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GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA October 19, 2015 – 7pm Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Bond Resolution 15-1019
- 4) Airport Update
- 5) SPP Transmission Costs/Heartland meeting reports
- 6) Heartland Customer meeting 11/18/15- Groton Legion
- 7) Special Assessment Rules – Forgiveness Request
- 8) Videoing Meetings
- 9) SDML report
- 10) Exe Session – Legal or Personnel

AND any other business that may come before the Council

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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Saturday, October 17

Oral Interp at NSU Festival

Birthdays: • Gladys Dirks • Judy Fliels • Laura Ptacek • Dylan Krueger • Tyler Rossow • Jackson Bahr

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Pastor at Rosewood Court

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, October 18

Birthdays: Chelsey Wolthuizen

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

3:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran fellowship at Golden Living Center (SS Serves)

5:00pm: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Trinity

6:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Adult Bible Study

Monday, October 19

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

School Lunch: Super nachos, tater tots, fruit, romaine salad.

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, rice and chow noodles, broccoli, Waldorf salad, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: • Paula Pray • Lorrie Weber • David Anderson • Brian Sundstrom • Larry Cutler

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

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Seventh grade MathCounts wins Groton Competition

The Groton Area Invitational MathCounts Competition was held on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 in the high school gym.

87 students from six Aberdeen area schools (Britton-Hecla, Frederick, Holgate, Simmons, Warner, and Groton) participated in the event, which was sponsored by 3M of Aberdeen. Tanae Lipp, Samantha Pappas, Isaac Smith, and Erin Unzen won the seventh grade team competition.

Isaac Smith earned second place, and Samantha Pappas earned fourth place in the seventh grade individual portion of the competition. Kayla Jensen placed third, and Austin Jones placed fifth in the eighth grade individual division.

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program for middle school students that promotes excellence in mathematics. Area competitions consisting of several types of tests are held monthly.

The next junior high competition will be the Roncalli Invitational MathCounts Competition on Wednesday, November 4.



7th Grade Team Awards

Front row from left. Groton, 1st place, Tanae Lipp, Samantha Pappas, Isaac Smith, Erin Unzen. Back row from left: Holgate, 2nd place, Greta Adolf, Brianne Barstad, Courtnie Gergen, Melanie Jacobs.



8th Grade Individual Awards

Front row from left: Abe Wieland, Simmons, 1st place; Travis Sharp, Holgate, 2nd place; Kayla Jensen, Groton, 3rd place. Back row from left: Jen Appl, Holgate, 4th place; Austin Jones, Groton, 5th place; Logen Snell, Holgate, 6th place.

Pheasants and Family

By Rep. Kristi Noem

Pheasant hunting is part of our lifestyle in South Dakota. Many of us look forward to those days when the air is crisp but it doesn't yet carry the bite of winter – the days when we can spend hours walking the fields and taking in the beauty of the incredible state we live in. I love those days and all that comes with them.

For us, pheasant hunting is a family affair. My Grandma Bergan was an avid bird hunter. When I was younger, she and I would spend hours walking the fields together each fall. I think that when most girls become hunters, people assume it was their dad or their grandfather who took them. And while my dad taught me about big-game hunting, it was my Grandma Bergan who passed down the South Dakota pheasant hunting tradition. That's something I've always been proud of.

One of the many things Grandma taught me was that hunting is more than a rush of adrenalin. It is also a time that should be spent connecting with your family. After my dad died, there were so many wonderful people who came into our lives and many family members who helped us make decisions and supported us. My Uncle Bob and Uncle Dennis were two of those individuals who spent many hours with our family trying to fill the void my dad had left.

I'd always felt blessed to grow up surrounded by a close family, and when all seemed to have fallen apart, Uncle Bob and Uncle Dennis were there to offer a steady hand. I've always been grateful for that and to this day, pheasant hunting sometimes seems like the best time to get past the busyness of life and catch up. It's why I try to make a point of walking with them and talking with them as we flush pheasants every year. Those are times that I cherish.

I can only hope my own kids will find moments like this to hold on to. I'm so glad that even after our girls have moved out and left for college, the pheasant season opener remains a family affair they come back for. While not everyone in the family hunts, at the end of opening day, everyone gathers to spend time at Grandma Sharon's for what inevitably becomes a loud, energetic, tale-telling dinner with the entire Noem family. I wouldn't have it any other way.

Whether or not you take part in the sport, I know most of us see pheasant season as part of South Dakota's living heritage and an active segment of our economy. Last year alone, pheasant hunters spent more than \$154 million in the state, according to South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

This is a tradition we can be proud of. However you and your family spend South Dakota's pheasant season, I hope it is safe and abundant.

Fighting The Flu Bug

A column by Gov. Dennis Daugaard:

Last January, our most recent granddaughter, Greta, was born. She joined her sister, Stella, and has two cousins, Henry and Elizabeth. Linda and I love to spend time with our grandchildren, when we can, and we want them all to be happy and healthy. As one way to help insure that, Linda and I received our flu vaccination this past week. It's something we do every fall to make sure we protect our health and that of our grandchildren.

This year I'm encouraging all South Dakotans to help stop the flu bug by getting a flu vaccination. The flu is nothing to sniff at. Last year was South Dakota's deadliest flu season in modern surveillance history, with 1,703 lab-confirmed cases, 793 hospitalizations and 63 deaths.

Surveillance data shows that children account for a significant number of flu cases and related hospitalizations every year. They also help spread influenza in community settings like schools and child care centers. That's why the state offers free flu vaccine for those who are between six months and 18 years old.

An annual flu vaccination is the single most important thing we can do to prevent the flu. And we need it every year because the flu virus changes every year. Flu vaccine, like any medical treatment, is not 100 percent effective. However, if you do get vaccinated and still catch the flu bug, that vaccine could mean a shorter and less severe illness.

South Dakotans have a history of taking care of themselves when it comes to vaccination. We have some of the highest childhood vaccination levels in the nation and I'm proud to say that our overall flu vaccination rates are also among the best. Last season 59.6 percent of us got vaccinated for the flu, the highest rate in the nation for the second season in a row. In fact, South Dakota had the nation's highest flu vaccination rate for four of the last five seasons.

The doctors, nurses and other providers who work hard every year to ensure people get vaccinated can rightly be pleased that South Dakota's coverage rates lead the nation. But we recognize that there are still too many people who aren't getting vaccinated.

Don't make the mistake of thinking the flu isn't a serious illness. The headache, fever, chills, coughing and body aches can be very severe and for some people, can lead to complications like pneumonia that may require hospitalization.

The medical community recommends yearly flu vaccination for everyone over the age of six months. Vaccination is especially important for those who are at higher risk for flu complications – pregnant women, people over age 50, people with chronic medical conditions like heart disease and health care workers.

Infants are too young to be vaccinated, so we can best protect infants by getting vaccinated ourselves, especially if we have infants in our households. For your own health and the health of those you love, contact your local clinic today about getting vaccinated for the flu. Let's all do what we can to stop the flu bug.

Learn more about what you can do to stop the flu at flu.sd.gov.



GFP Warns Pheasant Hunters of Dry Conditions

PIERRE, S.D. – Dry conditions exist across much of South Dakota. While that is good for farmers harvesting crops, and hunters trying to harvest pheasants, it can quickly create dangerous situations in the field.

“We had good moisture in the spring and summer in many parts of the state,” said South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Wildlife Division Director Tony Leif. “That led to high grass and good habitat, but it has dried out quickly and we are urging hunters to be careful where they park and drive.”

The heat from catalytic converters, mufflers and other engine parts can quickly start a fire. Whether it is a harvested crop field, a slough or grassland, conditions are very favorable for starting fires.

“We are encouraging people to really inspect their vehicles when they get out,” Leif said. “Watch for grass, cornstalks and other materials that may be caught underneath their vehicles. Also don’t park in tall grass.”

If a fire does start, hunters are encouraged to carry plenty of water to put out small fires. If a fire escalates, call 911 immediately.

“Knowing exactly where you are hunting is important,” said Leif. “Giving precise directions to where you are and where the fire is can make all the difference.”

A *little lady* is on her way!

It’s a baby shower honoring
SYDNEY ERICKSON

.....

Saturday, October 24
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
1104 N 3rd St | Groton, SD
(2 blocks north of the park)

.....

Sydney is registered at Target



Native American Day **By Senator Mike Rounds**

In South Dakota, we celebrate Native American Day rather than the federal holiday known as Columbus Day. This historic state holiday originated in 1990 when Governor George S. Mickelson and members of the nine tribal governments in South Dakota proclaimed 1990 a Year of Reconciliation. This was our way of observing and honoring the rich and deep history of tribal people in our state. Our mutual goal was to engage the public and expose us all to Native American heritage and culture, acknowledge our challenges and yet commit ourselves to working together toward a brighter future.

Native Americans have a rich history in South Dakota. For many generations, Native Americans called our state home, long before Europeans settled in the West. South Dakota was originally a part of the vast territory of the Dakota, Lakota and Nakota people. Many other tribal nations include the Dakota Territory in their tribal histories.

Today, our state is home to nine tribal governments, comprising more than 70,000 Native Americans, each of which has a unique story to tell. Their traditions and customs are deeply woven into the fabric of our society. Our museums showcase ornate tribal art such as beadwork and star quilts. A wacipi, or powwow, is a gathering focused on dance, song and family. Wacipis celebrate the connections to spirituality and tradition. Wacipis are held throughout South Dakota, and the public is often welcome to attend. Many of our most recognizable landmarks are considered sacred by Native Americans and many South Dakota towns and sites bear traditional names.

While we are all South Dakotans, tribal governments are also sovereign nations, which creates and requires a special relationship between local, state and federal governments. At the federal level, I am committed to working with tribes to make certain their unique circumstances and challenges are being properly addressed.

Earlier this year, I met with tribal Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) to discuss the concerns of tribal veterans. Their input and feedback brought me much-needed insight into the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I remain committed to holding the VA accountable to all our nation's vets across the country.

I've also been working to improve the education system in Indian Country, especially in rural and high-poverty areas. In some parts of the country, graduation rates at tribal schools are at 40 percent – half the national average. This is unacceptable. All children deserve access to a high-quality education system that prepares them for a prosperous and successful future. A provision I offered will help identify recruitment and retention options for teachers and administrators at tribal schools and analyze the limitations in funding sources. Earlier this year, it was unanimously adopted to the Every Child Achieves Act– the bipartisan education reform bill passed by the Senate.

Native Americans are not just a part of our history, they are a key part of our future. The customs and traditions of their culture guide and shape our state. I look forward to continuing to work with tribal governments to find ways to strengthen communities in Indian Country and improve the quality of life for all South Dakotans.

In South Dakota, we are honored to call the second Monday in October Native American Day.

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Conservation Reserve Program Critical to the Future of Pheasant Hunting By Sen. John Thune

If you asked someone to name their favorite time of year, you might hear Christmas, Thanksgiving, or the Fourth of July. Don't be surprised, though, if you posed the same question to a South Dakotan and they tell you it's the third weekend in October – the traditional opening of pheasant season. For many South Dakotans, opening weekend truly is a holiday that brings friends and families together for fun and fellowship, as well as the anticipation of bagging a few pheasants.

To prepare for all that comes with pheasant season, hotels, cafes, hardware and sporting goods stores plan months in advance to accommodate all who come to South Dakota to experience hunting in the "pheasant capital of the world." After all, pheasant hunting contributes \$250 million to South Dakota's economy. That boost to the economy is important, but without the pheasants, there's no pheasant hunting, and nothing contributes more to South Dakota's pheasant population than the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

First authorized during the Reagan presidency in the 1985 farm bill, CRP was created primarily to discourage overproduction of grain and protect marginal land by offering farmers ten-year easements on highly erodible land planted to permanent vegetative cover. Thirty years later, CRP has evolved into a 20+ million acre program that saves millions of tons of soil from erosion and improves water quality every year. I believe South Dakota pheasants would agree that CRP provides some of the best habitat to nest in and raise their young; and South Dakota pheasant hunters would agree that CRP can be one of the best places to flush a wily rooster.

Not only does CRP provide farmers a sound economic alternative to placing expensive seed, fertilizer, and chemicals on high-risk marginal land, but CRP's nearly 930,000 acres of wildlife habitat in South Dakota also contribute greatly to rural economies by producing pheasants, deer, turkeys, waterfowl, and nongame wildlife species.

On December 23, 2015, CRP will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Having served on the House Agriculture Committee and now the Senate Agriculture Committee, I have helped draft three farm bills, which cover nearly half of CRP's lifespan, and I have made certain in each farm bill that CRP continues to offer sound economic, environmental, and wildlife benefits. CRP plays a significant role in the success of South Dakota's rural economy, and I am not only grateful for what CRP does, but also for the farmers who enroll in the program and provide the wildlife habitat so our hunting traditions can continue for many years to come.



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Today in Weather History

October 17, 1910: The temperature in Aberdeen warmed to 90 degrees on this day. This is the latest day in the calendar year in which the high temperature reached 90 degrees.

October 17, 2011: A strong low pressure system to the northwest and a strong high pressure system to the southeast brought very strong southerly winds across central and north central South Dakota from the late morning until the early evening. South winds of 30 to 40 mph with gusts over 60 mph caused spotty damage across the region. The high winds created large waves on Lake Oahe near Pierre which damaged several docks along with some boats at a marina. There were also some tree branches downed across the region along with some damage to a few structures. With the high winds, warm temperatures, and low humidity several grassland fires also broke out across parts of the region. The highest wind gust of 68 mph occurred in Corson County.

1781 - General Cornwallis attempted to escape encirclement by crossing York River, "but a violent storm arose" dispersing his boats causing him to ask for an armistice. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1910 - A hurricane made a loop off the southwest coast of Florida. Winds above 100 mph were reported at Fort Myers FL, and the barometric pressure at Sand Key reached 28.40 inches. (David Ludlum)

1950 - Small but powerful Hurricane King struck Miami, FL. The hurricane packs winded to 122 mph, with gusts to 150 mph. Hurricane King then moved up the Florida peninsula to Georgia. Four persons were killed and damage was 28 million dollars. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1971 - Great balls of fire were observed just ahead of a tornado moving down the main street of Wray CO. However, little other electrical activity accompanied the storm. Nine persons were injured in the tornado, all at a trailer court at the edge of town. (The Weather Channel)

1984 - A snowstorm struck northern Utah producing a record 18 inches in 24 hours at Salt Lake City, and 40 inches at the nearby Alta Ski Resort. The town of Magna, located ten miles west of Salt Lake City, did not receive any snow at all. The storm was responsible for a fifty vehicle pile-up along Interstate 15 near Farmington UT. (Storm Data)








1987 - It was a great day for an Oktoberfest, or to enjoy the colors of autumn, as much of the nation enjoyed sunny and mild weather. Columbia SC dipped to 34 degrees, marking their third morning in a row of record cold. Bakersfield CA reached 80 degrees for the 143rd day in a row to break a record established in 1940. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Middle Mississippi Valley and the Lower Ohio Valley. Severe thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes in Indiana, including one which injured four persons. Strong thunderstorm winds at Connerville IND caused three million dollars damage. Thunderstorms in Illinois produced hail two inches in diameter Colfax. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms representing the remnants of Hurricane Jerry deluged southeast Kentucky with four to six inches of rain in 18 to 24 hours, resulting in widespread flash flooding. Flooding resulted in more than five million dollars damage. Temperatures again warmed into the 80s and lower 90s in the southeastern U.S. Lakeland FL and Orlando FL reported record highs of 95 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Sunny	Clear	Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance Showers
High: 62 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 62 °F



Today

62°



34°




Mostly Clear

0%

SE 13

Sun	Mon	Tue
 Breezy		
<h1 style="color: #e91e63;">71°</h1> <h1 style="color: #00bcd4;">45°</h1> <p style="color: #4caf50;">0%</p> <p style="color: white;">S 22</p>	<h1 style="color: #e91e63;">72°</h1> <h1 style="color: #00bcd4;">45°</h1> <p style="color: #4caf50;">0%</p> <p style="color: white;">N 13</p>	<h1 style="color: #e91e63;">61°</h1> <h1 style="color: #00bcd4;">42°</h1> <p style="color: #4caf50;">20%</p> <p style="color: white;">E 11</p>



Aberdeen, SD

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD


weather.gov/Aberdeen

[National Weather Service Aberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/NWSAberdeen)

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)
Updated: 10/17/2015 4:58 AM Central

Published on: 10/17/2015 at 5:08AM

Dry and mild conditions can be expected for the pheasant opener this weekend. Highs today will range from the upper 50s to lower 60s across the area, with mostly sunny skies and southeast breezes. Warmer temperatures will move in on Sunday, with 60s and 70s common. South winds will become breezy and gusty though by Sunday afternoon.

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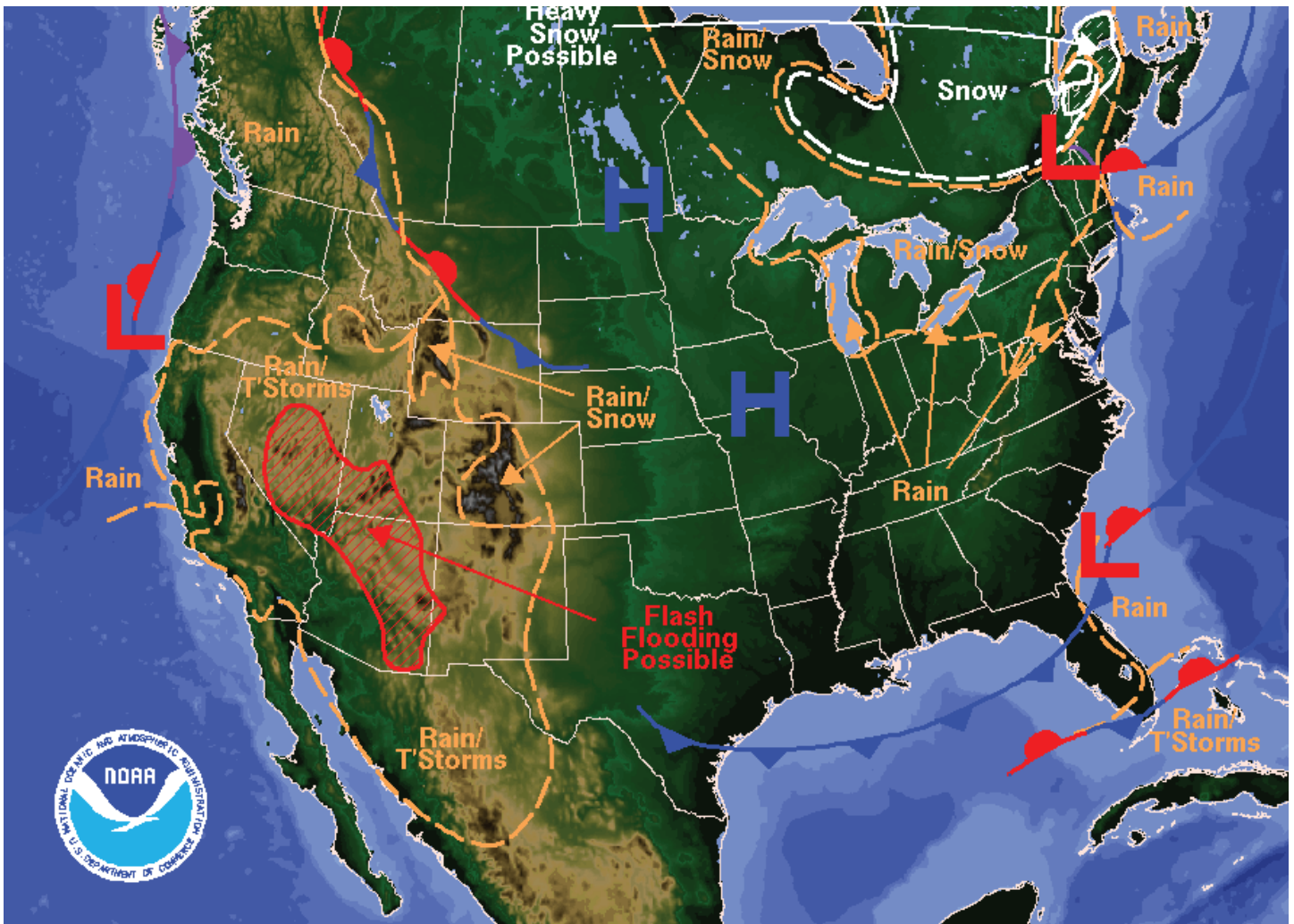
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 53.9
Low: 20.5
High Gust: 13
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1910
Record Low: 15° in 1976
Average High: 58°F
Average Low: 33°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.23
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 19.71
Precip Year to Date: 18.12
Sunset Tonight: 6:45 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:53 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Oct 17, 2015, issued 4:31 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



ONE FATHER'S LEGACY

Fathers always leave a legacy for their children. We do it by word and deed - sometimes consciously. Other times we do it without being aware of what we leave as their inheritance. In preparing to leave the throne to his son, Solomon, David gave him the following legacy:

The legacy of courage. "Be strong, prove yourself a man." David knew his son would face difficult times and wanted him to have the strength that comes only from God. Having God's strength would enable Him to serve the Lord faithfully and fully.

The legacy of conviction. "Keep the charge of the Lord your God." Here David is advising Solomon to be a man of the Book - to always follow God's Laws. It is important to gain knowledge, but knowledge without wisdom that comes from God is foolishness.

The legacy of conduct. "Keep His statutes." A godly courage that is built on convictions flowing from God's Word results in godly conduct. Godly conduct is a witness of the love and grace of God without our ever saying a word. Through us, people see God in action.

Our legacy lives forever in our children's lives. What legacy are you leaving yours?

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to be fathers who leave a godly legacy for our children to follow and honor You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Kings 2:1-4 And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;

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News from the Associated Press

Agencies conducting search and rescue exercise in Badlands

WALL, S.D. (AP) — Pennington County Search and Rescue will be hosting a missing person search and rescue exercise in the Badlands on Saturday.

The event will begin about 8 a.m. MT with responders mobilizing to the Sage Creek Campground. Responders will attempt to locate and rescue a “missing” subject.

Participants will be given a real-time scenario with the objectives of organizing and managing the search, preparing a search plan, completing mapping and GIS, mentoring incident management team members and performing the rescue.

Joining Pennington County Search and Rescue are the Pennington County Sheriff’s Office, the Pennington County Type 3 Incident Management Team, the Badlands National Park Service and the Wall Fire Department.

Friday’s Scores The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 56, Chamberlain 6
Andes Central 22, Avon 12
Baltic 50, Parker 26
Beresford 28, Flandreau 0
Bon Homme 44, Platte-Geddes 0
Canistota 50, Menno-Marion 0
Canton 47, Wagner 2
Castlewood/Estelline 34, Elkton-Lake Benton 6
Chester 60, Irene-Wakonda 7
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 66, St. Francis Indian 44
Clark/Willow Lake 54, Dakota Hills 0
Colome 52, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 0
Corsica/Stickney 34, Scotland 21
Dell Rapids 32, Dakota Valley 13
Dell Rapids St. Mary 38, Colman-Egan 16
DeSmet 66, Arlington/Lake Preston 26
Deubrook 32, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 19
Edgemont 44, Philip 26
Faulkton 58, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 20
Gayville-Volin 55, Marty Indian 0
Gregory 52, Kimball/White Lake 20
Hamlin 38, Britton-Hecla 14
Hanson 44, Centerville 14
Harrisburg 21, Brookings 20, OT
Herreid/Selby Area 40, Harding County 34
Highmore-Harrold 43, Sunshine Bible Academy 0
Hot Springs 56, Todd County 14
Jones County/White River 70, Crow Creek 28
Langford 50, Leola/Frederick 0
Lennox 48, Vermillion 8
Little Wound 34, Red Cloud 14

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Lyman 50, Lower Brule 14
Madison 32, Tea Area 29
Milbank Area 46, Sisseton 13
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 51, Howard 0
Pierre 29, Mitchell 21
Potter County 43, Sunshine Bible Academy 0
Sioux Falls Christian 54, Elk Point-Jefferson 0
Sioux Falls Lincoln 24, Brandon Valley 19
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 51, Huron 0
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 68, Rapid City Central 26
Sioux Falls Washington 42, Rapid City Stevens 0
Sioux Valley 37, McCook Central/Montrose 31, OT
Spearfish 34, Sturgis 0
St. Thomas More 45, Belle Fourche 14
Stanley County 41, New Underwood 0
Timber Lake 66, McLaughlin 8
Upton, Wyo. 39, Lead-Deadwood 0
Wall 44, Kadoka Area 8
Warner 57, Tiospa Zina Tribal 8
Watertown 20, Aberdeen Central 12
Waverly-South Shore 40, Deuel 16
Webster 64, Tri-State 14
West Central 24, Tri-Valley 14
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 20, Wolsey-Wessington 6
Yankton 34, Douglas 14

Volleyball

Aberdeen Central def. Yankton, 25-14, 25-20, 25-14
Rapid City Central def. Mitchell, 17-25, 25-23, 25-17, 25-21

SD informs officials that regents picked to manage GEAR UP

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has selected the state Board of Regents to administer a Native American college-readiness grant under scrutiny after an apparent murder-suicide, the state said in a letter sent to the U.S. Department of Education this week.

South Dakota Secretary of Education Melody Schopp said in the letter that her department will keep providing oversight of the GEAR UP grant. The grant's future has been uncertain since the state decided not to renew its contract with Mid-Central Educational Cooperative for federal GEAR UP program administration.

Authorities believe Mid-Central employee Scott Westerhuis shot his wife and four children last month and then set the family home near Platte ablaze before shooting himself. That was just hours after the state Department of Education informed Mid-Central that it was losing its most recent \$4.3 million GEAR UP contract.

Schopp cited financial problems and failures to follow proper accounting procedures at Mid-Central as reasons not to renew the grant.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in a letter sent earlier this month to the chairman of a legislative oversight committee that he has asked Attorney General Marty Jackley to examine beyond Westerhuis for evidence of wrongdoing in the administration of GEAR UP.

Schopp said in the letter to the U.S. Department of Education that the Board of Regents is well-suited to take on administration of the grant. She said the state Education Department and the regents are developing a "detailed plan that would result in minimal disruption to services being provided through the grant."

Training will be required for staff with decision-making authority over the grant to ensure that expenditures are reasonable and allowable, she said. The agency also wants to dedicate a full-time position to managing GEAR UP to "ensure successful oversight," Schopp said.

A U.S. Education Department spokesman has previously said the agency has two days to make a decision upon receiving a request about replacing the grant administrator. The agency didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Friday.

Schopp said the state is "anxious" to continue services that would assist some of the state's highest-risk students. Regents System Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Turman said in a letter to Schopp this week that the Board of Regents looks forward to collaborating with the department.

State lawmakers tour pot farm on Flandreau reservation

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) — Five state lawmakers toured the indoor pot farm on Friday that will supply the main attraction of the nation's first marijuana resort, which is being built on the land of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe in South Dakota.

The bipartisan group visited the marijuana-growing facility and the under-construction recreational smoking lounge at the tribe's invitation. The visit included a discussion in which tribal leaders and executives of the marijuana consulting firm they're partners with answered several questions from lawmakers primarily dealing with the steps the tribe is taking to ensure that pot does not make its way into the rest of the state, where its consumption and possession remains illegal.

"When you hear about the facility, you just think of what you've seen on TV, but that's why I came on today's tour to see it firsthand," Republican state Rep. Mathew Wollmann said after the tour. "I was very impressed with the facility that they have here. It kind of blew my mind exactly how they plan to operate, how they plan to keep it as secluded as possible and just give individuals an opportunity to partake in an activity, but not have everyone around them be in danger."

Santee Sioux leaders plan to grow their own pot and sell it in a smoking lounge that includes a night-club, bar and food service, and eventually, an outdoor music venue. The resort will also include private rooms where people whose doctors have recommended the use of marijuana will be able to consume pot comfortably without having to take part in the entertainment part of the lounge.

Tribal leaders, including president Anthony Reider, stressed the reservation's ordinance dictating that the marijuana purchased at the tribe's facility is to be smoked exclusively in the resort and that under no circumstance can consumers take it home.

Every plant in Flandreau's growing facility has a barcode. After being harvested and processed, marijuana will be sold in sealed 1-gram packages for \$12.50 to \$15. Customers will be allowed to buy only 1 gram at a time, and will have to return the empty, barcoded package of their purchase in order to be able to buy another gram. The first grams will go on sale New Year's Eve.

About a dozen cameras are already recording people's moves in and around the 10,000-square-foot indoor growing facility. A perceivable pot smell welcomed lawmakers to the farm, where they saw plants that have been growing for about three weeks.

"The tour was very helpful," said Republican state Rep. Elizabeth May. "The myth that it's going to be leaving the reservation and come into the state, that's a myth; that's not going to happen. (With) the tracking system they have, they'll know everything that they grow, sell and who's getting it. I think the fear factor will lessen once it opens."

The legalization of marijuana on the reservation came in June, months after the Justice Department outlined a new policy allowing Indian tribes, which are considered sovereign nations, to grow and sell marijuana on tribal lands under the same conditions laid out for states that have legalized the drug.

Tribal leaders invited all 105 members of the South Dakota Legislature to the tour. The small turnout puzzled some attendees.

"I would have to say, I'm a little surprised there were only five of us. I would've expected more to come," said Democratic state Rep. Paula Hawks. "On the flipside of that, everybody has things going on. We are a working legislature."

Reider said tribal leaders would welcome other lawmakers later if they're interested in touring the farm and resort.

Policy makes Plan B more accessible to American Indian women

FELICIA FONSECA, Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — The federal Indian Health Service has finalized a policy that makes emergency contraception more accessible to American Indian and Alaska Native women.

The written policy released this week requires the morning-after pill to be available to women of any age over the counter at IHS-run facilities, no questions asked. That's in line with a 2013 U.S. Food and Drug Administration decision to lift age limits and make the medication available without a prescription.

Women's health advocates had pushed for a written policy for years, saying verbal directives to IHS area directors in 2012 and 2013 to improve timely access to the pill for women 17 years and older could be rescinded at any time.

"This is a very important victory for Native women but also all women in this country, for something like this to occur in a federal agency during this time when there's so much control by the opposition, by the right-wing," Charon Asetoyer, director of the Lake Andes, South Dakota-based Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center, said Friday. "We really have to look at this through a human rights lens that we are not being denied what other women have access to."

Informal surveys done by the center showed a patchwork of policies at IHS facilities around the country, some of which are run by tribes under contract with the federal government. Dr. Susan Karol, chief medical officer for IHS, said the urban and tribally operated health programs are not required to follow IHS policies.

IHS has no retail pharmacies, so Native women who wanted emergency contraception once had to see a health care provider and get a prescription for the medication that was dispensed on site. The medication is free for Native women because of the federal government's trust obligation to provide health care to them.

Health advocates said that process was time-consuming, burdensome and resulted in Native women having to compete with other patients seeking emergency or urgent care at IHS clinics or hospitals.

Quick, easy access to emergency contraception is crucial considering the prevalence of domestic abuse and rape of Native women, Asetoyer said. One-third of all American Indian and Alaska Native women will be raped in their lifetime, and nearly three of five had been assaulted by their partner, the U.S. Department of Justice has said.

IHS said in 2012 that it was working to finalize a written policy for emergency contraception.

Karol said Friday that IHS sites have been working to obtain the medication and conform to the changing FDA guidelines. She said the new policy has clear expectations that Plan B or a generic equivalent be stocked in pharmacies so that it's easy for Native women to get.

The American Civil Liberties Union said the policy was long overdue.

"Just because you rely on the federal government for your health care doesn't mean you should be subjected to a different standard that makes access more difficult," said Alexa Kolbi-Molina, staff attorney with the ACLU. "Native American women are finally going to be getting the health care they're entitled to and deserved all along."

Woman arrested after allegedly threatening cop with fake gun

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — A Nebraska woman faces multiple charges after allegedly pulling a fake handgun on a police officer following a car crash in the South Dakota city of Watertown.

Authorities say 39-year-old Jennifer Wunderlich, of Omaha, Nebraska, hit a stopped car from behind at an intersection late Thursday, and was combative with the officer who responded to the crash.

Wunderlich allegedly pulled the fake gun on the officer, and the officer subdued her with a stun gun and arrested her. She faces several charges including drunken driving, aggravated assault on an officer and vehicular battery. It wasn't immediately clear if she had an attorney.

Police say the man in the vehicle that was struck was taken to a hospital with injuries not considered life-threatening.

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Pheasant season get underway in South Dakota this weekend

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's pheasant season opens Saturday, and hunters can expect a better year than 2014.

State wildlife officials estimate that the number of birds is up 42 percent in 2015 due to a second consecutive year of favorable winter and spring weather. The pheasants-per-mile index is similar to 2011, when hunters bagged nearly 1.6 million birds.

"I have been doing it for 42 years," Minnehaha County resident Fred Bassett told KELO-TV. "Me and my kids and family, we all get together every year and go out for the pheasant opener. We hunt all during the pheasant season."

Tony Naatjes, manager of Gary's Gun Shop in Sioux Falls, said he has hundreds of loyal customers.

"They have been coming year after year. When the (bird) numbers are up or the numbers are down, they still come," he said.

South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Department estimates that pheasant hunting last year boosted the state's economy by more than \$150 million. The season attracts an influx of nonresidents, including Bradley Carson, of Greenville, South Carolina.

"There's not a whole lot of upland bird hunting in South Carolina," he told the Capital Journal.

Beverly Baker-Miley and her brother Edgar Baker arrived in Sioux Falls from Jacksonville, Florida, Thursday afternoon, to hunt on family property. Baker told the Argus Leader that the family has hunted in the Charles Mix County area for as long as he can remember.

"It's kind of the old school Dakota hunt that people read about, but don't really get to do," he said.

State wildlife officials are reminding hunters to consider recent weather conditions while hunting.

"There were some fires this past weekend with that dry, heavy wind," Game, Fish and Parks Senior Wildlife Biologist Mark Norton told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan. "Be conscious of not parking in tall grass with hot vehicles. Be conscious of anything that might start a fire."

Shooting hours begin at noon for the first seven days of the season that ends Jan. 3. Hours the rest of the season are 10 a.m. to sunset.

Bond set at \$250,000 cash for Bismarck standoff suspect

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Bond has been set at \$250,000 cash for a man who barricaded himself for 15 hours inside a Bismarck home and allegedly fired shots at police.

Thirty-six-year-old Brandon Lyon could face up to 35 years in prison if convicted of attempted murder of a law officer, terrorizing and weapons counts.

Lyon made his initial court appearance on Thursday, during which prosecutor Julie Lawyer said Lyon has an extensive criminal history in both North Dakota and South Dakota.

Lyon did not comment on the bond. He requested a court-appointed attorney.

The standoff began Monday night, when police say Lyon threatened a man and woman in the home. He was arrested Tuesday after police used tear gas. Authorities say that at one point during the standoff, Lyon fired a gun at officers.

AP News in Brief

The Latest: New York City mayor De Blasio begins visit to Israel amid new unrest

JERUSALEM (AP) — The latest developments in a wave of Israeli-Palestinian violence (all times local).

12:45 p.m.

New York City's mayor, Bill De Blasio, has kicked off a visit to Israel at a time of heightened tensions after weeks of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The mayor met his Tel Aviv counterpart, Ron Huldai, in the seaside city on Saturday before attending an event at a mixed Jewish and Palestinian school.

On heels of Shell decision to halt Arctic Ocean drilling, Interior cancels Alaska lease sales

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Three weeks after Royal Dutch Shell announced it was walking away from exploratory drilling in U.S. Arctic waters, the Obama administration has taken steps to keep drill rigs out of Alaska's northern ocean for a decade or more.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced Friday that the federal government is cancelling federal petroleum lease sales in U.S. Arctic waters that were scheduled for 2016 and 2017.

Jewell said the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's northwest coast and the Beaufort Sea off the state's north coast will not be included in the agency's next five-year lease sale plan. Current leases held by Shell and other companies in Arctic waters will not be extended, she added.

The Beaufort Sea leases are set to expire in 2017, and the Chukchi Sea leases in 2020.

The decision reflects current market conditions and low industry interest, Jewell said in a news release.

The Latest: Merkel says Germany won't close borders or offer 'false solutions' for migrants

BERKASOVO, Serbia (AP) — The latest news as migrants fleeing war or seeking a better life make their way across Europe by the tens of thousands. All times local.

11:55 a.m.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel says she won't offer "false solutions" to the migrant crisis as she faces pressure to do more to limit the influx.

Merkel told Saturday's edition of the daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung that Germany can control its borders but not close them completely — "that wouldn't even succeed with a fence, as the example of Hungary shows."

Lamar Odom regains consciousness 3 days after brothel incident, family and friends say

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Lamar Odom has regained consciousness, and he is communicating — speaking and even giving a thumbs up from his hospital bed — just days after being found in extremely critical condition at a Nevada brothel, loved ones said.

It's the first significant update on Odom's health since he was found unconscious and facedown at the Love Ranch in Crystal, Nevada, on Tuesday afternoon.

Odom spoke a greeting and gave a thumbs-up Friday morning, his first communication since being hospitalized in Las Vegas, said Alvina Alston, publicist for JaNean Mercer, Odom's maternal aunt and godmother.

"He woke up, and he spoke," Alston said.

A person who is close to estranged wife Khloe Kardashian, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to release details of Odom's condition to the press, also said that he was able to say hi to Kardashian.

Southern Californians look to clean up, dig out after rains and 'raging river of mud'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A section of Southern California found itself waist-deep in mud as the weekend arrived, and a highway overtaken by flowing debris looked like a buried junkyard of hundreds of cars that would likely take days to dig up.

The worst of the thunderstorms had passed, but the continued chance of rain could dampen cleanup and relief efforts in northern Los Angeles County's Antelope Valley, where the most serious slides occurred.

On Friday, rescuers and those stranded in the highway debris flow described a chaotic scene that somehow left no reported injuries or deaths.

"It was terrifying," 51-year-old Rhonda Flores of Bakersfield told The Associated Press. "It was a raging river of mud. I've never experienced anything like it, ever."

Rescuers threw ladders and tarps across mud up to 6 feet deep to help the hundreds of trapped people from cars that got caught in the roiling river of mud along State Route 58 about 30 miles east of Bakersfield, a major trucking route, California Highway Patrol officials said.

Mexico: Drug lord 'El Chapo' injured leg, face in evading recent operation to recapture him

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The pursuit of escaped drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman in recent weeks moved into the mountains of northwestern Mexico and officials think he injured a leg and his face in evading capture, the government said late Friday.

In a statement, Mexico's security Cabinet provided no details on when or exactly where the operation took place. It said efforts to recapture Guzman have been continuing since his daring July 11 escape from his cell through a tunnel dug under the maximum security prison where he was being held not far from Mexico City.

The government cited information-sharing with international agencies for recently leading its hunt for Guzman to northwestern Mexico.

Guzman evaded capture for years in the rugged mountains of Sinaloa state. He previously escaped from another maximum security prison in 2001.

Senior al-Qaida commander killed in an airstrike in northern Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — Activists say a top commander in al-Qaida's Syrian affiliate has been killed in an airstrike.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says Abdul Mohsen Abdallah Ibrahim al-Charekh, a Saudi better known as Sanafi al-Nasr, was killed Thursday in an airstrike near the northern Syrian town of Dana.

The Observatory's chief Rami Abdurrahman said Saturday it was not clear if al-Charekh was killed by U.S. or Russian warplanes.

Jihadi activists on social media say he was killed by a U.S. drone strike.

Al-Charekh, the alleged leader of al-Qaida's operations in Syria, was one of six men that the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on last year.

Concerned Republicans push Rand Paul to focus on Senate re-election, perhaps abandon 2016 bid

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — A defiant Rand Paul is brushing off weak fundraising and weaker poll numbers as would-be donors and home state Republicans push him to abandon an uphill presidential bid to focus on his Senate re-election.

While showing some frustration, the first-term Kentucky senator this week claimed his superior political organization would prove wrong those doubting his chances in the White House contest. At the same time, he released fundraising numbers that place him squarely in the bottom tier of the GOP's 2016 class over the last three months, a painful symbol of stalled momentum for the libertarian favorite who was considered a major presidential contender earlier in the year.

Despite the early hype, Paul has failed to tap into the national anti-establishment sentiment that fueled his father's national ambitions just four years ago.

"Rand's missed his opportunity," said Gary Heavin, a Texas billionaire who accompanied Paul on a three-

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day humanitarian mission to Haiti over the summer.

"I wanted to support him because he's the real deal, but his strategy is just awful," continued Heavin, the founder of the health club franchise Curves. "He is going to be a very, very effective senator."

Last US Airways flight begins trip to Philadelphia before American Airlines merger complete

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The final US Airways flight is heading from San Francisco to Philadelphia, making the last leg of its roundtrip journey.

The plane is Flight 1939, named for the airline's founding year.

The flight departed from Philadelphia International Airport at 10:36 a.m. Friday.

The Airbus A321 made scheduled stops in Charlotte, North Carolina; Phoenix and San Francisco. It departed at 1:07 a.m. Saturday as a red-eye flight back to Philadelphia.

All future flights will fly under the American Airlines banner, following the completion of a merger announced in 2013.

Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel involved in dispute with girlfriend involving alcohol

CLEVELAND (AP) — Johnny Manziel promised he would win back the trust of the Browns and teammates with his actions following a rocky rookie season.

After making significant strides in his second year in the NFL, a recent incident could raise concerns about the popular quarterback again.

Manziel was questioned by police after witnesses saw him arguing on the side of a highway with his girlfriend and pulling her back into his car as she tried to exit the vehicle. Manziel admitted to police that he had consumed alcohol before the dispute.

The former Heisman Trophy winner, who spent 10 weeks in a rehab facility during the offseason, was parked in a gravel driveway Monday when Avon, Ohio, police spoke to him following an argument with girlfriend Colleen Crowley.

Manziel wasn't arrested and Crowley told police she didn't want to press charges against him. The couple was allowed to leave the scene together. The Browns were off on Monday following a win over Baltimore the previous day, and Manziel said the couple had been in downtown Cleveland before driving to the city's west side.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, October 17, the 290th day of 2015. There are 75 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On October 17, 1915, playwright Arthur Miller, author of "Death of a Salesman" and "The Crucible," was born in New York.

On this date:

In 1777, British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered to American troops in Saratoga, New York, in a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

In 1814, the London Beer Flood inundated the St. Giles district of the British capital as vats of beer ruptured, sending more than 320,000 gallons of liquid into the streets; up to nine people were reported killed.

In 1919, Radio Corp. of America was chartered.

In 1931, mobster Al Capone was convicted of income tax evasion. (Sentenced to 11 years in prison, Capone was released in 1939.)

In 1933, Albert Einstein arrived in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

In 1945, Col. Juan Peron, the future president of Argentina, was released from prison after protests by

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trade unionists.

In 1956, the all-star movie "Around the World in 80 Days," produced by Michael Todd, had its world premiere in New York.

In 1965, the musical "On A Clear Day You Can See Forever," with a score by Burton Lane and book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner, opened on Broadway. The New York World's Fair closed.

In 1979, Mother Teresa of India was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1989, an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale struck northern California, killing 63 people and causing \$6 billion worth of damage.

In 1990, the Internet Movie Database (IMDb.com) was created.

In 1995, President Bill Clinton told wealthy contributors at a Houston fund-raiser that "you think I raised your taxes too much. It might surprise you to know that I think I raised them too much, too" - a statement that drew criticism from both Republicans and Democrats.

Ten years ago: A two-man Chinese space crew landed in China's northern grasslands after five days in orbit. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (joon-ee-chee-roh koh-ee-zoo-mee) enraged China and South Korea by visiting Tokyo's Yasukuni war shrine.

Five years ago: Pope Benedict XVI gave Australia its first saint, canonizing Mary MacKillop, a 19th century nun who was briefly excommunicated in part because her religious order had exposed a pedophile priest.

One year ago: The World Health Organization acknowledged it had botched attempts to stop the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, blaming factors including incompetent staff, lack of information and budget cuts. Riot police cleared an offshoot Hong Kong pro-democracy protest zone in a dawn raid, taking down barricades, tents and canopies that had blocked key streets for more than two weeks, but leaving the city's main thoroughfare still in the hands of the activists. Sixteen people watching an outdoor pop concert in Seongnam, South Korea, fell 60 feet to their deaths when a ventilation grate they were standing on collapsed.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Marsha Hunt is 98. Actress Julie Adams is 89. Newspaper columnist Jimmy Breslin is 85. Country singer Earl Thomas Conley is 74. Singer Jim Seals (Seals & Crofts) is 73. Singer Gary Puckett is 73. Actor Michael McKean is 68. Actress Margot Kidder is 67. Actor George Wendt is 67. Actor-singer Bill Hudson is 66. Astronaut Mae Jemison is 59. Country singer Alan Jackson is 57. Movie critic Richard Roeper is 56. Movie director Rob Marshall is 55. Actor Grant Shaud is 55. Animator Mike Judge is 53. Rock singer-musician Fred LeBlanc (Cowboy Mouth) is 52. Actor-comedian Norm Macdonald is 52. Singer Rene' Dif is 48. Reggae singer Ziggy Marley is 47. Actor Wood Harris is 46. Singer Wyclef Jean (zhahn) is 46. World Golf Hall of Famer Ernie Els is 46. Singer Chris Kirkpatrick ('N Sync) is 44. Rapper Eminem is 43. Actress Sharon Leal is 43. Actor Matthew Macfadyen is 41. Rock musician Sergio Andrade (an-DRAY'-day) is 38. Actress Felicity Jones (Film: "The Theory of Everything") is 32. Actor Chris Lowell is 31. Actor Dee Jay Daniels is 27.

Thought for Today: "If you believe that life is worth living then your belief will create the fact." - Arthur Miller (1915-2005).