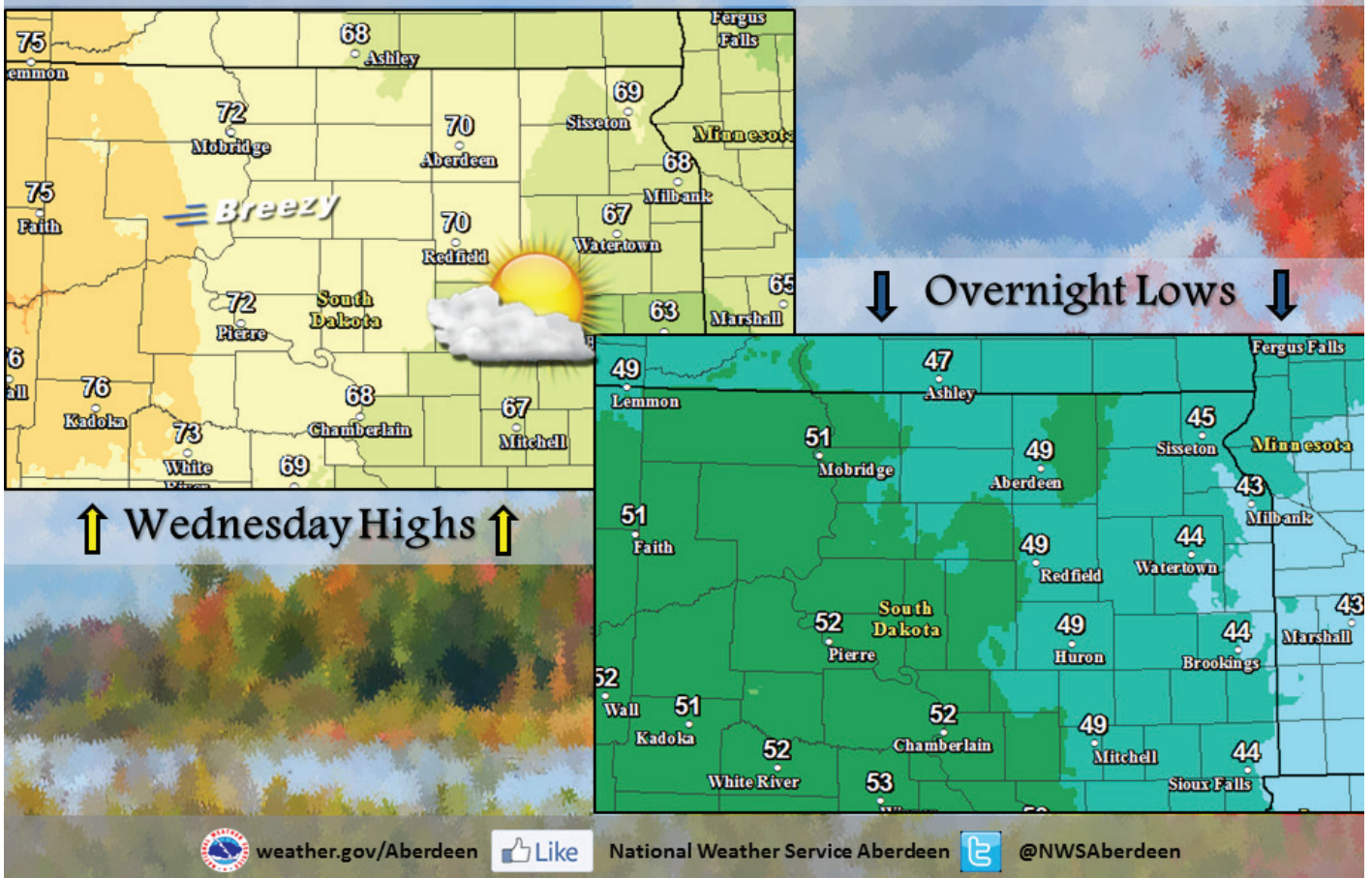
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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Partly Sunny then Partly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance Showers
High: 70 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 60 °F



Mild + a Bit Breezy Wednesday

Below average temps by Friday



Published on: 09/30/2015 at 5:17AM

1896: A hurricane formed on September 22 and lasted until September 30. It formed directly over the Lesser Antilles and hit Cuba, Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. Its maximum sustained winds were at 130 mph. The heaviest rainfall deposited in association with the storm was 19.96 inches at Glennville, Georgia. This hurricane was responsible for an estimated 130 deaths and \$1.5 million in damage (1896 dollars).

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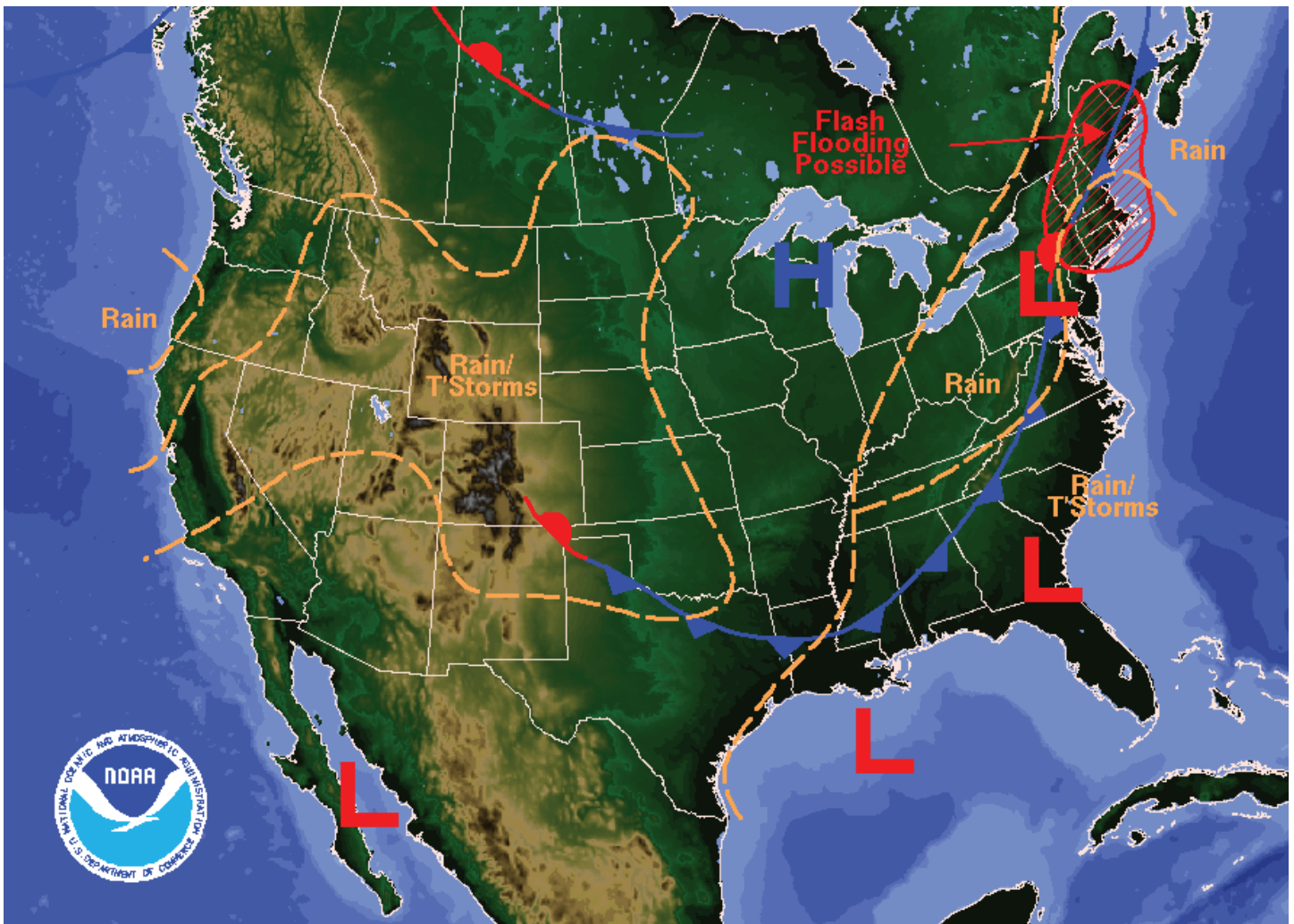
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 71.3
Low: 40.3
High Gust: 14
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1989
Record Low: 15° in 1939
Average High: 66°F
Average Low: 39°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 2.19
Precip to date in Sept.: 1.32
Average Precip to date: 18.48
Precip Year to Date: 18.12
Sunset Tonight: 7:16 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:31 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Sep 30, 2015, issued 4:45 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



EXPECTATIONS

Following a hard-fought baseball game, a reporter interviewing Pete Rose said, "You only need 78 hits to break Ty Cobb's all-time record. How many trips to the plate do you think you will need to get those 78 hits?"

"Seventy-eight," came the instant response.

"Come on, Pete," continued the reporter. "You certainly do not expect 78 hits in 78 trips to the plate, do you?"

"If I did not expect to get a hit each time I went to the plate," said Rose, "I have no right to step into the batter's box. It is my positive expectations that have gotten me all of my hits."

Our expectations are the foundations of what we accomplish in life. If we expect little we will no doubt accomplish little. We will never get more than we expect and nothing we do not attempt. Paul said, "I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Jesus Christ, is calling us up to heaven." Nothing ever stood between God and his expectations of doing all that God expected him to do. We, too, must expect great things from God and attempt great things for God.

Prayer: Father, may we expect to accomplish great things for You because of the calling we have from You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 3:13-14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

News from the Associated Press

Box Elder man gets 30 years for assaulting officer with car

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Box Elder man convicted of assaulting a police officer with his car has been sentenced to serve 30 years in prison.

Authorities say officers were attempting to serve an arrest warrant for a parole violation on 26-year-old John Root Jr. on New Year's Day in 2014. They say Box Elder Officer Nick Rosser because caught in Root's car door and was dragged, and that Root also aimed his car at two Pennington County deputies.

Rosser suffered minor injuries.

A jury in late August convicted Root on three counts of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, and one count each of resisting arrest and obstructing a law enforcement officer. He was sentenced Tuesday and will get credit for nearly two years he's already spend behind bars.

Rapid City police investigating another casino robbery

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

Authorities say a man wearing a black hooded sweat shirt and ski mask entered Brewsters Discount Liquor Casino with a handgun shortly before 1:30 a.m. Tuesday and fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. The casino employee wasn't hurt.

Rapid City has had seven casino robberies since early August. Police say it's too early to know if the latest robbery is connected to any of the previous ones.

Higher education board interviewing Dickinson State finalist

DICKINSON, N.D. (AP) — The state Board of Higher Education is deciding whether to approve Thomas Mitzel as the next president at Dickinson State University.

Mitzel is an Aberdeen, South Dakota, native who is the vice president and faculty dean at Trinity College in Connecticut. He became the lone finalist for the DSU position after Peru State College President Daniel Hanson withdrew from consideration earlier this month.

The board plans a formal interview with Mitzel Wednesday morning before offering him the job. His contract would be negotiated by North Dakota University System Chancellor Mark Hagerott.

Former DSU President D.C. Coston stepped down in August due to health concerns.

Police: Officer fatally shoots male suspect in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police say an officer responding to a domestic assault call fatally shot a male suspect who lunged at him with a "blunt object."

The Rapid City Police Department said in a news release that police were dispatched Tuesday night to a residence where a domestic assault was taking place. The department says the male suspect and a female victim were inside.

According to police, officers tried multiple times to make contact with the suspect, and they forced their way inside after the suspect refused to open the door. Police say the suspect then lunged at an officer with a blunt object raised over his head, and the officer shot him.

Police say the suspect was pronounced dead at the scene, and no officers or bystanders were hurt. The officer was placed on administrative leave, per department policy.

Fire Marshal presents gold coin to Delmont Fire Department

DELMONT, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's fire marshal has presented a gold coin to Delmont firefighters for their response to the Mother Day's tornado that devastated several community buildings.

The coin worth about \$1,300 was forwarded to the state Fire Marshal's Office from an anonymous Sioux

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Falls donor.

State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman presented the coin to Fire Chief Elmer Goehring at the department's monthly Monday night meeting. The May 10 tornado damaged the fire station, a historic church and several homes.

Merriman says firefighters worked hard not only to rebuild their fire station but the entire community. He says the gift is a reward for what already has been done and what can be done in the future.

The chief says the department is not sure what it will do with the coin.

Transportation Department gives scholarship to Mines student

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Department of Transportation has awarded a South Dakota School of Mines and Technology student with a scholarship provided by an association of state highway and transportation officials.

The \$1,000 scholarship announced Tuesday for Justin Kepler is from the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Kepler is a senior in civil engineering at the Rapid City institution. He has previously worked in the state department's office in Pierre.

The association of state highway and transportation officials granted member state departments each a scholarship to give to someone who is pursuing education and career opportunities in a field related to transportation.

Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Central def. Brookings, 26-24, 25-17, 24-26, 17-25, 15-9

Avon def. Scotland, 14-25, 25-14, 25-14, 25-14

Baltic def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-14, 25-15, 25-14

Belle Fourche def. Lead-Deadwood, 24-26, 25-17, 25-19, 25-20

Clark/Willow Lake def. DeSmet, 17-25, 25-22, 17-25, 25-17, 15-8

Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley, Minn. def. Rosholt, 25-16, 25-9, 25-11

Colome def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-19, 25-21, 25-23

Custer def. Hill City, 25-14, 25-23, 25-21

Dakota Valley def. Bon Homme, 25-20, 25-18, 25-17

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Garretson, 25-15, 25-11, 20-25, 25-17

Estelline def. Flandreau Indian, 25-5, 25-20, 25-10

Ethan def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-12, 25-23, 25-15

Faith def. Takini, 25-16, 26-24, 21-25, 25-10

Freeman Academy def. Canistota, 25-13, 25-13, 25-14

Great Plains Lutheran def. Lake Preston, 25-14, 25-13, 25-5

Groton Area def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-7, 25-15, 25-8

Harrisburg def. Mitchell, 25-9, 20-25, 25-15, 25-22

Herreid/Selby Area def. Edmunds Central, 25-4, 25-7, 25-16

Highmore-Harrold def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-22, 25-22, 16-25, 16-25, 15-9

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-13, 25-16, 25-23

Hot Springs def. Edgemont, 25-13, 25-18, 25-17

Howard def. Mitchell Christian, 25-19, 25-19, 14-25, 25-13

James Valley Christian def. Iroquois, 25-17, 25-13, 25-13

Kadoka Area def. Bennett County, 25-14, 25-20, 25-15

Lemmon def. Bison, 18-25, 25-20, 25-17, 25-19

Leola/Frederick def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-20, 25-17, 25-16

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McCook Central/Montrose def. Dell Rapids, 27-25, 19-25, 25-21, 25-14
McIntosh def. Newell, 25-13, 25-22, 25-19
Mobridge-Pollock def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-19, 25-16, 25-14
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Centerville, 25-18, 27-25, 25-8
Parker def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-12, 25-15, 25-15
Parkston def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-17, 25-11, 25-15
Rapid City Stevens def. Rapid City Central, 25-11, 25-10, 25-23
Redfield/Doland def. Northwestern, 19-25, 15-25, 25-21, 28-26, 15-12
Sioux Falls Christian def. Vermillion, 25-9, 25-11, 25-14
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 26-24, 25-22, 25-20
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Sioux Falls Washington, 19-25, 25-13, 25-23, 25-20
Sioux Valley def. Flandreau, 25-17, 25-8, 25-21
St. Francis Indian def. Crow Creek, 25-16, 25-20, 25-23
St. Thomas More def. Douglas, 25-19, 21-25, 25-23, 18-25, 15-8
Sully Buttes def. Potter County, 25-10, 25-22, 25-22
Todd County def. Winner, 25-10, 25-22, 25-22
Wall JV def. Jones County, 25-13, 25-16, 25-18
Warner def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-10, 25-3, 25-5
Watertown def. Huron, 25-9, 25-18, 25-20
Webster def. Ipswich, 25-23, 25-23, 25-13
West Central def. Canton, 25-11, 25-18, 25-14
White River def. Gregory, 20-25, 25-17, 25-19, 25-12
Deuel Triangular
Castlewood def. Deuel, 25-13, 24-26, 25-16, 25-12
Hamlin def. Castlewood, 25-20, 21-25, 25-19, 26-24
Hamlin def. Deuel, 24-26, 25-16, 25-22, 25-19

South Dakota man convicted in death of Adrian Peterson's son

CANTON, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota jury on Tuesday convicted a man of second-degree murder and other charges in the death of the 2-year-old son of Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson.

The Lincoln County jury deliberated more than five hours before finding Joseph Patterson, 29, guilty of second-degree murder, first-degree manslaughter and aggravated battery, the Argus Leader reported. The deliberations followed two weeks of testimony about the October 2013 death of Tyrese Robert Ruffin, the son of Patterson's girlfriend and Peterson.

Authorities alleged that Patterson assaulted Tyrese 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's defense maintained during the trial that Tyrese choked on a fruit snack. A doctor who testified for the defense said autopsy photos indicated injuries consistent with a child being given CPR after choking.

Patterson could face life in prison. He will be sentenced later.

Peterson has said he found out the boy was his son only about two months before his death. He had been working with Tyrese's mother to arrange a meeting with the boy when he received a call that the child was hospitalized with severe injuries. Peterson said he raced to South Dakota and saw Tyrese for the first time a day before he died.

Vilsack unveils nearly \$2.6 million in grants for Pine Ridge

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PORCUPINE, S.D. (AP) — Nearly \$2.6 million in grants for economic development efforts on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation are going to projects ranging from water and waste disposal at a tribal college

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to training businesses on buffalo meat processing, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced Tuesday during a visit to the area.

The largest grant is \$1.85 million to construct a landfill, buy equipment and for construction and repairs at Oglala Lakota College, which is also receiving about \$160,800 for a communications system. The Thunder Valley Community Development Corp., where Vilsack made the announcement, received \$375,000 in part for a demonstration farm and education center.

"I think these grants are a recognition of the important partnership that we have nation-to-nation and the responsibility that we have to help young people understand that there is a bright future," Vilsack said. "This is a tremendously beautiful landscape and vista. I was struck by it when I traveled here today, and it occurred to me that there is an unlimited amount of potential here."

Vilsack said President Barack Obama's administration is "profoundly touched" by the reservation being an area of great promise, but also "extraordinary poverty and challenges." Pine Ridge is home to about 35,000 people — nearly half of whom live below the poverty level.

The other grants include \$134,260 for training of agricultural producers; \$49,500 to provide assistance and training to businesses on buffalo meat processing; \$48,700 for purchasing two police vehicles in Oglala; and \$18,800 to purchase a police vehicle in Oglala Lakota County.

Vilsack attended a discussion at Oglala Lakota College before touring the development corporation's complex, where he also heard from members of a youth leadership development program.

Nick Tilsen, executive director of Thunder Valley, said the visit shows that the Obama administration is paying attention. He said there needs to be a partnership between the community and federal agencies, as well as extra attention for Pine Ridge from the federal government.

"This place needs rejuvenation, it needs a regeneration, to get federal partners, to get new folks excited about what the possibilities are for here, and for us to focus less on what the problems are and more focus on what the solutions are," Tilsen said after leading the tour with Vilsack. "I think that's what this has meant for us and the momentum we're trying to build here on Pine Ridge."

The development corporation is managing the implementation of Pine Ridge as a "Promise Zone," a designation that came from the Obama administration. The federal program's goals include increasing economic activity, improving health and reducing violent crime. The designation gives the impoverished communities an advantage in obtaining grants and other federal assistance.

Keystone XL developer drops landowner lawsuits in Nebraska

GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The developer of the Keystone XL pipeline is shifting course in Nebraska and will withdraw lawsuits seeking to gain access to the property of landowners who oppose the project, the company announced Tuesday.

TransCanada Inc. said it will abandon its current efforts to invoke eminent domain through the courts and will reapply for state approval despite having received the go-ahead from former Republican Gov. Dave Heineman in 2013.

Heineman approved the project under a now-contested pipeline-siting law that granted him the final say over the project's route through Nebraska. TransCanada spokesman Mark Cooper said the company will instead seek a review from the Nebraska Public Service Commission — a small, elected group that regulates most pipeline projects — as many opponents have wanted.

Cooper said the company intends to seek approval for the same route that was approved by the governor, but reapplying through the commission provides "the clearest path to achieving route certainty," given the lawsuits that sought to overturn Nebraska's 3-year-old pipeline-siting law.

"It ultimately saves time, reduces conflict with those who oppose the project and sets clear rules for approval of the route," Cooper said.

Opponents argued in court that the law was invalid because it allowed TransCanada to circumvent the commission and receive approval from Heineman, who supported the pipeline. Under Nebraska's consti-

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tution, the commission has the authority to regulate "common carriers" such as pipelines and railroads. The company and its supporters argued that the law is valid, and noted that the project was reviewed once by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and five times by the U.S. State Department. Pipeline opponents celebrated the announcement as a major victory, but still called on President Barack Obama to reject a presidential permit for the project. Federal approval is required because the project crosses the U.S.-Canadian border.

"TransCanada is a desperate company in an ever-losing situation in Nebraska," said Jane Kleeb, executive director of the group Bold Nebraska. "Farmers and ranchers continue to stand up this reckless foreign corporation and we continue to win."

The pipeline would travel from Canada through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

In January, the Nebraska Supreme Court allowed the pipeline-siting law to stand by default. Four judges on the seven-member court ruled in favor of landowners who challenged the law, but a super-majority of five was needed.

The remaining three judges refused to rule on the law, arguing that they couldn't because the plaintiffs in the lawsuit didn't have legal standing. Opponents responded by filing a nearly identical lawsuit with landowners who were directly affected.

Cooper said 91 percent of Nebraska landowners along the pipeline route have agreed to easements so the company can build the pipeline.

Cooper said TransCanada could apply to the Public Service Commission as early as Friday. Reviews by the commission generally take seven months to a year to complete, and its decisions can be appealed in the state's district court system.

Art Tanderup, a farmer and pipeline opponent whose land is on the proposed route, said he's confident the commission will not allow the pipeline to cross the Sandhills — a region of fragile, grass-covered sand dunes — or the Ogallala Aquifer, a major groundwater supply that lies beneath Nebraska and parts of seven other states.

"This is a victory for landowners standing up to prevent a foreign corporation from taking their land for corporate greed through eminent domain," he said.

Herrick man pleads guilty to manslaughter following crash

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A 77-year-old Herrick man who was involved in a fatal car crash in May has pleaded guilty to a manslaughter charge.

The South Dakota Attorney General's Office says Herris Lambley has pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree manslaughter.

Authorities say Lambley was driving a pickup truck in May and struck a car at a rural intersection on the evening of May 26. Twenty-four-year-old Herrick resident Steven Wheeler was driving the car and died at the scene.

Lambley suffered injuries that the Highway Patrol at the time called serious but not life-threatening.

Second-degree manslaughter is a class 4 felony punishable by up to 10 years in the state penitentiary. Sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 24 at the Gregory County courthouse.

Former South Dakota Gov. Walter Dale Miller dies

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Former South Dakota Gov. Walter Dale Miller, who stepped in as the state's leader in 1993 after a plane crash killed his predecessor, died Monday night. He was 89.

Miller served as the state's 29th governor through 1995, taking the oath of office on April 20, 1993, a day after the plane carrying Gov. George Mickelson and seven others went down in eastern Iowa.

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Miller was a friend who assumed the governorship at a time

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of tragedy and sorrow.

"He provided a steady hand as our state mourned the loss of Gov. Mickelson," Daugaard said in a statement. "Through his long career in public office, Walt worked hard and put South Dakota first."

Mickelson's son, state Rep. Mark Mickelson, said the 20-year veteran of the legislature was a strong leader and the perfect man to take over from his father.

"Walter was a steady hand during a very difficult time," Mickelson said Tuesday.

Miller was born near the towns of Viewfield and New Underwood on Oct. 5, 1925, and spent his life on his family's ranch.

The tall, lanky cowboy epitomized the western South Dakota rancher, Mickelson said, and Miller almost never appeared in public without his cowboy boots. A toothpick often dangled from Miller's mouth, and when he ventured outside he completed the look with a western-style sport coat and a cowboy hat.

After attending the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Miller ran the 7,000-acre family ranch and was president of Dakota National Life Insurance Co. from 1970 to 1985.

Miller was a prominent Republican member of the state House of Representatives from 1967 through 1986, and he's the only person in state history to serve as speaker, speaker pro tempore, majority leader, assistant majority leader and majority whip. Mickelson said the House was in good hands with Miller and Joe Barnett from Aberdeen at the helm.

"They were institutions and they ran the House," he said. "And it worked well."

Attorney General Marty Jackley, a fellow Meade County native who had served as Miller's business lawyer, described Miller as a strong, passionate leader who was honest and direct.

"He said what he meant, and meant what he said," he said.

Miller was instrumental in Jackley's decision to go into public service, and Jackley continued to seek Miller's counsel when he took on the role of state attorney general for advice on how to navigate the waters of running for statewide office, meeting key players and attending Republican conventions.

"That was what his leadership quality was," Jackley said. "He would give you advice, and then irrespective of your decision he would help you achieve that."

When George Mickelson won the 1986 gubernatorial race, he made Miller the state's first full-time lieutenant governor and appointed him chairman of a number of task forces. Miller at that time said he had no political ambitions and only wanted to help make the Mickelson administration a success.

But all that changed six years later when Mickelson was killed in the plane crash. Within months of the crash, Miller decided to seek his own term as governor in the 1994 election but lost in the GOP primary to Bill Janklow, who went on to win another term as governor after previously serving eight years in that role.

Miller and his first wife, Mary, who died in 1989, had three daughters and one son. On the Fourth of July 1993, Miller married Pat Caldwell, who had worked as executive assistant to Miller in the lieutenant governor's office for about five years.

Mitchell police officer cleared in fatal shooting of man

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says a Mitchell police officer who fatally shot a man was justified in using lethal force.

Police Officer Russ Stevenson shot and killed 37-year-old Curtis Meyer on Sept. 4 during a struggle for the man's gun after Stevenson responded to an early morning noise complaint.

Jackley's report says Meyer was legally drunk and had been making suicidal statements the night of the shooting.

GEAR UP program failed to meet key performance benchmarks

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The administrators of a more than \$16 million American Indian college-readiness program failed to achieve nearly a dozen key performance benchmarks, including the number of students it had proposed to serve, according to a recent evaluation.

The South Dakota GEAR UP program has come under scrutiny since the deaths of a family of six, ap-

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parently at the hands of the family's patriarch. Scott Westerhuis was a business manager at Mid-Central Educational Cooperative, and he had learned just hours before the killings that the state would not renew his company's \$4.3 million contract to administer GEAR UP.

Federal education officials evaluating the South Dakota program said it met only about half a dozen aims, and that those shortcomings coupled with red flags in at least two financial audits led them to not renew the GEAR UP contract with Mid-Central.

Investigators believe Westerhuis shot his wife and four children, set fire to their family home, then turned the gun on himself. The bodies were found early Sept. 17 in the charred ruins of their house in the small community of Platte.

Mid-Central was notified on Sept. 16 that it had lost the contract.

In a Sept. 21 letter to Mid-Central, state Secretary of Education Melody Schopp cited financial problems and failures to follow proper accounting procedures as reasons.

"The fact that Secretary Schopp decided not to renew this contract obviously indicates that she was not happy with how things were going," Tony Venhuizen, Gov. Dennis Daugaard's chief of staff, told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/1NZpLJX>).

The latest evaluation the program showed that it was falling short in key areas of increasing the number of Native Americans pursuing post-secondary education, starting with the number of students it served. Under Mid-Central, the program had proposed enrolling 6,591 students but ended up providing services to 4,629.

One of the benchmarks missed was increasing by 10 percent the number of GEAR UP students who took two years of math classes beyond introductory algebra. Another missed benchmark was in increasing the number of children who had grade point averages above a 3.0.

GEAR UP is a national program; the acronym stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs.

South Dakota tribe to open nation's 1st marijuana resort

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) — The Santee Sioux tribe has already proven its business acumen, running a successful casino, a 120-room hotel and a 240-head buffalo ranch on the plains of South Dakota.

But those enterprises have not been immune to competition and the lingering effects of the Great Recession, so the small tribe of 400 is undertaking a new venture — opening the nation's first marijuana resort on its reservation. The experiment could offer a new money-making model for tribes nationwide seeking economic opportunities beyond casinos.

Santee Sioux leaders plan to grow their own pot and sell it in a smoking lounge that includes a nightclub, arcade games, bar and food service, and eventually, slot machines and an outdoor music venue.

"We want it to be an adult playground," tribal President Anthony Reider said. "There's nowhere else in American that has something like this."

The project, according to the tribe, could generate up to \$2 million a month in profit, and work is already underway on the growing facility. The first joints are expected to go on sale Dec. 31 at a New Year's Eve party.

The legalization of marijuana on the Santee Sioux land came in June, months after the Justice Department outlined a new policy that allows Indian tribes to grow and sell marijuana under the same conditions as some states.

Many tribes are hesitant to jump into the pot business. And not everyone in Flandreau, about 45 miles north of Sioux Falls, believes in the project. But the profit potential has attracted the interest of many other tribes, just as the debut of slot machines and table games almost 27 years ago.

"The vast majority of tribes have little to no economic opportunity," said Blake Trueblood, business development director at the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. For those tribes, "this is something that you might look at and say, 'We've got to do something.'"

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Flandreau's indoor marijuana farm is set against a backdrop of soybean fields. If not for a security booth outside, the building could pass as an industrial warehouse.

Inside, men are working to grow more than 30 different strains of the finicky plant, including those with names like "Gorilla Glue," "Shot Glass" and "Big Blue Cheese."

Pot is prone to mildew and mold, picky about temperature and pH level and intolerant to tap water. So the Santee Sioux have hired Denver-based consulting firm Monarch America to teach them the basics.

Tribal leaders from across the country and South Dakota legislators will tour the Flandreau facility in mid-October.

"This is not a fly-by-night operation," said Jonathan Hunt, Monarch's vice president and chief grower. Tribal leaders "want to show the state how clean, how efficient, how proficient, safe and secure this is as an operation. We are not looking to do anything shady."

Elsewhere, crews have begun transforming a bowling alley into the resort.

A marijuana resort open to the public has never been tried in the U.S. Even in states such as Colorado and Washington, where pot is fully legal, consumption in public places is generally forbidden, although pro-pot activists are seeking to loosen those restrictions. Colorado tolerates a handful of private marijuana clubs.

Unlike the vast reservations in western South Dakota, where poverty is widespread, the little-known Flandreau Santee Sioux Reservation is on 5,000 acres of gently rolling land along the Big Sioux River. Trailer homes are scarce and houses have well-trimmed lawns.

The Santee Sioux hope to use pot in the same way that many tribes rely on casinos — to make money for community services and to provide a monthly income to tribal members. The existing enterprises support family homes, a senior living community, a clinic and a community center offering afterschool programs.

Reider hopes marijuana profits can fund more housing, an addiction treatment center and an overhaul of the clinic. Some members want a 24/7 day care center for casino workers.

The prosperity that marijuana could bring to Indian Country comes with huge caveats. The drug remains illegal under federal law, and only Congress can change its status. The administration that moves into the White House in 2017 could overturn the Justice Department's decision that made marijuana cultivation possible on tribal lands.

Meanwhile, tribes must follow strict security measures or risk the entire operation.

The marijuana cannot leave the reservation, and every plant in Flandreau's growing facility will have a bar code. After being harvested and processed, it will be sold in sealed 1-gram packages for \$12.50 to \$15 — about the same price as the illegal market in Sioux Falls, according to law enforcement. Consumers will be allowed to buy only 1 gram — enough for two to four joints — at a time.

Want another gram? The bar-coded package of the first gram must be returned at the counter.

Since the Santee Sioux announced their plans, the Passamaquoddy Tribe in Maine signed a letter of intent with Monarch to build a cultivation facility for industrial hemp. The Suquamish Tribe and Washington state officials signed a 10-year agreement that will govern the production, processing and sale of pot on the tribe's land.

In the long run, Reider is certain that the benefits will outweigh the risks of tribal marijuana enterprises.

The tribe, he said, must "look at these opportunities because in order to preserve the past we do have to advance in the present."

Weather hampers fall harvest in parts of South Dakota

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The fall harvest is in full swing in South Dakota, but weather has slowed farmers in some areas.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that producers in parts in south central, east central and southeastern South Dakota were slowed by midweek rains — nearly 5 inches in some areas.

The corn harvest statewide is underway at 7 percent complete, behind the average pace. The soybean harvest is nearing one-fourth done, close to the average.

The planting of winter wheat is nearly three-fourths complete, well ahead of the average. Winter wheat is seeded in the fall and harvested the following summer.

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Pasture and range conditions statewide are rated 53 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are 76 percent adequate to surplus.

Media mogul Ted Turner buys 'Dances with Wolves' ranch

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Media mogul Ted Turner has bought a South Dakota ranch that was the setting for part of the Academy Award-winning movie "Dances with Wolves."

Triple U Buffalo Ranch owner Kay Ingle confirmed the sale to the Capital Journal and KCCR radio, saying the family is selling the property to pay off debts.

Auctioneer Scott Shuman also confirmed the sale to KCCR, and the Capital Journal reported that the registered deed for the ranch shows it was sold to a limited liability partnership based at another South Dakota buffalo ranch that Turner owns.

Turner spokesman Phillip Evans told the Capital Journal that Turner does not comment on private business deals.

The price listed with the register of deeds is \$32.4 million, or about \$720 per acre. Turner is worth about \$2.2 billion, according to Forbes Magazine. He owns three ranches in Argentina and 15 in seven U.S. states, according to the Ted Turner Enterprises website.

Ingle's parents, Roy and Nellie Houck, bought the ranch in the mid-1900s. The buffalo and horses on the ranch are included in the sale, according to Ingle's daughter, Darla Tibbs, who is married to Raymond Tibbs, a great-nephew of the late rodeo legend Casey Tibbs.

"We're done with this now. It's in Mr. Turner's control and it's his operation," she told the Capital Journal.

"Dances with Wolves" was a 1990 western epic about a Union Army soldier who befriends Lakota Indians. Kevin Costner, who co-produced, directed and starred in the movie, filmed much of it in central and western South Dakota. It won seven Academy Awards, including best picture and best director.

10 Things To Know For Today

The Associated Press

1. WHY THE U.S. MILITARY FAVORS KEEPING AMERICAN TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN PAST 2016

Officials cite the fragile security situation highlighted by the Taliban's capture of the northern city of Kunduz.

2. RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT AUTHORIZES SENDING TROOPS TO SYRIA

A top Russian official says the approval is necessary "to defend Russia's national interests."

3. A GRANDMOTHER'S ORDEAL IN THE HANDS OF MEXICAN KIDNAPPERS

Few Mexicans who survive kidnappings are willing to talk about it, but one woman stepped forward to tell AP her harrowing story.

4. GEORGIA EXECUTES A WOMAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVEN DECADES

Kelly Renee Gissendaner had been convicted of murder in the February 1997 slaying of her husband.

5. 2 UBER EXECUTIVES IN FRANCE FACE TRIAL OVER LOW-COST SERVICE

The executives might go to prison over UberPop, the service that remains illegal and allows any driver to act as a taxi.

6. RUSSIA WILL LEAD MEETING AT U.N. ON FIGHTING TERRORISM

The session at the Security Council underlines how the topic has dominated much of this week's gathering of world leaders.

7. MONEY, TOURISTS AND FEAR: HOW CHINA TRIES TO WOO TIBET AWAY FROM THE DALAI LAMA

Beijing hopes they can dispel international criticism while winning the hearts of Tibetans and pulling them away from the revered leader.

8. CONGRESS TO SEND OBAMA TEMPORARY SPENDING BILL TO AVERT SHUTDOWN

The House and Senate will deliver Obama a stopgap measure to keep government open through Dec. 11.

9. ARIZONA SHERIFF TO TESTIFY AT CONTEMPT-OF-COURT HEARING

Joe Arpaio will take the stand over his decision to let officers conduct immigration patrols despite orders to stop them.

10. MORMON MUSEUM IN UTAH FEATURES POLYGAMY EXHIBIT

A church leader says the display acknowledges that "plural marriage was a fact of life for the early Mormon church."

AP News in Brief

Amid new Taliban gains, US military favors keeping troops in Afghanistan beyond 2016

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a potential major shift in policy, U.S. military commanders want to keep at least a few thousand American troops in Afghanistan beyond 2016, citing a fragile security situation highlighted by the Taliban's capture of the northern city of Kunduz this week as well as recent militant inroads in the south.

Keeping any substantial number of troops in Afghanistan beyond next year would mark a sharp departure from President Barack Obama's existing plan, which would leave only an embassy-based security cooperation presence of about 1,000 military personnel by the end of next year. Obama has made it a centerpiece of his second-term foreign policy message that he would end the U.S. war in Afghanistan and get American troops out by the time he left office in January 2017.

About 9,800 U.S. troops are in Afghanistan. But the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Army Gen. John F. Campbell, has given the administration several options for gradually reducing that number over the next 15-months. The options all call for keeping a higher-than-planned troop presence based on his judgment of what it would take to sustain the Afghan army and minimize the chances of losing more ground gained over more than a decade of costly U.S. combat.

The timing of a new decision on U.S. troop levels is unclear. Campbell is scheduled to testify to Congress next week on the security situation, including the effectiveness of Afghan security forces after a tough summer of fighting.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military said it conducted two more airstrikes overnight on Taliban positions around Kunduz. A U.S. Army spokesman, Col. Brian Tribus, said coalition advisers were at the scene Wednesday, "in the Kunduz area advising Afghan security forces."

US launches more airstrikes to back Afghan troop efforts to retake city captured by Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. airstrikes hit Taliban positions overnight around a key northern city seized by insurgents this week as Afghan troops massed on the ground Wednesday ahead of what is likely to be a protracted battle to retake Kunduz.

Also overnight, fierce fighting was underway for control of Kunduz's airport, a few kilometers (miles) outside the city, before the Taliban retreated under fire, several residents said.

U.S. Army spokesman, Col. Brian Tribus, said there were two new airstrikes and that U.S. and NATO coalition advisers were at the scene "in the Kunduz area, advising Afghan security forces."

Among NATO experts backing Afghan troops were coalition's special forces advisers, he said.

The Taliban on Monday blitzed into Kunduz and took this city of 300,000 people — the first major urban area they captured since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion ousted their extremist regime.

'We don't like women who scream': A grandmother's ordeal in the hands of Mexican kidnapers

AHUEHUEPAN, Mexico (AP) — The kidnapers promised that nothing would happen to her, that after she paid the ransom she would see her husband. Yolanda Alvarez Antunez believed them. The mother of five sons, grandmother of 13, saw no other option.

Her brother-in-law drove their old truck to the intersection where she had been told someone would be waiting, but no one was there. They debated whether to turn back and decided to go on.

Around 10:30 p.m., they arrived at a mountain town in the southern state of Guerrero. Two pickups full of armed men pulled out to block their way. A man approached on foot.

"You're the one from the phone," he said.

She recognized his voice, too. They had been talking for a week.

Only woman on Georgia's death row is executed; first woman executed in the state in 70 years

JACKSON, Ga. (AP) — The only woman on Georgia's death row was executed early Wednesday, making her the first woman put to death by the state in seven decades.

Kelly Renee Gissendaner was pronounced dead by injection of pentobarbital at 12:21 a.m. at the state prison in Jackson. She was convicted of murder in the February 1997 slaying of her husband after she conspired with her lover, who stabbed Douglas Gissendaner to death.

Kelly Gissendaner, 47, sobbed as she said she loved her children and apologized to Douglas Gissendaner's family, saying she hopes they can find some peace and happiness. She also addressed her lawyer, Susan Casey, who was among the witnesses.

"I just want to say God bless you all and I love you, Susan. You let my kids know I went out singing 'Amazing Grace,'" Gissendaner said.

Prison Warden Bruce Chatman left the execution chamber at 12:11 a.m. Records from previous executions indicate that the lethal drug is administered within about a minute of the warden leaving the room.

Money, tourists and fear: China micromanages Tibet, tries to woo it away from Dalai Lama

LHASA, China (AP) — Ji Yunpeng misses hotpot dinners with his wife and daughter back in Beijing and fights insomnia caused by the high altitude in the Tibetan capital by playing computer games, and, occasionally, studying Tibetan Buddhism.

"It's just out of pure intellectual curiosity," he said, aware that genuine religious interest would be a breach of discipline in China's nominally atheist Communist Party.

Ji is in Lhasa on a three-year loan from the Beijing municipal government to oversee the school curriculum in Tibetan classrooms. In return, he gets a double salary and a shortcut up the party ladder. Nearly 6,500 civil servants like him have been dispatched to manage hefty budgets and shape Tibet's modernization.

They are the human face of top-down development that has poured more than \$100 billion dollars into the region since 1952. Critics say that Beijing's obsession with social stability also has led to widespread human right abuses. But as incomes finally begin to increase across the Tibetan countryside, Chinese authorities are hopeful they can dispel international criticism over their rule in Tibet while winning the hearts of Tibetans and pulling some of their loyalty away from the exiled Dalai Lama.

"The strategy for Tibet is now shifting from the overall kind of repression that we have seen in the past to actually moving toward luring sections of the community and trying to work with those who cooperate with the authorities," Tibet researcher Tsering Shakya said in an interview from University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Uber trial starts in France with 2 European executives charged over outlawed low-cost service

PARIS (AP) — Two European Uber executives are facing the possibility of prison in a French trial hinging on the ride-hailing service's lowest-cost service.

While that service has already been banned in France, the trial that started Wednesday reflects larger tensions in Europe about how to regulate new technologies that offer consumers greater options but threaten traditional industries.

The trial comes a week after France's top constitutional authority upheld a 2014 law banning the low-cost UberPop service, which allowed any driver without a professional license to drive passengers around for a fee. Uber's standard app-based service, which involves registered drivers, remains legal in France.

Uber France chief Thibaud Simphal and its general manager for Western Europe, Pierre-Dimitri Gore-Coty, face up to two years in prison and fines of 300,000 euros (\$337,000). They were briefly detained earlier this year, and ordered to stand trial on behalf of the San Francisco-based company on charges including "deceptive commercial practices" and complicity in illegal activities.

The trial is expected to last a day, but a verdict won't be announced until a later date.

Russian lawmakers approve Vladimir Putin's request to send Russian troops to Syria

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian lawmakers voted unanimously Wednesday to let President Vladimir Putin send Russian troops to Syria. The Kremlin sought to play down the decision, saying it will only use its air force there, not ground troops.

Putin had to request parliamentary approval for any use of Russian troops abroad, according to the constitution. The last time he did so was before Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in March 2014.

The Federation Council, the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, discussed Putin's request for the authorization behind closed doors Wednesday, cutting off its live web broadcast to hold a debate notable for its quickness.

Sergei Ivanov, chief of Putin's administration, said in televised remarks after the discussion that the parliament voted unanimously to give the green light to Putin's plea. The proposal does not need to go to another legislative body.

Ivanov insisted that Moscow is not going to send ground troops to Syria but will only use its air force "in order to support the government Syrian forces in their fight against the Islamic State" group.

GOP field: Tax cuts for all and don't worry about the consequences

DENVER (AP) — Republicans came into this presidential campaign with painful memories of how, in the last one, Democrats blasted Mitt Romney's tax plan as a giveaway to the rich. They've heard a new wing of conservative intellectuals urge them to focus on tax cuts to working-class Americans rather than the wealthy.

Yet the release of Donald Trump's tax plan adds to the number of major GOP presidential candidates who propose to cut all taxes — but especially those for the wealthy — as deeply, or deeper, than Romney proposed. The lesson Republicans seem to have drawn is to simply stop worrying about balancing the budget. The plans would blow open deficits over the next decade that economists estimate ranging from \$3.6 trillion to \$12 trillion.

Oren Cass, who was Romney's domestic policy adviser, noted the former Massachusetts governor had pledged to make his tax cuts deficit-neutral by cutting tax loopholes, though he never fully detailed how his plan would do so. Yet he was still savaged by Democrats who accused him of planning to stiff middle-class ratepayers for the benefit of the rich.

"You look at what Gov. Romney did and you say, 'There's nothing to be gained from being responsible

that way," Cass said. "You may as well do the plan that your base is going to love."

Trump initially hinted he might buck conservative economic orthodoxy and raise taxes on the wealthy. But he ended up releasing the most aggressive tax cut of all candidates to date. The Tax Foundation, which favors lower taxes, estimated that his plan would increase the deficit by \$12 trillion. The foundation found more than one-fifth of the plan's benefit would accrue to the top 1 percent of income earners.

Clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples says she met with pope

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A Kentucky clerk who went to jail for defying a federal court's orders to issue same-sex marriage licenses says she met briefly with the pope during his historic visit to the United States.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, didn't deny the encounter took place but said Wednesday in Rome he had no comment on the topic.

Rowan County clerk Kim Davis and her husband met privately with Pope Francis last Thursday afternoon at the Vatican Embassy in Washington, D.C., for less than 15 minutes, said her lawyer, Mat Staver.

Davis, an Apostolic Christian, spent five days in jail earlier this month for defying a federal court order to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. In a telephone interview late Tuesday, Staver would not say who initiated the meeting with the pope or how it came to be, though he did say that Vatican officials had inquired about Davis' situation while she was in jail. He declined to name them.

Davis was in Washington for the Values Voter Summit, where the Family Research Council, which opposes same-sex marriage, presented her with an award for defying the federal judge.

UN changes its HIV recommendations, says doctors should start treating patients immediately

LONDON (AP) — The World Health Organization has revised its HIV guidelines to recommend that anyone who tests positive for the virus that causes AIDS should be treated immediately.

That guidance fits with what is already recommended in many developed nations, including the United States.

The U.N. health agency had previously said doctors should wait to treat some people with HIV until their immune systems suggested they were getting sick. But in a statement Wednesday, WHO said the new recommendations are based on recent trials that have found early treatment "keeps people with HIV alive, healthier and reduces the risk of transmitting the virus."

The new guidance means that all 37 million people with HIV globally should be offered immediate treatment, a prospect that may be unrealistic in poor countries, where many patients are still unable to get medicines. Last year, only about 15 million people with HIV were being treated.

WHO says the sickest patients should be prioritized and that people who are at high risk of being infected should also be offered preventive therapy.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, September 30, the 273rd day of 2015. There are 92 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 30, 1955, actor James Dean, 24, was killed in a two-car collision near Cholame, California.

On this date:

In 1399, England's King Richard II was deposed by Parliament; he was succeeded by his cousin, Henry of Bolingbroke, who was crowned as King Henry IV.

In 1777, the Continental Congress - forced to flee in the face of advancing British forces - moved to York, Pennsylvania.

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In 1791, Mozart's opera "The Magic Flute" premiered in Vienna, Austria.

In 1846, Boston dentist William Morton used ether as an anesthetic for the first time as he extracted an ulcerated tooth from merchant Eben Frost.

In 1915, the D.H. Lawrence novel "The Rainbow" was published in London by Methuen & Co.

In 1938, after co-signing the Munich Agreement allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said, "I believe it is peace for our time."

In 1939, the first college football game to be televised was shown on experimental station W2XBS in New York as Fordham University defeated Waynesburg College, 34-7.

In 1949, the Berlin Airlift came to an end.

In 1954, the first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus, was commissioned by the U.S. Navy.

In 1962, James Meredith, a black student, was escorted by federal marshals to the campus of the University of Mississippi, where he enrolled for classes the next day; Meredith's presence sparked rioting that claimed two lives. The National Farm Workers Association, founded by Cesar Chavez and a forerunner of the United Farm Workers, held its first meeting in Fresno, California.

In 1988, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev retired President Andrei A. Gromyko from the Politburo and fired other old-guard leaders in a Kremlin shake-up.

In 1997, France's Roman Catholic Church apologized for its silence during the systematic persecution and deportation of Jews by the pro-Nazi Vichy regime.

Ten years ago: Out of jail after 85 days, New York Times reporter Judith Miller testified before a grand jury investigating the leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity. Six Mexicans were killed in a string of robberies targeting Hispanic immigrants at trailer parks in and around Tifton, Georgia. (Stacey Bernard Sims and Jamie Underwood received long prison sentences for the killings.)

Five years ago: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called Guatemalan leaders to apologize for 1940s U.S.-led experiments that infected occupants of a Guatemala mental hospital with syphilis, apparently to test the effectiveness of penicillin against some sexually transmitted diseases. The government of Ecuador declared a state of siege after rebellious police angered by a law that cut their benefits plunged the small South American nation into chaos.

One year ago: Under withering criticism from Congress, Secret Service Director Julia Pierson admitted failures in her agency's critical mission of protecting the president but repeatedly sidestepped key questions about how a knife-carrying intruder penetrated ring after ring of security before finally being tackled deep inside the White House. U.S. and Afghan officials signed a long-delayed security pact to keep nearly 10,000 American forces in Afghanistan beyond the planned final withdrawal of U.S. and international combat forces at the end of the year. The first case of Ebola diagnosed in the U.S. was confirmed in a patient who had recently traveled from Liberia to Dallas. President Barack Obama showered praise on India's new prime minister, Narendra Modi, in an Oval Office meeting. California Gov. Jerry Brown signed the nation's first statewide ban on single-use plastic bags at grocery and convenience stores. Geraldine "Jerrie" Mock, 88, an Ohio homemaker who'd made aviation history by becoming the first female to fly solo around the world in 1964, died in Quincy, Florida.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel (EL'-ee vee-ZEHL') is 87. Actress Angie Dickinson is 84. Singer Cissy Houston is 82. Singer Johnny Mathis is 80. Actor Len Cariou is 76. Singer Marilyn McCoo is 72. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is 70. Pop singer Sylvia Peterson (The Chiffons) is 69. Actor Vondie Curtis-Hall is 65. Actress Victoria Tennant is 65. Actor John Finn is 63. Rock musician John Lombardo is 63. Singer Deborah Allen is 62. Actor Calvin Levels is 61. Actor Barry Williams is 61. Singer Patrice Rushen is 61. Actress Fran Drescher is 58. Country singer Marty Stuart is 57. Actress Debrah Farentino is 56. Rock musician Bill Rieflin (R.E.M.) is 55. Former Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., is 55. Actress Crystal Bernard is 54. Actor Eric Stoltz is 54. Rapper-producer Marley Marl is 53. Country singer Eddie Montgomery (Montgomery-Gentry) is 52. Rock singer Trey Anastasio is 51. Actress Monica Bellucci is 51. Rock musician Robby Takac (TAY'-kak) (Goo Goo Dolls) is 51. Actress Lisa Thornhill is 49. Actress Andrea Roth is 48. Actor Silas Weir Mitchell is 46. Actor Tony Hale is 45. Actress Jenna Elfman is 44. Actor Ashley Hamilton is 41. Actress Marion Cotillard (koh-tee-YAHR') is 40. Actor Stark Sands is 37. Actor Mike Damus

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is 36. Tennis player Martina Hingis is 35. Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Moceanu (moh-chee-AH'-noo) is 34. Actress Lacey Chabert (shuh-BEHR') is 33. Actor Kieran Culkin is 33. Singer-rapper T-Pain is 31.

Thought for Today: "The idea is to die young as late as possible." - Ashley Montagu, Anglo-American anthropologist (1905-1999).