

Groton Daily Independent

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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, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Laurie Pray • Bob Swisher • Breslyn Hinman • Holden Sippel • Sarah Hofer

7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.: Haunted Warehouse in Bristol

Saturday, October 31

TURN CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR

Halloween

Birthdays: CJ Barton • Becky Washnok • Marion Mortenson • Marshall Lane • Kristie Tullis • Shelley Freeman • Dawsyn Dinger • Andee Geist

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

7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.: Haunted Warehouse in Bristol

Sunday, November 1

Daylight Saving Time ends

Birthday: Desiree Cyr

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

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

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

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

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with communion

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

6:00pm: Adult Bible Study



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**

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Conde National League

10-26-15

Team Standings

Mets	10 1/2
Cubs	10
Giants	8
Pirates	7
Braves	7
Colts	5 1/2

Men

High Scores

Greg Heilman	189
Troy Lindberg	172
Lance Frohling	171

High Series

Troy Lindberg	501
Al Walter	472
Lance Frohling	468

Women

High Scores

Hope Dargatz	175
Mary Larson	170
Vickie Kramp	154

High Series

Vickie Kramp	434
Alice Severson	430
Mary Larson	429



Galaxy Robotics Team of Lee Williams. Not pictured are Evin Nehls and Landon Kokalas.



G.A.T. Wrenches Robotics Team: Noah Tullis, Dragr Monson, and Thomas Cranford.

Netters drop three to Redfield-Doland

Redfield-Doland handed Groton Area's volleyball team a 3-0 loss Thursday night in Redfield. Game scores were 25-12, 25-14 and 25-19.

Groton Area was 39 of 47 in serving with three ace serves. Marlee Jones was seven of seven with two ace serves and Audrey Wanner was seven of nine with one ace serve. In spikes, Groton Area was 75 of 89 with 29 kills. Audrey Wanner was 23 of 28 with 14 kills and Josie Doeden was 14 of 15 with six kills.

Groton Area was 81 of 82 in sets with 21 assists. Marlee Jones was 71 of 71 with 20 assists. Groton Area had 37 digs with Katie Koehler having 14 and Jessica Bjerke six. Doeden had the team's only block.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match by game scores of 25-22 and 25-17, and the C match by game scores of 25-18 and 25-23.

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Gear Heads Team: Trey Wright, Travis Townsend, and Micah Poor. Not pictured is Nathan Fjelstad.



G-Force team: Hunter Monson, Anne Marie Smith, and Landon Marzahn. Not pictured is Alex Morris.



Geek Squad Robotics Team: Isaac Smith, Chris Zarycki, Garrett Stene, and Noah Poor.

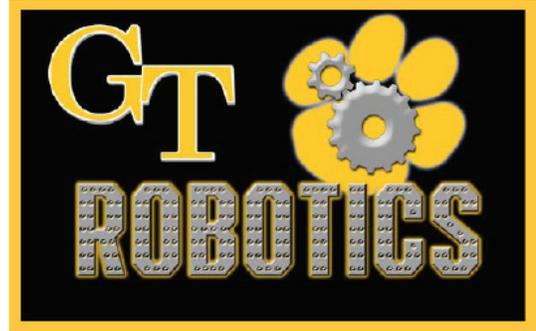


G-Force Team of Hunter Monson, Landon Marzahn and Anne Marie Smith, allign with the Gear Heads Team of Trey Wright, Micah Poor and Travis Townsend.

Photos by Renee Marzahn

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Groton hosts Robotics Competition

Tournament champion was 7686 Tiger Robotics, Harrisburg, with alliance partner 6844B Mechatron, MCTEA//SC, Mitchell. They defeated 9050B Gear Heads, GT Robotics with alliance partner 9050 G-Force, GT Robotics in the championship round.

The judges recognized 7686 Tiger Robotics, Harrisburg, team with the Excellence Award, 9050C G.A.T. Wrenches, GT Robotics with the Design Award for their engineering book and 9050B Gear Heads, GT Robotics with the Innovate Award.

Anne Marie Smith working on the G-Force Robot.



Groton Area Robotic Students

Front Row: Isaac Smith, Thomas Cranford, Travis Townsend, Dragr Monson, Anne Marie Smith, Lee Williams. Back Row: Noah Tullis, Trey Wright, Hunter Monson, Landon Marzahn, Garrett Stene, Micah Poor, Chris Zarycki, and Noah Poor.

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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.

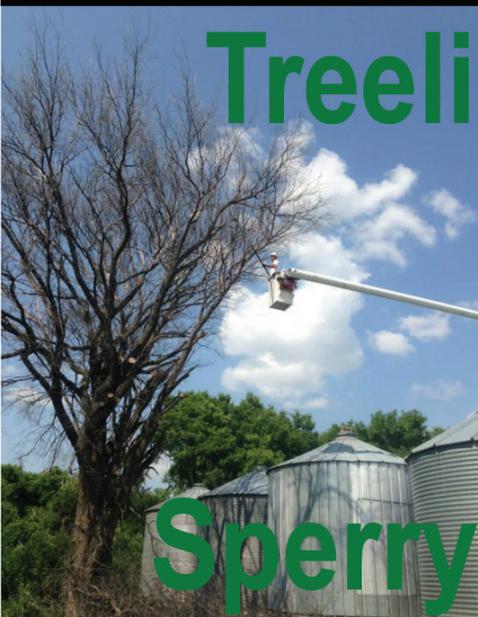
Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915**

**Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal





Haunted Warehouse

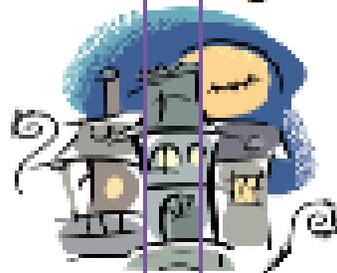
Main Street Bristol

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.**

Today in Weather History

October 30, 1943: Snow fell across much of central and north central South Dakota on this date in 1943. Snowfall amounts of 2 to 7 inches occurred. Snowfall amounts included, 2 inches at Timber Lake, 4 inches at Murdo, 5 inches at Mobridge, and 7 inches at Kennebec and Pierre.

October 30, 1950: Much above normal temperatures occurred across the entire area of central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Record highs were mostly in the 80s across the area. The records were 78 degrees at Sisseton, 80 degrees at Wheaton, 85 degrees at Watertown and Aberdeen, 86 degrees at Mobridge, 88 degrees at Pierre, and a hot 91 degrees at Kennebec.

1925 - Nashville, TN, was blanketed with an inch of snow, their earliest measurable snow of record. (The Weather Channel)

1947 - The Donora, PA, smog disaster finally came to an end. For five days an inversion trapped impurities in the lower atmosphere over the Monongahela Valley killing 20 persons, and leaving more than 2000 others sick. (26th-30th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 74 mph near the town of Gould. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the central U.S. Temperatures warmed into the 80s from Texas to the Lower Missouri Valley. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Ten cities in the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date. The morning low of 20 degrees at South Bend IND was a record for October, and lows of 18 degrees at Grand Rapids MI and 20 degrees at Fort Wayne IND equalled records for October. The low of 2 degrees at International Falls MN smashed their previous record for the date by 11 degrees. Syracuse NY received 2.9 inches of snow to establish a record for October with 5.7 inches for the month. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

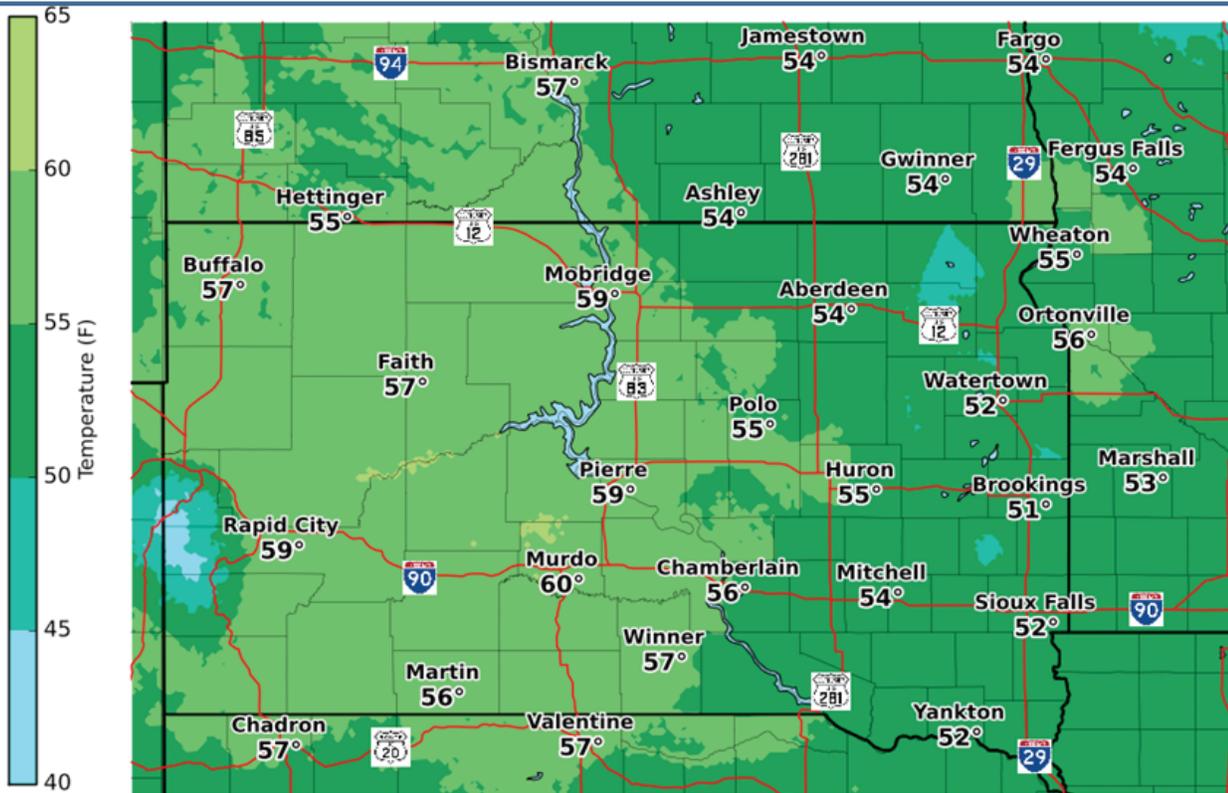
1989 - Temperatures soared into the 70s in the northeastern U.S. The record high of 73 degrees at Alpena MI marked their sixth straight day of record warmth. In the western U.S., Klamath Falls OR reported a record low of 19 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 54 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 63 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 40 °F	High: 63 °F

A Warming Trend Begins Today



National Weather Service
Aberdeen SD
10/30/2015 04:41 AM CDT

Follow Us:   
weather.gov/aberdeen

Published on: 10/30/2015 at 5:12AM

Modified Pacific air will bring filtering into the region today with highs climbing into the 50s for most locations. Warmer temperatures are expected for the weekend, especially on Sunday when highs will climb into the 60s and lower 70s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 44.5 at 4:59 PM

Low: 31.0 at 11:58 PM

High Gust: 29 at 12:51 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 85° in 1950

Record Low: 8° in 1991

Average High: 50°F

Average Low: 27°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.95

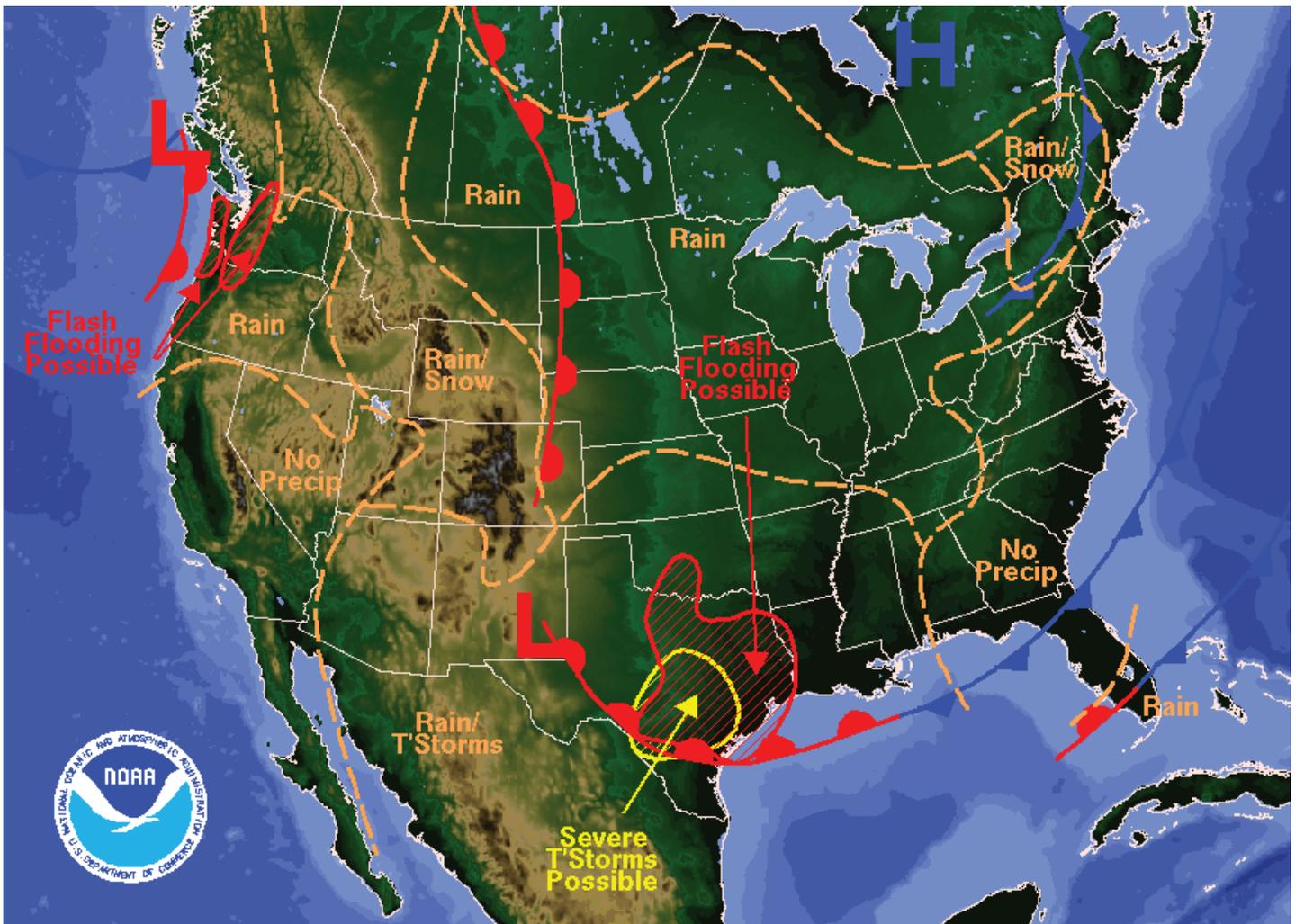
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.99

Average Precip to date: 20.43

Precip Year to Date: 19.11

Sunset Tonight: 6:23 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:11 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Oct 30, 2015, issued 4:55 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



"YOU BE JESUS"

It was a Saturday morning and many activities were scheduled for the day. To make it special, the mother of Albert and George was preparing pancakes for them. Suddenly, they began to argue over which of them would get the first one.

Dismayed over their arguing, the mother said, "If Jesus were sitting here, He'd say 'Let my brother have the first pancake.'"

"Great idea, Mom! George, you be Jesus and I'll take the first pancake," said Albert.

Paul, writing about how to "live love," said that "love does not demand its own way." In other words, the love that we as Christians are to demonstrate in our lives is not a self-centered love. It is a love that focuses on the needs of others - the way God loves us.

God loves us relentlessly, completely, with no limitations or conditions. In spite of our shortcomings or failures, He is there for us, with us - loving us.

And what does He ask of us? First, that we love Him in return for His love. Then, He asks us to love others as He loves us. When we love others as He loves us, we show others what Christian love is all about.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to love as You loved, to give as You gave, to care as You cared, and to do as You did. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Corinthians 13:5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

News from the Associated Press

Minnesota man in custody in fatal stabbing in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Minnesota man is in custody in a fatal stabbing in Sioux Falls. Police say 31-year-old Janno Tammo, of Worthington, Minnesota, was arrested in that city on warrants for murder and aggravated assault after the incident late Thursday afternoon. Tammo is awaiting extradition to South Dakota. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney. Tammo is accused of stabbing a 19-year-old woman and a 27-year-old man in Sioux Falls. Police say the man survived but the woman died. Authorities did not immediately identify them, and did not immediately release details of what happened.

Governor's Mansion to welcome trick-or-treaters on Halloween

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Governor's Mansion in Pierre will once again welcome trick-or-treaters on Halloween.

Children are invited to stop by the mansion from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday. Between 1,500 and 2,000 pieces of candy will be given out.

Handing out Halloween treats at the Governor's Mansion is a long-standing tradition. Gov. Dennis Daugaard and first lady Linda Daugaard have previously dressed up as President Lincoln and his wife first lady Mary Todd Lincoln, as well as characters from The Phantom of the Opera.

The Daugaards are encouraging children and parents across South Dakota to follow Halloween safety tips, including trick-or-treating during daylight or with a flashlight and inspecting candy before pieces are eaten.

Sanford clinical trials study breast cancer genetic changes

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A new Sanford Health clinical trial is exploring how genetic changes that occur during breast cancer could help in fighting the disease.

The study launched earlier this month monitors changes in breast cancer tumor tissue at initial diagnosis and, if applicable, at recurrence.

Oncologist Anu Gaba says that as researchers grow a database of genetic information from breast cancer survivors, they hope to be able to better predict how the disease behaves.

The DNA of breast cancer tumors is sequenced at three different times to compare how its genetic composition varies at differing stages. The stages are initial diagnosis, recurrence or metastasis and after the first line of treatment for advanced disease.

The trial is open in Sioux Falls and the North Dakota cities of Fargo and Bismarck.

Women's business center to hold November LinkedIn training

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Center for Enterprise Opportunity Women's Business Center and Black Hills PR are providing training for the networking website LinkedIn.

The training will be held in Spearfish on Nov. 18.

Black Hills PR President Michelle Kane is teaching the workshop. She says LinkedIn is a powerful tool that many professionals aren't using to its full potential.

Participants in the training will learn how to create a standout profile and smart search techniques, among other things.

The registration deadline is Nov. 16.

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Thursday's Scores The Associated Press

Volleyball

Alcester-Hudson def. Freeman, 25-13, 25-12, 25-18
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Lemmon, 23-25, 26-24, 22-25, 25-11, 15-12
Colman-Egan def. Howard, 25-22, 25-21, 21-25, 23-25, 15-10
DeSmet def. Deuel, 25-9, 25-9, 26-24
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Flandreau Indian, 25-11, 25-12, 25-11
Harding County def. Timber Lake, 25-15, 25-18, 25-13
Marion def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-22, 25-10, 25-22
McIntosh def. Crow Creek, 25-11, 25-19
McIntosh def. McLaughlin, 25-20, 25-23
McLaughlin def. Crow Creek, 25-19, 25-16
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Winner, 25-13, 25-11, 25-11
Northwestern def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-9, 25-8, 25-7
Parkston def. Tea Area, 25-23, 25-21, 25-21
Pine Ridge def. St. Francis Indian, 25-12, 25-11, 25-22
Platte-Geddes def. Ethan, 25-21, 25-19, 25-11
Red Cloud def. Todd County, 25-17, 25-21, 19-25, 25-20
Redfield/Doland def. Groton Area, 25-12, 25-14, 25-19
Vermillion def. Flandreau Indian, 25-13, 25-9, 25-6
Bennett County Triangular
Stanley County def. Bennett County, 25-20, 28-26, 25-15
Wall def. Stanley County, 25-13, 25-21, 25-21
Wall def. Bennett County, 25-15, 25-14, 25-15

PREP FOOTBALL

Class 11AAA

Quarterfinal

Brandon Valley 28, Sioux Falls Lincoln 14
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 50, Aberdeen Central 19
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 34, Rapid City Stevens 17
Sioux Falls Washington 37, Watertown 6

Class 11AA

Quarterfinal

Harrisburg 20, Brookings 17
Mitchell 54, Spearfish 18
Pierre 47, Douglas 0
Yankton 33, Huron 8

Class 11A

Quarterfinal

Lennox 35, St. Thomas More 34
Madison 61, Tea Area 24
Sioux Falls Christian 49, Belle Fourche 14
West Central 35, Milbank Area 6

Ricketts, senators warming up new push for income tax cuts

GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts is preparing a new push to lower income and property taxes in next year's session, with arguments that the state can't compete with its peers.

Ricketts told a Lincoln audience Thursday that he expects a lot of discussion in the Legislature about the state's income tax, an issue that has taken a back seat to property tax reform. His comments came at a forum sponsored by the Platte Institute, an Omaha think tank that frequently advocates for lower taxes.

"Income tax relief is one of the areas where we have to be more competitive," Ricketts said in his speech. "We're working on ideas with regard to that. I see this as something that we'll be talking a lot about in the next session. How do we become more competitive when it comes to taxes?"

Lawmakers shifted their focus from income to property taxes after a 2013 legislative study concluded that Nebraska's tax code isn't substantially different from its neighboring states, but property taxes were higher than average.

The study has served as a rough guide for lawmakers working on tax policy, although four lawmakers on the 14-member study committee refused to sign the report because they disagreed with it.

Nebraska's top individual income tax rate is 6.84 percent, which is lower than the 8.98 percent top rate in neighboring Iowa but higher than the 6 percent imposed by Missouri, according to the Washington-based Federation of Tax Administrators. South Dakota and Wyoming levy no income tax, largely because of revenue from natural resources and tourism, and Kansas is phasing out its income tax even though the decision created state budget problems. Colorado imposes a flat 4.63 percent tax.

Sen. Jim Smith of Papillion said he wants lawmakers to look at baseline tax policies when they convene next year. Smith said Nebraska's tax code hinders small businesses, many of which pay the individual income tax instead of corporate income taxes because of the way their companies are structured.

"We have to have baseline tax policies that are attractive for businesses to expand," said Smith, who spoke on a four-member tax policy panel.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss said state officials should focus on reducing or eliminating tax exemptions as a way to pay for broader income tax cuts, but lawmakers have not shown the will to do so. Goss said he believes state aid to local governments should only increase with population growth or a natural rise in costs.

"Nebraska's moving in the opposite direction that we need to," Goss said.

Former Gov. Dave Heineman announced a plan in 2013 to abolish the state's income tax by eliminating tax exemptions, but the proposal faced heavy opposition from lawmakers and groups that received the exemptions. Critics of the plan also argued that taxes play less of a role in attracting businesses than quality schools, roads and amenities for young people.

Sen. John Stinner of Gering said lawmakers need to maintain their focus on reducing property taxes to help farmers and ranchers. Stinner said they also need to keep lowering the tax burden of retirees, many of whom leave the state for places like Arizona, Nevada, Texas and Florida.

Report finds former Secretary of State's office \$43K short

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Secretary of State's Office under Jason Gant came up more than \$43,000 short in its accounting at the end of 2014 and used federal grant funds for unpermitted purposes, according to a report from a South Dakota state auditor.

Auditor General Martin Guindon said in the report that his office found no explanation of the \$43,300 difference between accounts and the Secretary of State's Office reported receipts for permit and fee revenue. Current Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said the discrepancy has since been resolved.

"The concern was: are we missing money?" she said. "It's state money, taxpayer money, so where is it and why is it missing?"

Other findings in the report include several missing iPad Mini devices out of 30 purchased and that about \$12,000 of grant funds were used for oversight of a different program, which the auditor believes isn't

allowed.

Gant told The Associated Press that the report shows some mistakes that his office made with accounting procedures, errors he would have fixed had known about them prior to leaving office. Gant said he didn't know this type of inquiry was an option.

"Had I known that, absolutely, I would have done it," he said. "Unfortunately, we're going to make mistakes, and I've made my fair share, and we would have corrected those mistakes."

The report said that the Secretary of State's Office didn't have "adequate internal control policies or procedures" related to two federal programs. Gant said he discussed the controls with auditors and said the office could have had more detailed procedures. He said the \$12,000 in grant funds was simply a coding error.

He also said the iPad devices were among roughly 100 tablets the office bought when it was testing a military voting system. He said the devices didn't have a proper system to track them.

Speaking about management and accountability, Gant, who's now a business consultant, said he put more stringent procedures in place for county reimbursement from Help America Vote Act funds.

The Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee is scheduled to discuss the report Friday, and Gant said he has gotten permission to testify before the panel.

Krebs said she requested the report because of complaints from citizens who said the office's operations were slow and unresponsive.

"What we walked into just shows how accountability to our taxpayers is so important and that these items aren't insignificant to the taxpayer," Krebs said. "You're dealing with money that's theirs."

She said she also was concerned after taking office in January when a staff member noticed that a century-old original state flag was missing from its stand.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Wednesday that the flag had been recovered from a former employee and criminal charges are expected. The flag was hanging up in Krebs' office Thursday afternoon.

Gant said the flag was taken down during his tenure because it was beginning to rip at a corner. He said it was stored in a closet while a display was being put together and someone took it from the closet.

Omaha bank reissuing cards after breach at national firm

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — First National Bank of Omaha is reissuing debit cards to some of its customers in seven states in because of a data breach at an unidentified national firm.

Bank spokesman Kevin Langin declined to identify the business that experienced the breach because the problem is still being investigated by authorities.

Langin says the extent of the data breach hasn't been determined.

Langin refused to say how many new cards the bank has issued to its customers in Nebraska, Illinois, Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas, Colorado and Texas.

Interstate closed after trooper's rear window shatters

CASTLEWOOD, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol closed Interstate 29 near Castlewood for nearly three hours after a patrol vehicle's rear window mysteriously shattered.

Authorities are investigating what caused the window to shatter after the trooper completed a traffic stop on I-29 about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The trooper heard a loud pop and the rear window shattered.

A portion of the interstate was closed for two to three hours, and traffic was re-routed around the scene.

Several local and state law enforcement agencies responded to the incident, and the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation continues to investigate.

PUC approves NorthWestern Energy 15.5 percent rate increase

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission is allowing NorthWestern Energy to raise its electric rates by 15.5 percent, the first such increase since 1981.

The three-person panel approved the increase of about \$16 a month for a typical residential customer during its regular meeting in Pierre.

The rates take effect when the Big Stone Generating Station Air Quality Control System goes online. That date is expected to be Jan. 1.

NorthWestern Energy filed its request for a 20.2 percent rate increase with the PUC in December 2014. The company implemented interim rates based on their initial request on July 1.

Because the final rate increase is lower than the interim rate increase, NorthWestern Energy will have to refund the difference to customers, plus interest, no later than April.

New rule in Wyoming seeks to encourage ferret reintroduction

MEAD GRUVER, Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A new rule will seek to make Wyoming landowners less fearful about the legal implications of having endangered black-footed ferrets on their property, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wyoming Game and Fish Department announced Thursday.

Under an Endangered Species Act provision to be applied to the entire state, landowners who allow reintroduction of black-footed ferrets on their property would not face legal liability if they ever inadvertently harmed a ferret on their land.

The goal of classifying ferrets statewide as an “experimental, non-essential” population is to encourage landowner participation in ferret reintroduction efforts.

“Private landowners are key to the success of the black-footed ferret recovery effort,” said Fish and Wildlife Mountain-Prairie Regional Director Noreen Walsh.

The rule is set to take effect Nov. 30. Though black-footed ferrets have been reintroduced in Wyoming’s Shirley Basin in the past, there are no formal plans to reintroduce more in Wyoming yet.

“This new rule is a good fit for Wyoming because it builds on voluntary efforts by landowners and recognizes the role they play in species conservation,” Wyoming Game and Fish Department Director Scott Talbott said.

Black-footed ferrets are sleek predators with a black stripe across their eyes, giving them a bandit-like appearance. They inhabit burrows within colonies of prairie dogs, their key prey.

To survive and thrive, black-footed ferrets require substantial numbers of prairie dogs, a species often poisoned in vast numbers to help protect rangeland for livestock grazing. Prairie dogs also frequently fall victim to plague in large numbers.

Black-footed ferrets were believed extinct until a dog brought a dead one home and biologists confirmed a surviving population near Meeteetse in the 1980s. Biologists since have reintroduced captive-bred black-footed ferrets in Wyoming, South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Kansas, New Mexico, Canada and Mexico.

Earlier this month, Fish and Wildlife released 30 black-footed ferrets at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, a toxic waste site cleaned up and turned into a shortgrass prairie preserve near Denver.

An estimated 300 black-footed ferrets live in the wild today. Fish and Wildlife seeks to boost the population to 10 times that number.

Family of injured patrol trooper thanks public for support

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The family of a South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper who is recovering after a weekend assault has released a statement thanking the public for support.

Ten-year veteran trooper Zachary Bader is recovering in a Rapid City hospital from injuries that are not considered life-threatening. Authorities say he was assaulted on Interstate 90 while making a traffic stop Saturday.

The family says it is receiving support "from across the world." The statement says Bader is improving, and that his sense of humor has remained intact.

Four Washington state residents are charged in the incident. The most serious charges are against 33-year-old Donald Willingham, who's accused of attempted murder.

Authorities say they recovered more than 50 pounds of marijuana, \$33,000 in cash and a handgun after the incident.

Federal scientist says agency punished him over bee research

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A federal scientist says he was punished for publicizing research showing a link between pesticides and the decline in bees and other pollinators.

Brookings, South Dakota-based entomologist Jonathan Lundgren filed a whistleblower complaint against the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Wednesday. The complaint says Lundgren's research and work travel was scrutinized, and that he was suspended for violating agency protocols.

Lundgren is being represented by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility in his complaint to a federal whistleblower protection board.

"Once he started publishing this work, he went from golden boy to pariah, and that's what this case is about," said Jeff Ruch, the group's executive director.

According to Ruch, Lundgren has worked with the USDA for 11 years and was highly regarded until he published a paper showing a class of insecticides called neonicotinoids is harmful to monarch butterflies. Lundgren's complaint says a supervisor confronted him about publishing about a "sensitive" without permission.

In August, Lundgren was suspended for two weeks without pay. A letter from a supervisor says Lundgren was suspended following a complaint by one of his lab employees, and because he falsified travel charges and didn't follow supervisor instructions, among other infractions.

Ruch claims pressure from the pesticide industry led the USDA to stifle Lundgren and other scientists. He doesn't have evidence, but said the complaint will allow attorneys to seek information and interview USDA officials.

USDA spokesman Christopher Bentley said the agency can't discuss individual cases, but said it's committed to scientific integrity. He said the agency reviews allegations of wrongdoing.

"The USDA has implemented a strong scientific integrity policy to promote a culture of excellence and transparency," Bentley said in a statement. "That includes procedures for staff to report any perceived interference with their work, seek resolution, and receive protection ... for doing so."

Lundgren filed an internal complaint in September 2014 that accused the USDA of retaliating against him because of his research. The agency found his complaint had no merit, and an appeal by Lundgren is awaiting a response from the agency.

Ruch said going public was a "last resort" for Lundgren.

"He's at the brink of professional elimination," Ruch said.

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. WHAT CONGRESS IS SENDING TO OBAMA

A budget and debt deal that averts a catastrophic national default and sets the budget for the federal government for the next two years.

2. LITTLE OUTCRY OVER HOSPITAL BOMBINGS IN SOME WARZONES

Fatigue and differing dynamics over the conflicts in Syria and Yemen may have fueled apathy in contrast to outrage over Israel's Gaza Wars and the U.S. bombing of the Afghan clinic in Kunduz.

3. WHY IMMIGRANTS ARE MAKING PERILOUS JOURNEY

Those caught illegally crossing the Mexican border believe they will be permitted to stay in the U.S. and

collect public benefits, documents reveal.

4. PUBLIC OPINION SHIFTING ON GAY NUPTIALS

A new AP poll finds that for the first time, most Americans expect public servants to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, even over religious objections.

5. AEGEAN SEA SITE OF MORE DROWNINGS

Greek authorities say 22 people have died after two boats carrying migrants and refugees from Turkey to Greece sank overnight.

6. WEEKLONG MANHUNT ENDS IN KENTUCKY

A fugitive accused of shooting a Tennessee police officer and firing at a Kentucky trooper is killed in a shootout with authorities.

7. PANHANDLING LAWS FACE CHALLENGE AFTER CHURCH SIGNS RULING

Cities trying to limit begging are facing a new legal hurdle because of a recent Supreme Court ruling that seemingly has nothing to do with asking for money.

8. NO TRICKS: HALLOWEEN ALL THE RAGE IN JAPAN

For the usually reserved Japanese, Halloween proves a good excuse to act wild in strange outfits at parades and parties.

9. RAPPER'S NOVEL WAY TO RELEASE NEW MUSIC

Hip-hop star Akon tells AP's Ryan Nakashima he plans to release his first albums in seven years via a free, ad-supported app.

10. WHO IS STILL UNBEATEN IN NFL

Tom Brady throws for 356 yards and four touchdowns and the New England Patriots beat the Miami Dolphins 36-7 to improve to 7-0.

AP News in Brief

US secretary of state hopeful at Syrian peace talks but says progress will be difficult

VIENNA (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is acknowledging that progress will be difficult as he launches a marathon day of talks aimed at ending the Syrian War but is expressing some hope of headway.

With 19 foreign ministers and other senior dignitaries attending, participants say the fact that the talks are happening despite deep divisions among key players are in themselves a sign of success. But Kerry was cautious Friday ahead of a meeting with Sameh Hassan Shoukry, his Egyptian counterpart

"I am hopeful that we can find a way forward," he told reporters, adding: "It is very difficult."

A main focus is what to do about Syrian President Bashar Assad. Saudi Arabia, which is backed by the U.S., wants him quickly ousted, a demand opposed by Iran and Russia.

Little international outcry as hospitals bombed in Syria, Yemen

BEIRUT (AP) — The first missile slammed into the field hospital in the rebel-held Syrian town of Sarmeen, killing a physiotherapist inside. Five minutes later, the aircraft returned, firing another missile that hit nearby just as the first responders were arriving. A total of 13 were killed, and the hospital organizers blamed Russian warplanes.

In Yemen, airstrikes by a Saudi-led coalition targeting rebels destroyed a hospital run by the international medical charity Doctors Without Borders this week. Although there were no deaths, the hospital was the latest casualty of a campaign that has claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people since March.

But those strikes on hospitals brought little international outcry — a sharp contrast to an Oct. 3 American strike on a hospital in Afghanistan that killed 30 people and brought a firestorm of criticism on Washington.

The reasons are many, perhaps chief among them is general fatigue over the conflicts in Syria, now in its fifth year, and in Yemen, a relatively impoverished and isolated country mired in turmoil for more than a decade. Also, while the U.S. acknowledged relatively quickly that it carried out the strikes and President

Barack Obama apologized to Doctors Without Borders, which also ran that facility, Russia and Saudi Arabia categorically deny that their campaigns hit civilians, and conditions on the ground make confirmations more difficult, muddying the waters for critics. Russia denied it hit the Sarmeen hospital, which was struck Oct. 20.

"After more than four years of war, I remain flabbergasted at how international humanitarian law can be so easily flouted by all parties to this conflict," said Sylvain Groulx, head of Doctors Without Borders' mission for Syria. "We can only wonder whether this concept is dead."

Congress sends budget and debt deal to Obama after early morning vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation sparing the country the specter of a catastrophic default and partial government shutdown is ready for President Barack Obama's signature after the Senate passed it by a comfortable margin.

Senators voted 64-35 for the measure, which also provides a two-year budget, in the early hours Friday. Democrats teamed with Republican defense hawks to overcome opposition from conservatives including two GOP senators running for president — Rand Paul of Kentucky and Ted Cruz of Texas.

Obama had negotiated the accord, passed by the House earlier this week, with congressional leaders who were intent on avoiding the brinkmanship and shutdown threats that have haunted the institution for the past several years. Departing Rep. John Boehner of Ohio made it his top priority in his final days as speaker before making way for Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

The deal allows members of both parties to look ahead toward next year's presidential and congressional elections. Republican leaders were particularly concerned that failure to resolve this vexing issue could reflect poorly on their ability to govern. There was significant opposition in the Senate, nevertheless, as Paul and Cruz made it a point to be on the floor to register their concerns.

In an hour-long speech that delayed the final vote to around 3 a.m., Paul said Congress is "bad with money." He railed against increases in defense dollars supported by Republicans and domestic programs supported by Democrats.

The Latest: German leader calls for end to political infighting over migrants

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

11:10 a.m.

Germany's vice chancellor is blasting what he describes as irresponsible bickering in Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative bloc over the migrant crisis.

Bavaria's Christian Social Union, part of Merkel's Union bloc but often an awkward ally, has criticized Merkel's approach for weeks. Leader Horst Seehofer has demanded moves by Sunday to limit the migrant influx. Merkel has argued there's no way to instantly stop the influx.

Authorities: Kentucky fugitive accused of shooting at police killed in shootout after manhunt

BURKESVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A fugitive accused of shooting a Tennessee police officer and firing at a Kentucky trooper was killed in a shootout with authorities early Friday, ending a nearly weeklong manhunt.

Floyd Ray Cook, 62, was pronounced dead at the scene in south-central Kentucky after being confronted by state troopers and a federal marshal who were searching an embankment, Kentucky State Police public affairs officer Billy Gregory told The Associated Press.

Cook was armed with a handgun and exchanged gunfire with the officers south of Burkesville, Gregory said. He was wounded and pronounced dead at the scene. No officers were injured.

The manhunt for Cook began after he was accused of shooting and wounding an Algood, Tennessee, police officer during a traffic stop last Saturday afternoon. He fled in a black Ford truck.

Just over an hour later, a Kentucky State Police trooper recognized Cook's vehicle and tried to stop him in rural Cumberland County, just beyond the Tennessee state line, authorities said. Cook tried to speed away, but wrecked and jumped from the truck on foot. He allegedly opened fire on the officer, missed and ran into the woods.

AP-GfK Poll: Majority says clerks should be required to issue marriage licenses to gay couples

WASHINGTON (AP) — Linda Massey opposes gay marriage. But she was incensed last summer to see that Kim Davis, a Kentucky county clerk, was refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples.

"If the government says you have to give out those marriage licenses, and you get paid to do it, you do it," says the 64-year-old retiree from Lewiston, Michigan. "That woman," she said of Davis, "should be out of a job."

Americans like Massey are at the heart of a shift in public opinion, an Associated Press-GfK poll has found. For the first time, most Americans expect government officials to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, even over religious objections.

It's partly a matter of expecting public servants to do their jobs. But more broadly, the issue touches on a familiar dispute over which constitutional value trumps which: religious freedom, or equality under the law?

The question in recent months has entangled leaders with political sway, among them Pope Francis and the 2016 presidential contenders. But it's not a new conflict for a nation that has long wrestled with the separation of church and state.

In gov't interviews, immigrants at border believe they can stay in US, collect benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of immigrant families caught illegally crossing the Mexican border told U.S. immigration agents they made the dangerous journey in part because they believed they would be permitted to stay in the United States and collect public benefits, according to internal intelligence files from the Homeland Security Department.

The interviews with immigrants by federal agents were intended to help the Obama administration understand what might be driving a puzzling surge in the numbers of border crossings that started over the summer. The explanations suggest the U.S. government's efforts to discourage illegal crossings may have been unsuccessful. Its efforts have included public service campaigns in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala to highlight the dangers and consequences of making the trek across Mexico to cross illegally into the United States.

The Associated Press obtained copies of the interview summaries, which were compiled in reports by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Intelligence. They said hundreds of people traveling as part of families consistently cited opportunities to obtain permission to stay in the U.S., claim asylum and receive unspecified benefits. Immigrants spoke of "permisos," or a pass to come into the United States.

The report "is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis of the situation," said department spokeswoman Marsha Catron, adding that troubles in the immigrants' home countries likely contributed to their flight as well.

Although the Obama administration has explained that immigrants who cross the U.S. border illegally can be deported, lengthy backlogs of more than 456,000 cases mean that immigrants can effectively remain in the U.S. for years before a judge decides whether they should leave the country. Also, recent court rulings have complicated the government's plans to hold families in immigration jails pending deportation proceedings. Immigrants living in the U.S. illegally generally are not eligible for public benefits, except that

children may receive free or reduced meals in public schools.

Obama and Ryan: Policy partners and political foils enter new phase of complex relationship

WASHINGTON (AP) — For years, President Barack Obama and newly-elected House Speaker Paul Ryan have been political foes and occasional policy allies.

Obama has long admired Ryan's seriousness on fiscal issues, but pilloried the Wisconsin lawmaker and GOP vice presidential nominee during the 2012 campaign as the architect of "radical" budget proposals. Ryan helped champion Obama's trade agenda this year, but also has been among the sharpest critics of the president's health care law.

Now, with Ryan at the helm of the fractious House Republican caucus, the two men face an uncertain 14-month stretch before the end of Obama's presidency. Ryan is eager to unify his party, but even if he can, there's no guarantee the House would make progress on Obama's priorities, including infrastructure spending and tax reform.

"While it is certainly our hope that we can work together on areas of agreement, right now it's an unknown," White House communications director Jennifer Psaki said. "That has less to do with the individual and everything to do with the politics in the Republican caucus."

Still, there's no doubt that Ryan was the White House's favored choice for speaker after John Boehner resigned and No. 2 Republican Kevin McCarthy withdrew from the race to succeed him. Aides say the president views Ryan as a policy wonk driven more by legislative results than appealing GOP hardliners.

'Shoot him!' Wounded gov't official yelled to coworker to kill violent agent in federal office

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Homeland Security Department had briefly revoked the gun, badge and credentials of a disgruntled federal agent months before he used that weapon to start a deadly gun battle inside a government office building in southern California, according to a confidential, internal investigation obtained exclusively by The Associated Press.

It returned his gun after a cursory review — even though his supervisor objected because he worried the agent was suicidal or might hurt others.

The government's investigation, which started nearly a year after the shootings and took 18 months, found that the agency had missed clear warning signs of the supervisory agent's descent toward violence and could have intervened to perhaps prevent what ultimately occurred.

It also revealed new details about the private life of the dead supervisory agent, Ezequiel "Zeke" Garcia, 45, and clarified how the February 2012 shooting attack unfolded inside the Long Beach offices of U.S. Homeland Security Investigations. Garcia died from a gunshot to the back of his head. The regional second-in-command, Kevin Kozak, who was unarmed, suffered serious wounds to his hands, abdomen, back and leg.

Garcia's supervisor, Perry Woo, killed Garcia after Garcia fired 23 rounds in an estimated 17 seconds from his service pistol during a disciplinary meeting.

Never mind trick or treat: Halloween is all the rage in Japan as costume play, merchandising

TOKYO (AP) — For the usually reserved Japanese, Halloween has become the perfect excuse to act wild in strange outfits.

The spooky celebration is consuming the energy, fashion sense and wallets of people for the entire month of October, not just kids but also adults on the prowl with colorful parades, costume parties and pumpkin-inspired desserts, dress-up and decor everywhere.

Groton Daily Independent

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"When everyone is happy like this, I feel happy," said Shoko Ushimaru, a game designer, wearing white makeup and a pirate outfit at a recent Halloween party in Tokyo.

She was in a room with a crowd of people, all in costumes. A DJ was playing music, but no one was dancing. The main attraction was getting photos taken under studio lighting, perfect for posting on social media such as Instagram and Facebook. Participants use such parties, popping up in recent weeks, for making friends and letting go of inhibitions.

Yoshi Kaseki, who heads the Japan Anniversary Association and studies the business potential of holidays, said Japanese don't care about the cultural or religious backdrop of Halloween, or how it's celebrated anywhere else. The biggest attraction is that anyone can take part, in contrast to Valentine's, for instance, another holiday import that's gained in popularity but which requires a lover or partner.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 30, the 303rd day of 2015. There are 62 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 30, 1965, the miniskirt had its "coming out," of sorts. British model Jean Shrimpton scandalized onlookers by showing up for Victoria Derby Day at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne, Australia, in a white, sleeveless shift dress that had a hem four inches above her knees. (Shrimpton was also criticized for not wearing a hat, gloves or stockings to such a formal occasion.)

On this date:

In 1735, the second president of the United States, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts.

In 1864, Helena, Montana, was founded.

In 1921, the silent film classic "The Sheik," starring Rudolph Valentino, premiered in Los Angeles.

In 1938, the radio play "The War of the Worlds," starring Orson Welles, aired on CBS.

In 1945, the U.S. government announced the end of shoe rationing, effective at midnight.

In 1953, Gen. George C. Marshall was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. Albert Schweitzer received the Peace Prize for 1952.

In 1961, the Soviet Union tested a hydrogen bomb, the "Tsar Bomba," with a force estimated at about 50 megatons. The Soviet Party Congress unanimously approved a resolution ordering the removal of Josef Stalin's body from Lenin's tomb.

In 1974, Muhammad Ali knocked out George Foreman in the eighth round of a 15-round bout in Kinshasa, Zaire (zah-EER'), known as the "Rumble in the Jungle," to regain his world heavyweight title.

In 1975, the New York Daily News ran the headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead" a day after President Gerald R. Ford said he would veto any proposed federal bailout of New York City.

In 1985, schoolteacher-astronaut Christa McAuliffe witnessed the launch of the space shuttle Challenger, the same craft that carried her and six other crew members to their deaths in January 1986.

In 1997, a jury in Cambridge, Massachusetts, convicted British au pair Louise Woodward of second-degree murder in the death of 8-month-old Matthew Eappen. (The judge, Hiller B. Zobel, later reduced the verdict to manslaughter and set Woodward free.)

In 2000, comedian, television host, author and composer Steve Allen died in Encino, California, at age 78.

Ten years ago: The body of Rosa Parks arrived at the U.S. Capitol, where the civil rights icon became the first woman to lie in honor in the Rotunda; President George W. Bush and congressional leaders paused to lay wreaths by her casket. Baseball Hall of Fame catcher and manager Al Lopez died in Tampa, Florida, at age 97.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama implored voters to resist a Republican tide, warning that if the GOP prevailed in midterm elections, all the progress of his first two years in office could be "rolled back." Comedians Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart headlined a "Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear" in Washington attended by tens of thousands. The Texas Rangers beat San Francisco 4-2, cutting the Giants' World Series edge to 2-1.

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One year ago: Israel closed all access to Jerusalem's most sensitive religious site, revered by Jews as the Temple Mount and Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, in a rare move that ratcheted up tensions after the attempted assassination of a Jewish religious activist and the killing of a Palestinian suspect in the case by security forces. Thomas Menino, Boston's longest-serving mayor, died at age 71.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Dick Gautier is 84. Movie director Claude Lelouch is 78. Rock singer Grace Slick is 76. Songwriter Eddie Holland is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Otis Williams (The Temptations) is 74. Actress Joanna Shimkus is 72. Actor Henry Winkler is 70. Broadcast journalist Andrea Mitchell is 69. Rock musician Chris Slade (Asia) is 69. Country/rock musician Timothy B. Schmit (The Eagles) is 68. Actor Leon Rippy is 66. Actor Harry Hamlin is 64. Actor Charles Martin Smith is 62. Country singer T. Graham Brown is 61. Actor Kevin Pollak is 58. Actor Michael Beach is 52. Rock singer-musician Gavin Rossdale (Bush) is 50. Actor Jack Plotnick is 47. Comedian Ben Bailey is 45. Actress Nia Long is 45. Country singer Kassadey Osborn (SHeDAISY) (sh-DAY'-zee) is 39. Actor Gael Garcia Bernal is 37. Actor Matthew Morrison is 37. Actor Shaun Sipos (SEE'-pohs) is 34. Ivanka Trump is 34. Actress Janel (juh-NEHL') Parrish is 27. Actor Tequan Richmond is 23.

Thought for Today: "There are things that are known and things that are unknown; in between are doors." - William Blake, English poet (1757-1827).