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Wednesday, October 28

National FFA Convention

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

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, mixed veg-ies, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ham loaf, sweet potatoes, peas, acini dePepi fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

6:45pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

Thursday, October 29

National FFA Convention

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

School Lunch: Meatballs, tiny potato, green peas, bread stick, fruit.

Senior Menu: Hot pork combination, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots-raisin salad, pear halves, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Gilbert & Rochelle Hinkelman

Birthdays: Connie Nilsson • Sheryl Hanlon • Shelby Hjermsstad • Jeremy Price • Butch Radke • Marcene Bruckner

6:00pm: Volleyball at Redfield (JV/C matches at 6 pm followed by varsity match

Friday, October 30

National FFA Convention

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

School Lunch: Halloween Nuggets, sweet tots, fruit, romaine salad.

Senior Menu: Salmon loaf, creamed peas, watermelon, peanut butter brownie,



50th Anniversary

Doug and Arlis Doeden will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary with an open house. The event will be held Friday, Nov. 6, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Olive Grove Clubhouse.

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

© 2015 Groton Daily Independent

Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

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Original South Dakota State Flag Returned to Secretary of State's Office

Pierre, SD – "A current employee in my administration who had worked under former Secretary of State Chris Nelson noticed the original state flag from 1909 was not on display within the first days of my administration in January 2015," stated Secretary of State Shantel Krebs.

A thorough search of the Secretary of State's office was conducted before realizing the flag was missing. Secretary Krebs said "I wanted to make it very clear to the people of South Dakota that an item with this historical significance would be recovered on my watch".

This is one reason Secretary of State Shantel Krebs requested a review of the office under the previous administration by Legislative Audit. That report was released Monday to the committee members of the Government Operations and Audit Committee (GOAC) for their meeting on Friday, October 30th 2015.

Once the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) had obtained the flag it was taken into evidence and then returned to the office of the Secretary of State.

Criminal charges fall under the Attorney General's office and we would refer you to their office.

"We are excited that the original state flag has been recovered and want to thank the Attorney General and his team for working with our office to recover such an important historical item for the state of South Dakota," stated Secretary Krebs

Included below is the history of the State Flag from the 2011 SD Blue Book:

"In 1909 Senator Ernest May of Deadwood came into the Historical Society office. Seth Bullock wanted a state flag. May asked Doane Robinson about it and was told by Robinson that Ida Anding, now Mrs. McNeil, former operator of KGFX radio of Pierre, who was then a stenographer in the Historical offices, would design him a flag. She did. It was a blazing sun, on an azure background. May liked the design, and Senate Bill 208 was introduced. On the floor later, he moved that 'on the reverse of the blazing sun shall appear the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota in dark blue.' This was adopted and the bill passed. Money to buy two flags was appropriated. One went to the Secretary of State, and Seth Bullock of Camp No. 1, United Spanish Veterans of South Dakota, got the other."

Official Pledge of the State Flag: "I pledge loyalty and support to the flag and the state of South Dakota, land of sunshine, land of infinite variety."



(Secretary of State Shantel Krebs with returned original flag)



(Secretary of State Shantel Krebs with returned original flag (reverse side))

AAA South Dakota: Make Safety a Priority this Halloween

Safety tips for motorists, parents, trick-or-treaters and party goers for a safe Halloween

Wednesday, October 28, 2015 – As ghosts and goblins take to the streets on Halloween, the risk of being injured by motorists increases greatly. Because excited trick-or-treaters often forget about safety, motorists and parents must be even more alert.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that Halloween is consistently one of the top three days for pedestrian injuries and fatalities, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that children are four times more likely to be struck by a motor vehicle on Halloween than any other day of the year.

“With an increased risk of pedestrian crashes on Halloween night, AAA urges parents to take the time to make trick-or-treaters and their costumes safer and more visible to motorists,” said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. “In addition, motorists should slow down and watch for children, as well as have a designated driver if drinking is part of a Halloween celebration.”

Halloween is also a statistically dangerous night for drunk driving, and this year the holiday falls on a Saturday night. The combination of drinking and increased pedestrian traffic on Halloween night has been a deadly combination.

Fatal injuries from motor vehicle crashes rise nearly 50 percent when Halloween falls on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

Nearly 40 percent of fatal crashes on Halloween night involve a drunk driver.

One-third of Halloween crash fatalities involve a pedestrian.

43 percent of all people killed in motor vehicle crashes on Halloween (6 p.m. October 31st to 5:59 a.m. November 1st) from 2009 to 2013 were in crashes involving a drunk driver. (NHTSA)

On Halloween Night alone 119 people lost their lives (2009-2013).

Children out trick-or-treating and the parents accompanying them are also at risk as 19 percent of fatal pedestrian crashes on Halloween night (2009-2013) involved drunk drivers.

AAA Halloween Safety Tips

Motorists

Slow down in residential neighborhoods and obey all traffic signs and signals. Drive at least 5 mph below the posted speed limit to give yourself extra time to react to children who may dart into the street.

Look for children crossing the street. They may not be paying attention to traffic and may cross the street mid-block or between parked cars.

Carefully enter and exit driveways and alleys.

Turn your headlights on to make yourself more visible – even in the daylight.

Broaden your scanning by looking for children left and right into yards and on front porches.

Parents

Make sure Halloween costumes are flame-retardant and light in color to improve visibility.

Be bright at night – wear retro-reflective tape on costumes and on treats buckets.

Wear disguises that don't obstruct vision, and avoid facemasks. Instead, use nontoxic face paint. Also, watch the length of billowy costumes to help avoid tripping.

Ensure any props are flexible and blunt-tipped to avoid injury from tripping or horseplay.

Ask an adult or older child to supervise children under age 12.

Instruct children to travel only in familiar areas and along established routes.

Teach children to stop only at well-lit houses and to never to enter a stranger's home or garage.

Review trick-or-treating safety precautions, including pedestrian and traffic safety rules.

Trick-or-Treaters

Stay on sidewalks and avoid walking in streets if possible.

If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.

Look both ways and listen for traffic before crossing the street.

Cross streets only at the corner, and never cross between parked vehicles or mid-block.

Trick-or-treat in a group if someone older cannot go with you.

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Tell your parents where you are going.

Carry a flashlight containing fresh batteries, and place it face down in the treats bucket to free up one hand. Never shine flashlights into the eyes of oncoming drivers.

Party Goers

Arrange a safe ride home and/or designate a driver before partaking in any festivities.

Always designate a sober driver.

If you are drunk, call Uber, take a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation.

Before leaving for a party, put numbers of local cab companies and your designated driver(s) into your phone.

Walking impaired can be just as dangerous as drunk driving. Designate a sober friend to walk you home.

If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact local law enforcement.

If you know someone who is about to drive or ride impaired, take their keys and help them make safe travel arrangements to where they are going.

AAA is North America's largest motoring, leisure travel and safety advocacy organization with more than 55 million members. A not-for-profit, fully tax-paying auto club, AAA South Dakota serves its 93,450 South Dakota members with emergency roadside assistance, auto travel counseling and a wide range of personal insurance, worldwide travel and financial services at branch offices across South Dakota and online at AAA.com.

Groton Coffee Cup League 10-26-15

team standings

Jungle lanes	16
Kens	15
James valley	13
Ten pins	12

high scores

Vicki Walter	178, 177
Mary Jane Jark	177
Penny Stolle	175

high series

Vicki Walter	480
Penny Stolle	462
Vickie Kramp	454

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Veteran's Supper

In honor of our Veterans and their spouses, the American Legion Auxiliary, is sponsoring a free Veterans Day Supper on November 11 from 6 to 8 at the American Legion hall, Groton. Make your reservation now by calling the Legion at 397-2603 or Jan Seibel at 448-5524.



Great Starter Home! Great Location!

Located right across from the elementary school at 805 N 1st St., this home features a spacious back yard, 2-stall garage, full finished basement with wash room and bathroom. Main floor has two larger bedrooms with walk-in closets and one smaller bedroom, a spacious living/dining room and a cozy kitchen. The home has dual fuel (electric/natural gas) and a newer lifetime warranty water heater. Contact Dick Kolker at 605/397-8464. Asking \$150,000.

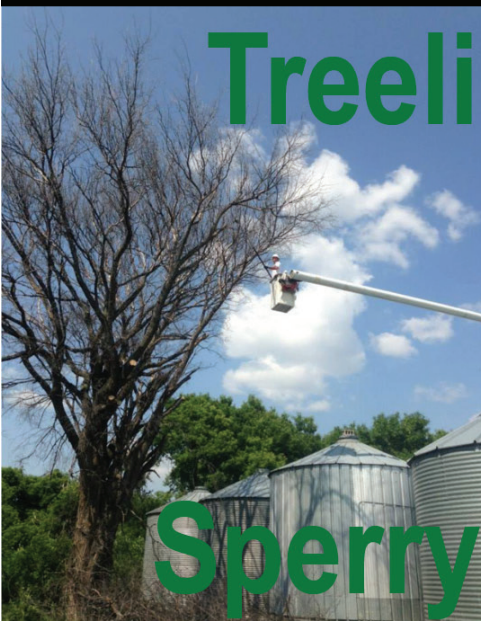
Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915**

**Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal





Haunted Warehouse

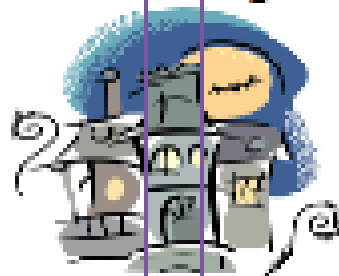
Main Street Bristol

Friday, October 30

Saturday, October 31

7:00-10:30 p.m.

Tour and Hayride \$10



Hot Chocolate~Cider~Bars! Free Will
(Not recommended for children under 6)

**Jills and Jeans 4H
Club Harvest Carnival
Saturday, Nov. 7th**

5-7 pm

Andover Legion Hall

Soup Supper

Carnival Games

Cake Walk

**Bring a non-perishable donation for
the Needs Anonymous Food Bank
and you will be entered to win a
door prize.**

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Today in Weather History

October 29, 1925: Record cold occurred across the area on this date in 1925. The record lows were 9 at Wheaton, Minnesota, 2 degrees below zero at Watertown, 5 degrees below zero at Aberdeen, 7 degrees below zero southeast of McInstosh, and a frigid late October 19 degrees below zero at Kennebec.

1917 - The temperature at Denver, CO, dipped to zero, and at Soda Butte, WY, the mercury plunged to 33 degrees below zero, a U.S. record for the month of October. (David Ludlum)

1942 - A tornado struck the town of Berryville in northwest Arkansas killing 20 persons and causing half a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1956 - A violent tornado, or series of tornadoes, moved along a path more than 100 miles in length from south of North Platte NE into Rock County NE. It was an unusually late occurrence so far north and west in the U.S. for such a storm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Arizona produced wind gusts to 86 mph at the Glendale Airport near Phoenix, baseball size hail and 70 mph winds at Wickenburg, and up to an inch of rain in fifteen minutes in Yavapai County and northwest Maricopa County. Arizona Public Service alone reported 2.5 million dollars damage from the storms. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Wintry weather prevailed in the Upper Midwest. South Bend, IN, equalled their record for October with a morning low of 23 degrees. International Falls MN reported a record low of 11 degrees in the morning, then dipped down to 8 degrees above zero late in the evening. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in Oklahoma and north central Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced weak tornadoes near Snyder and Davidson, and produced hail two inches in diameter at Altus. Large hail damaged 60 to 80 percent of the cotton crop in Tillman County OK. Nine cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s. For Marquette MI it marked their fifth straight day of record warmth. Arctic cold invaded the western U.S. Lows of 7 degrees at Alamosa CO and 9 degrees at Elko NV were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

2011 - New York City received one inch of snow, the earliest they had received that much snow since records began. It was also only the fourth times since the Civil War snow had fallen in New York City in October. The storm also left over three million people without power including 62% of the customers of Connecticut Light and Power.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Isolated Flurries	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 44 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 53 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 63 °F



Cold Today...

Warmer for the Weekend

weather.gov/Aberdeen

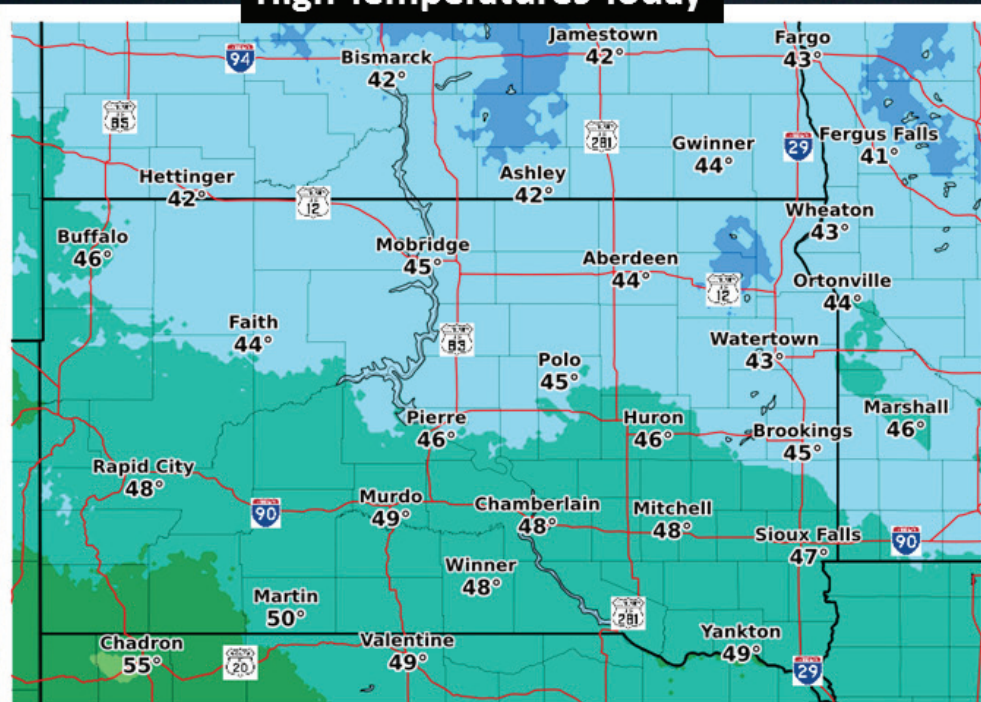


National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

High Temperatures Today



Temperatures through the Weekend

Friday:
Low to Mid 50s

Saturday:
Low to Mid 60s,
But Breezy

Sunday:
Low 60s to the Low 70s!

Published on: 10/29/2015 at 5:09AM

Below normal temperatures today will give way to above normal temperatures through the weekend.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 48.4 at 12:00 AM

Low: 33.5 at 1:16 PM

High Gust: 35 at 12:52 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 79° in 1937

Record Low: -5° in 1925

Average High: 51°F

Average Low: 27°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.91

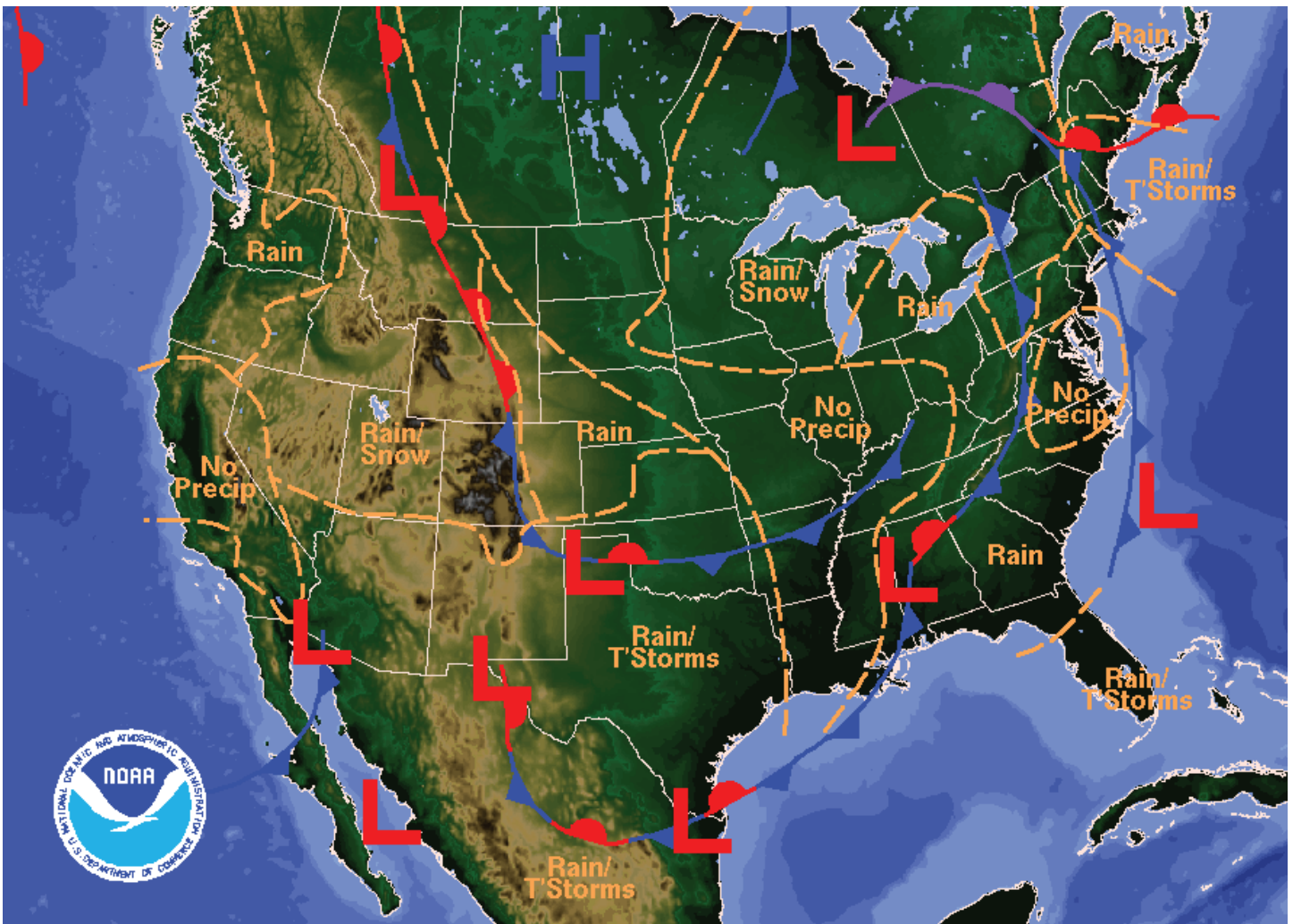
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.99

Average Precip to date: 20.39

Precip Year to Date: 19.11

Sunset Tonight: 6:258 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:09 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Oct 29, 2015, issued 4:47 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



WORKING WITH GOD

George Washington Carver was a botanist, educator, inventor and scientist. As the son of a slave, he was aware of the difficulty facing farmers, knowing that they needed more than cotton for their fields. He became interested in peanuts. Soon he realized that there was no market for them. Needing help, he turned to God, in prayer.

One day he prayed, "Mr. Creator, why did You make the peanut?"

Later in life he was to say, "God gave me a handful of peanuts, and went with me to the laboratory and together we got down to work." Before he died, his research and influence produced over 300 products from peanuts including cosmetics, dyes, plastics, gasoline, and nitroglycerine. He published many books, including one with over 100 recipes using peanuts.

James has an interesting bit of advice. He said, "If you need wisdom - if you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him and He will gladly tell you." True wisdom begins with respect for God, leads to right living in the sight of God and enables us to align our goals with the goals God has for us. When we do this, we honor God, and in time, He will honor us.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to look to You for Your wisdom in all that we do, knowing it is always available. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

News from the Associated Press

2 more men charged in fatal weekend shooting in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two more men are facing charges in an accidental shooting in Sioux Falls that killed a man.

Nineteen-year-olds Desmond Henderson and David Ramires are accused of concealing evidence in the case by trying to get rid of guns. It wasn't clear if they had obtained attorneys to represent them.

Police say the incident happened Saturday, when 21-year-old David Randle Jr. was holding an AK-47 rifle when it discharged and fired a bullet into the leg of 19-year-old Mikael Ashame. The bullet hit a major artery and Ashame died at the scene.

Randle is charged with manslaughter. The gun's owner, 19-year-old Mason Mitzel, is facing several drug charges.

\$4.2M grant to be used to study climate change

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$4.2 million grant to research how climate change affects river systems in the U.S. and Mongolia.

Half of the money from the five-year grant will support work at the University of Kansas, where ecology and evolutionary biology professor James Thorp is the grant's lead investigator. He says that North American river systems, with their dams and presence of non-native fauna, could foreshadow the future of rivers in Mongolia. And he says what is observed in Mongolia could indicate changes U.S. rivers will undergo in the future.

Also participating are researchers from Ball State University, Drexel University, Kansas State University, the National University of Mongolia, Rutgers University, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, the University of Nevada Reno and Wayne State College.

Sioux Falls to host Summit League basketball through 2022

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls will continue to host the Summit League men's and women's basketball championships through 2022.

South Dakota's largest city has hosted the tournament since 2009, and the annual event has drawn record crowds. The 2015 championships marked the tournament's first move from the old arena to the Denny Sanford Premier Center, and 11 of the games set all-time men's and women's attendance records. The total attendance topped 60,000.

The success has prompted the league and the Sioux Falls Sports Authority to exercise the five-year option of their agreement.

This season's tournaments begin on March 5.

Study on closure of VA hospital in Hot Springs released

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Shuttering a Veterans Affairs hospital in Hot Springs and moving its services to Rapid City would be the cheapest option among six under consideration for revamping care in the Black Hills region, according to a much-anticipated federal study released Wednesday.

The 780-page Environmental Impact Study by the Department of Veterans Affairs considered six options for changes to the facilities in Hot Springs and Rapid City as part of an effort ongoing since 2011 by the VA Black Hills Health Care System to reconfigure its services.

The study found that closing the historic Battle Mountain Sanitarium, which the VA has said is its preferred option, would have an estimated 30-year cost of over \$148.5 million, the lowest of the six. Taking

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no action would come with a more than \$215 million price tag over the same time period.

But Sandra Horsman, the director for the VA in the Black Hills, stressed that the VA wouldn't base its decision in costs, but in the quality of care provided to veterans.

"The primary reason for any selection of any of the alternatives is to ensure that we have safe and high-quality health care for veterans," said Horsman. "It's really not cost. Cost is certainly in the overall assessment, but our first and foremost concerns are the safety and the quality of care that we are providing to the veterans."

The plan to close the sanitarium includes transitioning long-term care services 60 miles north to Rapid City, leaving only an outpatient clinic in the town of about 3,500 people. Veterans have vehemently opposed the closure, arguing that Hot Springs' tranquil environment is crucial for vulnerable veterans.

The hospital in the remote Black Hills has provided recovering soldiers a bucolic haven for more than a century. Wounded warriors from Civil War battles at Antietam and Gettysburg traveled to the Battle Mountain Sanitarium for brief, intensive treatments for musculoskeletal and respiratory conditions. Physicians believed the dry air and warm, fabled mineral springs helped mend broken soldiers.

Today, veterans from the Vietnam to Iraq wars suffering from ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder and drug and alcohol abuse recuperate at this quiet retreat.

VA officials have said that moving the services to Rapid City would help attract physicians, better accommodate female and single-parent veterans and link patients with job opportunities and occupational training.

Meanwhile, the alternative proposed by the group "Save the VA," one that calls for renovations and construction to continue and expand inpatient and outpatient services at the existing VA campus, would cost more than \$247 million over the same period. A representative for the group could not be reached by phone Wednesday for comment on the study.

The study will be published in the Federal Register on Friday, and comments from the public will be accepted through Jan. 5. Horsman on Wednesday said there is no timeline set to decide the final fate of the hospital.

The state's congressional delegation issued a statement after the study was released. Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, who is a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, encouraged the public to submit comments on the study.

"As we analyze the EIS, I will make sure the data is complete and not based on a pre-determined decision to close the facility," Rounds said.

Former SD day care provider sentenced on drug charges

ST. LOUIS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman accused of having methamphetamine at an in-home daycare has been sentenced.

Circuit Court Judge Robin Houwman on Wednesday handed 34-year-old Jennifer Darger a 15-year sentence with 10 years suspended. Darger earlier pleaded guilty to distribution of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance and contributing to the neglect of a minor.

Darger and her husband were arrested in March after a tip from her 16-year-old daughter led police to search their home.

Minnehaha County State's Attorney Aaron McGowan had recommended the maximum sentence of 10 years because of Darger's past drug-related convictions and the fact that she was dealing drugs out of the same house from which she operated an in-home daycare.

Darger told Houwman she relapsed after nine years of sobriety because she lost her job.

South Dakota officials recover state flag; charges possible

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS, S.D. (AP) — An original, handmade South Dakota flag dating back to Deadwood's Old West days that went missing from the Secretary of State's office in January has been returned to its home in the state Capitol, Attorney General Marty Jackley said Wednesday.

State investigators recovered the flag, circa 1909, from a former Secretary of State employee on Oct. 8

in Washington, D.C., Jackley told The Associated Press.

He also said criminal charges are anticipated, noting, "I can say that I have been in discussions with a defense attorney, and those are ongoing discussions."

The azure blue and gold flag had been displayed on a stand inside the Pierre office through numerous administrations. Secretary of State Shantel Krebs, who took office on Jan. 2, said an employee who had worked under an earlier administration and was returning to work for her noticed the flag was not there.

"The flag base was there, but not the flag," Krebs said Wednesday.

Krebs said her office conducted a thorough search for the flag before reporting the disappearance to the Department of Legislative Audit as part of a request to audit records and capital assets from the previous secretary of state, Jason Gant.

The audit department referred the matter to Jackley's office in July, and a probe tracked down the prized possession to the nation's capital. Jackley said his main mission was to recover the flag without damage or incident, and that Division of Criminal Investigation officials were able to preserve an important part of the state's history.

The flag was created in 1909 after Sen. Ernest May of Deadwood came into the South Dakota Historical Society office and said that the Deadwood sheriff, Seth Bullock, wanted a state flag.

Legislative librarian Ida Anding designed the flag, which features a blazing yellow sun on the front surrounded by "South Dakota" arched atop the sun and "The Sunshine State," South Dakota's original slogan, arched below. The opposite side features a colorful state seal.

Money was appropriated to produce two of the flags, according to Wi-iyohi, an early South Dakota Historical Society newsletter said.

"One went to the Secretary of State, and Seth Bullock of Camp No. 1, United Spanish Veterans of South Dakota, got the other," according to the newsletter.

Krebs said the flag is kept in the Secretary of State's office because it is defined in statute as the keeper of historical documents and the state seal.

The second original flag given to Bullock is preserved at the historical society's office in Pierre, said director Jay Vogt.

Police: 2 arrested with stolen clothes at reseller store

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls say two teens have been arrested for trying to sell stolen clothes to a clothing reseller store.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the clothes were taken from an unlocked car and the owner contacted the store Plato's Closet in Sioux Falls to alert workers to look out for the bags and clothes she had lost.

Clemens says a clerk then recognized two pairs of jeans and a bag when the teens attempted to sell them to the store. The clerk called police and delayed the teens from leaving the store.

A 15-year-old boy and 18-year-old Curtis Lorenz Hurd, both of Sioux Falls, were arrested on several charges including possession of stolen property.

Clemens says officers found marijuana and several stolen items in the teens' car.

AG clears police officer who fatally shot man in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says the Rapid City police officer who fatally shot a man while responding to a domestic assault call was justified in firing his weapon.

A report released Wednesday says 46-year-old Patrick Lundstrom lunged at Officer Matt Macrander with what was later identified as a 15-inch white rod. The report says Macrander fired his weapon the night of Sept. 29 after Lundstrom emerged from a hallway at the unlit home and approached him in a "rapid, aggressive manner" with the metal bar raised over his head.

Two bullets struck Lundstrom, one in the chest and one in the left arm. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Macrander, who has been a Rapid City officer since 2013, was placed on leave while the state investi-

gated the shooting.

South Dakota students see math, reading scores slip slightly

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The 2015 Nation's Report Card shows reading and math scores for South Dakota's eighth graders have slipped slightly over the past two years.

The South Dakota results generally mirror national trends seen from the test, officially known as the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Results released Wednesday show South Dakota eighth-graders scored an average of 285 on the 2015 math test, compared with the national average of 281. Students scored 287 in 2013.

Eighth-graders scored an average of 267 on the 2015 reading test, compared with the national average of 264. Students scored 268 two years ago.

South Dakota's scores in fourth grade reading and math are the same as national averages. The math score is 240, down from 241 in 2013, while the reading score is 220, up from 218 two years ago.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. WHOSE COMEBACK STRATEGY BACKFIRES IN GOP DEBATE

Jeb Bush's attack on Marco Rubio raises new questions about his underwhelming candidacy in the primary contest he was once expected to dominate.

2. HOUSE GOP READY TO MAKE RYAN SPEAKER

Republicans hope the lawmaker can heal the splintered party's self-inflicted wounds and fashion a conservative message to woo voters in next year's elections.

3. IRAN JOINING INTERNATIONAL TALKS ON SYRIA

The country's inclusion for the first time marks recognition by the U.S. that no discussion on the Syrian future can succeed without Tehran at the table.

4. DEPUTY FIRED FOR TOSSING TEEN ACROSS MATH CLASS FLOOR

However, questions remain about whether the officer should have been in the classroom in the first place, and where he goes from here.

5. LABOR LAWS QUESTIONED AFTER INDIAN MAID LOSES ARM IN SAUDI ARABIA

Domestic workers, who number at least 2.4 million across the Gulf Arab countries, are among the most vulnerable because the majority are women and live at the whims of their employers.

6. WHY SUPERSTORM ISN'T OVER FOR SOME

Three years after Sandy slammed the New Jersey shore, several thousand still cannot get back home due to bureaucratic red tape and disputes with insurance companies.

7. WHICH AIRSHIP FLOATS AWAY

An unmanned Army surveillance blimp breaks loose from its mooring in Maryland and floats over Pennsylvania for hours before eventually deflating and settling back to Earth.

8. CHINA'S ANSWER FOR DROUGHT-PLAGUED AREA

The government response to environmental degradation and rising temperatures in the country's north-west is to relocate some 350,000 people.

9. NONPROFITS BECOMING MORE COMFORTABLE ACCEPTING POT DONATIONS

Some see it as a sign that the stigma of selling a drug that remains illegal under federal law may be fading.

10. ROYALS WEAR DOWN METS TO TAKE 2-0 LEAD IN WORLD SERIES

Eric Hosmer hits a tiebreaking, two-run single in a four-run fifth inning, and Kansas City rallies past New York 7-1.

AP News in Brief

Unmanned Army blimp breaks loose and floats over Pennsylvania, knocking out power

MUNCY, Pa. (AP) — A slow-moving, unmanned Army surveillance blimp floated over Pennsylvania for hours causing electrical outages as its tether hit power lines, after it broke loose from its mooring at a Maryland military facility.

The 240-foot helium-filled blimp, which had two fighter jets on its tail, came down in at least two pieces Wednesday near Muncy, a small town about 80 miles north of Harrisburg, the state capital. No injuries were reported.

The radar-equipped blimp, fitted with sensitive defense technology, escaped from the military's Aberdeen Proving Ground around 12:20 p.m. Authorities said it drifted northward, climbing to about 16,000 feet. It covered about 150 miles over about 3½ hours.

"I had no idea what it was. We lost power at work, so I looked outside and saw the blimp," said Wendy Schafer, who was at her job at a spa and salon in Bloomsburg.

Two F-16s were scrambled from a National Guard base in New Jersey to track the big, white craft as it floated away because aviation officials feared it would endanger air traffic. But there was never any intention of shooting it down, said Navy Capt. Scott Miller, a spokesman for the nation's air defense command.

Analysis: Bush debate strategy backfires, raising new questions about his faltering candidacy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jeb Bush sought to calm anxious donors with a comeback strategy focused on taking down rival Marco Rubio. But Bush's plan backfired badly on national television in the third GOP presidential debate.

Instead of generating much needed momentum, Bush's attack on his onetime protege raised new questions about his underwhelming candidacy in the primary contest he was once expected to dominate. And Bush's continued struggles highlight a deepening sense of uncertainty settling over a 2016 Republican presidential race that remains crowded and without a clear front-runner.

Even with an estimated \$100 million in the bank, Bush headed into Wednesday's primetime debate at the weakest point of his campaign.

Just five days earlier, the son and brother of former presidents announced deep campaign spending cuts designed to salvage his floundering bid. He slashed salaries by 40 percent and shifted staff from his Miami headquarters to early voting states.

With his powerful family on hand, Bush spent much of the weekend huddling behind closed doors outlining a strategy that depended, above all else, on challenging Rubio. Bush appeared to get the perfect opportunity to test his strategy when he was positioned right next to Rubio on the debate stage.

AP FACT CHECK: Carson's double-counting tax plan; Trump's boast on paying his own way

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ben Carson pitched a tax plan with numbers that didn't add up. Donald Trump boasted that he's paying his own way in the campaign, but he isn't. Chris Christie accused the government of stealing Social Security money that it has actually borrowed — and has been paying back with interest.

Even the price of hamburger got a bad rap in the latest Republican presidential debate, thanks to Ted Cruz. A look at some of the claims Wednesday night and how they compare with the facts:

CARSON: His proposed flat-rate tax, which would have everyone pay an income tax rate of about 15 percent, "works out very well" in budget terms because it would spark enough economic growth to offset the lower rate.

For first time, Iran to take a seat among world powers for Syria talks

BEIRUT (AP) — Iran takes part in international talks on Syria for the first time this week, giving it a voice in the effort to find a resolution to the more than 4-year-old civil war that has so far defied even the slightest progress toward peace.

A crucial backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad, Tehran has been shunned from all previous talks on Syria. Its inclusion now marks recognition by the United States that no discussion on Syria's future can succeed without Iran at the table.

News of Iran's attendance outraged Syrian rebels, who said its participation will only prolong the conflict. The gathering Thursday and Friday in Vienna will also put Iran in the same room with its most bitter regional rival, Saudi Arabia, raising the potential for tensions. The kingdom, along with other Gulf countries, has been funneling weapons to rebel factions, while Iran has sent financing, weapons and military advisers to ensure Assad's survival.

Iran's participation reflects its newfound place in the international community following the nuclear deal reached with world powers earlier this year. It also shows the seismic shift brought about by Russia's direct military involvement in Syria since launching a campaign of airstrikes on behalf of Assad last month. That intervention has emboldened Assad's supporters.

House GOP ready to mend wounds and make Ryan speaker, with conservatives supportive but wary

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are ready to make Rep. Paul Ryan the new House speaker, hoping the young but grizzled lawmaker can heal the splintered party's self-inflicted wounds and fashion a conservative message to woo voters in next year's elections.

The House planned to formally elect the Wisconsin Republican to the post Thursday, with lawmakers voting aloud, one by one, in a tradition that bespeaks the dignity of a chamber that lately has been more rowdy than respectful. With the GOP controlling 247 of the House's 435 votes, Ryan's election was assured, despite grumbling from conservatives demanding more say in how the House operates.

In his acceptance speech, Ryan planned to ask both parties for a period of healing and to focus on working families, said an aide who described the remarks on condition of anonymity.

"If you have ideas, let's hear them. A greater clarity between us can lead to a greater charity among us," Ryan was planning to say, said the aide, in what seemed a bid for GOP reconciliation.

Before the roll call, lawmakers will hear farewell remarks from outgoing Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. After leading the House since 2011, the 25-year House veteran stunningly announced his resignation last month, hounded by hard-line conservatives who are mostly rallying behind Ryan — at least for now.

Gulf labor laws brought into focus after Indian maid loses arm trying to escape Saudi employer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Kasthuri Munirathinam, a 55-year-old mother of four from southern India, was plunged into debt after borrowing money to marry off her daughters. Like millions before her, she was recruited through an agency and promised an opportunity to earn 1,000 Saudi riyals (\$267) a month by working as a live-in maid in Saudi Arabia, the Arab region's largest economy where domestic help is in high demand.

On Sept. 29, just a few weeks after arriving in the kingdom, she tried to escape from her employer's house, using two of her saris to fashion a rope and climb from a third-floor window.

What happened next is unclear and disputed. What is clear, however, is the price Munirathinam is paying for trying to leave. She lost her most of her right arm and is now lying in a hospital bed in the Saudi

capital of Riyadh.

The incident highlights the precarious situation migrant workers across the Gulf face under a sponsorship system that ties their livelihood and residency visas to their employer. Rights researchers say domestic workers, who number at least 2.4 million across the Gulf, are among the most vulnerable because the majority are women and live with their sponsor. Labor laws in Gulf Arab nations often exclude domestic workers from their protections.

Munirathinam's sisters, speaking by telephone to The Associated Press in India, say her employer was overworking her and not feeding her enough. In calls to her family, Munirathinam told relatives that when she complained to Saudi authorities about her treatment, her employer punished her by locking her in a room.

Questions remain after South Carolina deputy's firing for tossing teen across classroom

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A South Carolina sheriff says he acted swiftly but carefully in firing a school resource officer caught on video flipping a disruptive student out of her desk and tossing her across the floor. In the wake of the firing, though, questions remain about whether the officer should have been in the classroom in the first place, and where the former deputy goes from here.

The Spring Valley High School student refused to leave the classroom Monday despite being told by a teacher and an administrator to do so, according to Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said. That's when Senior Deputy Ben Fields was brought in to remove her. She again refused, and Fields told her she was under arrest.

Video shows the deputy flipping the teen backward and then throwing her across the room. At that point, Lott said Wednesday, Fields did not use proper procedure.

"Police officers make mistakes too. They're human and they need to be held accountable, and that's what we've done with Deputy Ben Fields," Lott said.

Outrage spread quickly after videos of the white officer arresting the black teenager appeared on the Internet. One question is if Fields should have been involved in the situation at all, or whether it was a situation that should have been handled by school officials.

The Latest: Dozens still missing after migrant boat sinks off Greek island of Lesbos

LESBOS, Greece (AP) — The latest in the odyssey of hundreds of thousands of people trekking across Europe in search of a new life: All times local.

9:40 a.m.

Authorities on the Greek island of Lesbos say 38 people are believed still missing after a wooden boat carrying migrants sank. Three people are known to have died.

At first light Thursday, a helicopter from the European border protection agency Frontex joined the search by Greek coast guard vessels off the northern coast of the island, hours after the dramatic rescue of 242 people.

China's military says it will respond to US Navy incursions will 'all necessary' means

BEIJING (AP) — China's military will take "all necessary" measures in response to any future U.S. Navy incursions into what it considers its territorial waters around islands in the South China Sea, a Defense Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

The statement by Col. Yang Yujun followed the sailing of a U.S. guided missile destroyer within 12 nautical miles (22 kilometers) of one of the islands newly created by China in the strategically vital region. The

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U.S. refuses to recognize the man-made islets as deserving of sovereign territory status.

Yang reiterated Beijing's claim that the USS Lassen violated Chinese sovereignty and international law, although the sail-by appeared to fall under internationally allowed "innocent passage" rules. Yang gave no details of China's claims, and offered no specifics about how Beijing would respond in the future.

The Chinese side took no immediate action during the Lassen's sail-past on Tuesday, but strenuously protested the maneuver.

In recent years when China has asserted what it considers its sovereignty rights or its right to monitor and control navigation in the South China Sea or the East China Sea, U.S. acts of defiance against those claims have been met with protests but not military action.

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Oct. 29, the 302nd day of 2015. There are 63 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 29, 1940, a blindfolded Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson drew the first number - 158 - from a glass bowl in America's first peacetime military draft.

On this date:

In 1618, Sir Walter Raleigh, the English courtier, military adventurer and poet, was executed in London for treason.

In 1787, the opera "Don Giovanni" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had its world premiere in Prague.

In 1901, President William McKinley's assassin, Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gahsh), was electrocuted.

In 1929, Wall Street crashed on "Black Tuesday," heralding the start of America's Great Depression.

In 1956, during the Suez Canal crisis, Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" premiered as NBC's nightly television newscast.

In 1964, thieves made off with the Star of India and other gems from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. (The Star and most of the other gems were recovered; three men were convicted of stealing them.)

In 1966, the National Organization for Women was formally organized during a conference in Washington, D.C.

In 1979, on the 50th anniversary of the great stock market crash, anti-nuclear protesters tried but failed to shut down the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1987, following the confirmation defeat of Robert H. Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Douglas H. Ginsburg, a nomination that fell apart over revelations of Ginsburg's previous marijuana use. Jazz great Woody Herman died in Los Angeles at age 74.

In 1994, Francisco Martin Duran fired more than two dozen shots from a semiautomatic rifle at the White House. (Duran was later convicted of trying to assassinate President Bill Clinton and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.)

In 1998, Sen. John Glenn, at age 77, roared back into space aboard the shuttle Discovery, retracing the trail he'd blazed for America's astronauts 36 years earlier.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy came ashore in New Jersey and slowly marched inland, devastating coastal communities and causing widespread power outages; the storm and its aftermath are blamed for at least 182 deaths in the U.S.

Ten years ago: Three blasts ripped through markets in New Delhi, India, killing 62 people in attacks blamed by the government on Islamic militants. Hundreds of people slowly filed past the body of civil rights icon Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Alabama, just miles from the downtown street where she'd made history by refusing to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man. Saint Liam won the Breeders' Cup Classic at Belmont Park. Actor Lloyd Bochner, 81, died in Santa Monica, California.

Five years ago: Authorities on three continents said they had thwarted multiple terrorist attacks aimed at the United States, seizing two explosive packages addressed to Chicago-area synagogues and packed aboard cargo jets from Yemen.

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One year ago: Ordering firm restrictions for U.S. troops returning from West Africa, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said the military men and women helping fight Ebola had to undergo 21-day quarantines upon their return - longer than required for many civilian health care workers. The San Francisco Giants succeeded where no team had in 3 1/2 decades, winning Game 7 on the road for their third World Series title in five years as they defeated the Kansas City Royals 3-2.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer-musician Sonny Osborne (The Osborne Brothers) is 78. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is 77. Country singer Lee Clayton is 73. Rock musician Denny Laine is 71. Singer Melba Moore is 70. Musician Peter Green is 69. Actor Richard Dreyfuss is 68. Actress Kate Jackson is 67. The former president of Turkey, Abdullah Gul, is 65. Actor Dan Castellana (TV: "The Simpsons") is 58. Country musician Steve Kellough (Wild Horses) is 58. Comic strip artist Tom Wilson ("Ziggy") is 58. Actress Finola Hughes is 56. Singer Randy Jackson is 54. Rock musician Peter Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 50. Actress Joely Fisher is 48. Rapper Paris is 48. Actor Rufus Sewell is 48. Actor Grayson McCouch (mih-KOOCH') is 47. Rock singer SA Martinez (311) is 46. Musician Toby Smith is 45. Actress Winona Ryder is 44. Actress Tracee Ellis Ross is 43. Actor Trevor Lissauer is 42. Actress Gabrielle Union is 42. Olympic gold medal bobsledder Vonetta Flowers is 42. Actress Milena Govich is 39. Actor Jon Abrahams is 38. Actor Brendan Fehr is 38. Actor Ben Foster is 35. Rock musician Chris Baio (Vampire Weekend) is 31. Actress India Eisley is 22.

Thought for Today: "Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light."- Joseph Pulitzer, American newspaper publisher (born 1847, died this date in 1911).