

Groton Daily Independent

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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

Monday, November 2

2nd Round FB Playoffs

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Cheese stick, broccoli mixed vegetable, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, California blend vegetables, lemon tart bar, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Dale Washnok • Derrick Herther • Andrea Snoozy-Bahr

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran 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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"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all!"

NOW OPEN

Harris

Auto Body A B D N

**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**

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2nd Round FB Playoffs Video Stream

<http://www.thecube.com/event/2nd-round-fb-playoffs-groton-area-hosting-bridgewa-559930>

GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA TUESDAY - November 3, 2015 - 7pm Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Financial Report
- 3) Bills
- 4) Dept Reports – Public Works-Terry, Dwight, & Shawn
- 5) Dealing with Difficult Citizens
- 6) Sewer Charge for Huber Apartments—Running Toilet during average
- 7) Tree Trimming on Power Lines on Private Property
- 8) WAPA letter
- 9) Heartland Power meeting – Nov 18 2015- Groton Legion
- 10) Delinquency Policy
- 11) Electric Rates
- 12) Skating Warming House Employees
- 13) Employee Health Ins
- 14) Exe Session – Personnel
- 15) Dan Sunne 6th Month Wage Review
- 16) 1st Reading Ordinance 701-2016 Salary Ordinance

AND any other business that may come before the Council

Playoffs: Groton Area hosts Bridgewater-Ethan/Emery

G S	Aberdeen Chrysler Center	S & S Lumber
A P	Bahr Spray Foam & Construction	Spanier Harvesting & Trucking
M O	Blocker Construction	Subway
E N	Harry Implement, Ferney	Titan Machinery - Justin Hanson
S	James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgenson	Tuffer'nHell Livestock Equipment
O	James Valley Telecommunications	Weber Landscaping
R	McKiver Collision	
S	Olson Backhoe & Trenching	

Nov. 2

7:00 pm



11th Annual

Oakes, ND

Craft & Merchant Fair

Saturday, November 7, 2015

Many local Merchants
hosting specials &
Holiday Open Houses
around Oakes as well!

Sponsored by:
Oakes Area Chamber
of Commerce

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Oakes High School

Both Gyms Full...
with many NEW Vendors!

Admission: \$1
(6 and under free)

Concessions by
Sweets & Stories

Door Prizes
Throughout Event!



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Rail Investments Bring Big Results

During construction season it's frustrating to wait for a pilot car when half of a two-lane highway is closed for repairs. It's time-consuming, inconvenient and inefficient to try to move two-way vehicle traffic over a single lane.

For railroad shippers in western South Dakota, that's exactly the current situation. Between Rapid City and Pierre, a single rail line without any large siding prevents head to head traffic from passing one another. This problem is exacerbated by the condition of the rail, which, in most places, can handle trains traveling at only 10 miles per hour.

In that 165-mile stretch, there are no sidings long enough to allow trains coming from both east and west to pass each other. That means a train leaving Rapid City must wait until a westbound train from Pierre has covered the entire distance, which often takes 16 hours or more, before beginning its run.

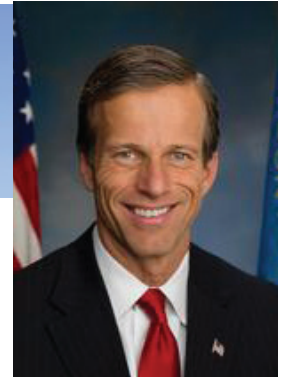
But that will soon change. Recently, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern (RCP&E) Railroad a \$6 million TIGER grant to upgrade portions of the old DM&E track and install a siding near Philip to allow trains to pass one another. A second portion of the project replaces a length of rail near Huron.

The RCP&E is adding \$4.4 million to this project and the state of South Dakota \$2 million to complete the \$12.4 million upgrades. Once completed, these improvements will increase operating efficiency along the entire line.

This combination of federal, state and private investments is on top of \$28.4 million in rail upgrades begun during 2011, \$1.75 million in 2012 and \$58 million announced just last December. Beyond more than \$100 million in rail improvements, additional private investments have been encouraged, including a new \$40 million grain terminal under construction in Kennebec, and a new \$30 million grain facility now underway in Britton.

Rail investments bring big results and often lead to additional projects which directly reduce shipping costs for farmers and improve bottom lines for the men and women who drive our state's economy. I'm excited about this latest project, and I look forward to seeing even more new investments in the coming years.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Culture Change Needed at the IRS

There are few, if any, federal agencies that elicit a more visceral reaction from the American people than the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The IRS wields an enormous amount of power – enough to topple businesses or crush families. When that power is used improperly or outside the scope of the law, it can have a devastating impact on everyone left in its wake. As a result of its egregious abuse of power, including the unfair targeting of conservative groups, the IRS is in desperate need of a top-to-bottom culture change that would help restore its credibility to a level that the American people both expect and deserve.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the IRS, I recently had the opportunity to raise some of these concerns directly with IRS Commissioner John Koskinen. My primary recommendation to the commissioner was to fully implement the provisions of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights Enhancement Act, a bill that Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and I introduced earlier this year.

Our bill would create new protections for taxpayers, strengthen and update safeguards against abuse that are already on the books, and punish bad actors at the IRS. Specifically, the bill would significantly increase civil damages and criminal penalties for improperly using or accessing taxpayer information. Americans should not have to fear that politics could play a role in their confidential tax information being disclosed to an unauthorized third party, that they will be targeted based on their political beliefs, or that the IRS will not retain its employees' emails, like we saw with Lois Lerner.

I also believe that IRS employees should be held to a higher standard, which is why I co-sponsored the No Bonuses for Tax Cheats Act, which says to hard-working Americans that the federal bureaucrats who collect their taxes have the same responsibility they do in fulfilling tax obligations. The bill would withhold bonuses and pay increases from IRS employees who are willfully cheating on their taxes or otherwise engaged in misconduct.

According to a 2014 Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration report, the IRS doled out nearly \$3 million in bonuses and paid leave time to tax-delinquent IRS employees or employees who had documented cases of improper behavior. Rewarding such behavior defies logic, and I'm hopeful this common-sense legislation will become law.

The American people have every right to be skeptical of federal government agencies like the IRS because they haven't given the American people any reason to think differently. That's one of the biggest problems facing the federal government today – a lack of trust and credibility. We can do better. The American people deserve better. Passing common-sense bills like the Taxpayer Bill of Rights Enhancement Act and the No Bonuses for Tax Cheats Act would be a big step in the right direction.

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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.

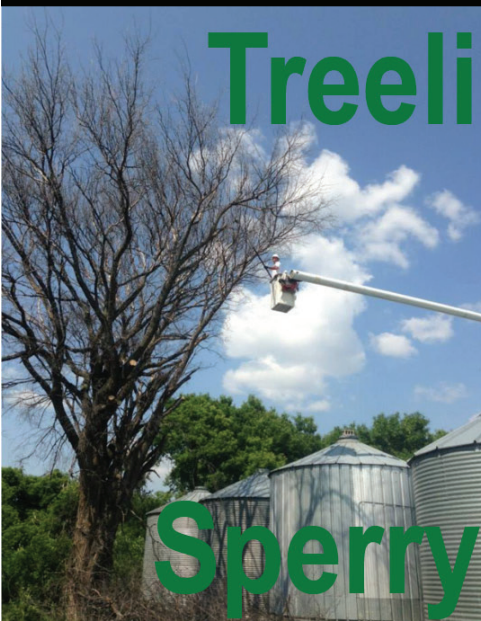
Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915**

**Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal



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Give a little
TENDERNESS



— and save 76% on world-famous Omaha Steaks —



Perfect Gifts
GUARANTEED

Happy Family Celebration

- 2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
- 2 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 4 (3 oz.) Gourmet Jumbo Franks
- 16 oz. pkg. Omaha Steakhouse Fries
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets
- Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet
- 47222VMN

Reg. \$209.91 | **Now Only \$49⁹⁹**

PLUS, 4 more
Burgers
FREE!



Groton Area's sixth grade MathCounts Team placed third at the Warner MathCounts competition held this past week. Pictured left to right area Seth Johnson, Trey Johnson, Trista Keith, and Travis Townsend.

Limit 2 pkgs. at this price. Your 4 free burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes the Happy Family Celebration 47222. Limit of 1 free box of 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers per shipment. Standard S&H will be added per address. Not valid with other offers. Expires 12/31/15. ©2015 OCG | 510B120 | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

1-800-795-0946 ask for 47222VMN
www.OmahaSteaks.com/mbfave20

**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 31, 1979: A narrow band of heavy wet snow developed around midnight from Winner to Leola and produced from three to six inches of snow before ending in the afternoon of 31st. The wet snow stuck to power poles and combined with 30 to 50 mph winds broke up to 600 poles. Estimated damage was around \$400,000 dollars. The counties affected were Tripp, Lyman, Buffalo, Hyde, Hand, Faulk, and Edmunds Counties.

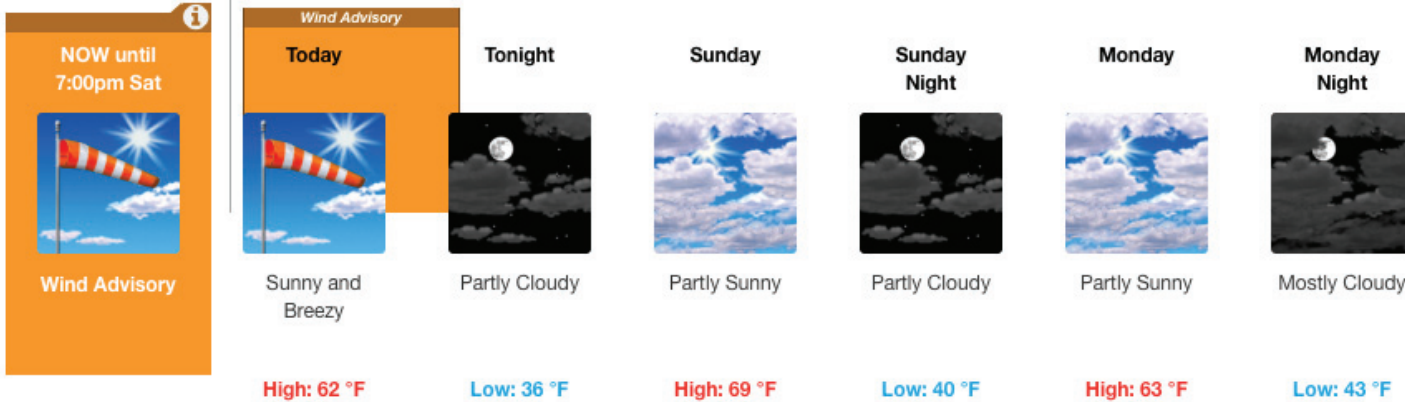
October 31, 1991: A blizzard swept through southeastern South Dakota, dropping over 16 inches of snow in places. The snow combined with winds gusting to 60 mph at times, thus producing blizzard conditions. Interstates 29 and 90, as well as most other roads east and south of Sioux Falls were closed due to blowing and drifting snow. There were hundreds of traffic accidents in the Sioux Falls area alone. The hospital emergency rooms were swamped with victims of automobile accidents and injuries sustained while shoveling heavy snow. Two men died from heart problems while shoveling the snow.

1876: The Great Backerganj, also known as the Bengal cyclone of 1876 struck Bangladesh, then part of the province of Bengal in British India on this day. A maximum wind speed of 137 mph along with a storm surge of 10 to 45 feet inundated the coastal region. This storm likely caused 200,000 casualties along with displacing thousands of other individuals.

1991: A severe winter storm, dubbed the Great Halloween Mega Storm, struck the upper Midwest. Minnesota bore the brunt of this storm. Blizzard conditions occurred with winds gusting frequently to 40 and 50 mph. By the time it was all over on November 2nd, Duluth recorded 37 inches, Minneapolis 28 inches, International Falls 18 inches and 11.2 inches in 24-hours at Sioux Falls, SD, their earliest heavy snowfall of 6 inches or more and snowiest October on record. For Duluth and Minneapolis, the snow amounts set new all-time records for the greatest amount of snow in a single storm. The storm gave these two cities nearly half of their average seasonal snowfall.

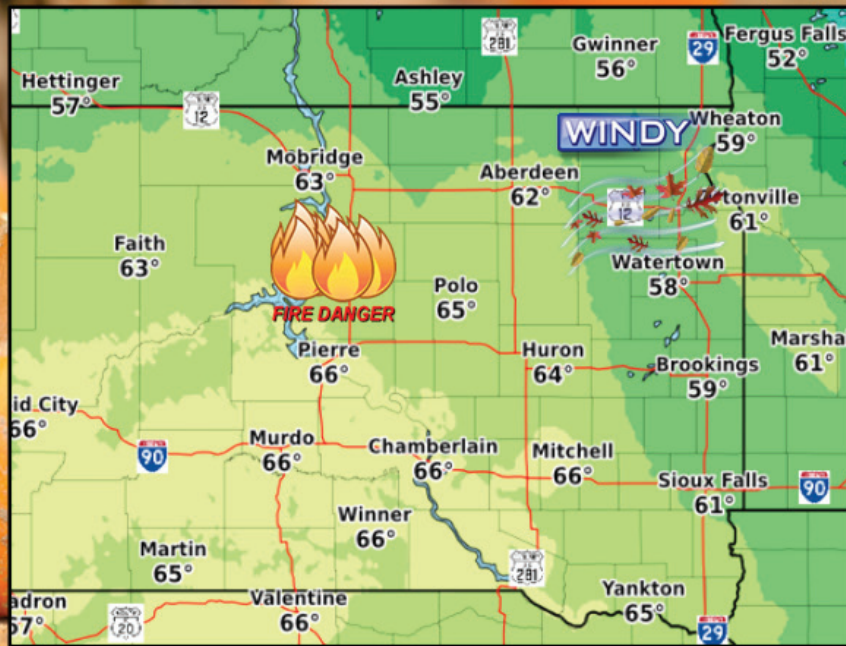
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Mild, But Windy Halloween

5-9pm: Winds Diminished - Temps in the 40s



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 10/31/2015 5:18 AM Central

Published on: 10/31/2015 at 5:19AM

Temperatures will end up quite mild for Halloween with highs in the low 60s although it will be windy. Winds will subside in time for the evenings activities - with temperatures in the 40s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 51.8 at 2:23 PM

Low: 29.2 at 12:36 AM

High Gust: 25 at 11:37 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 78° in 1933

Record Low: 8° in 2006

Average High: 49°F

Average Low: 27°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.99

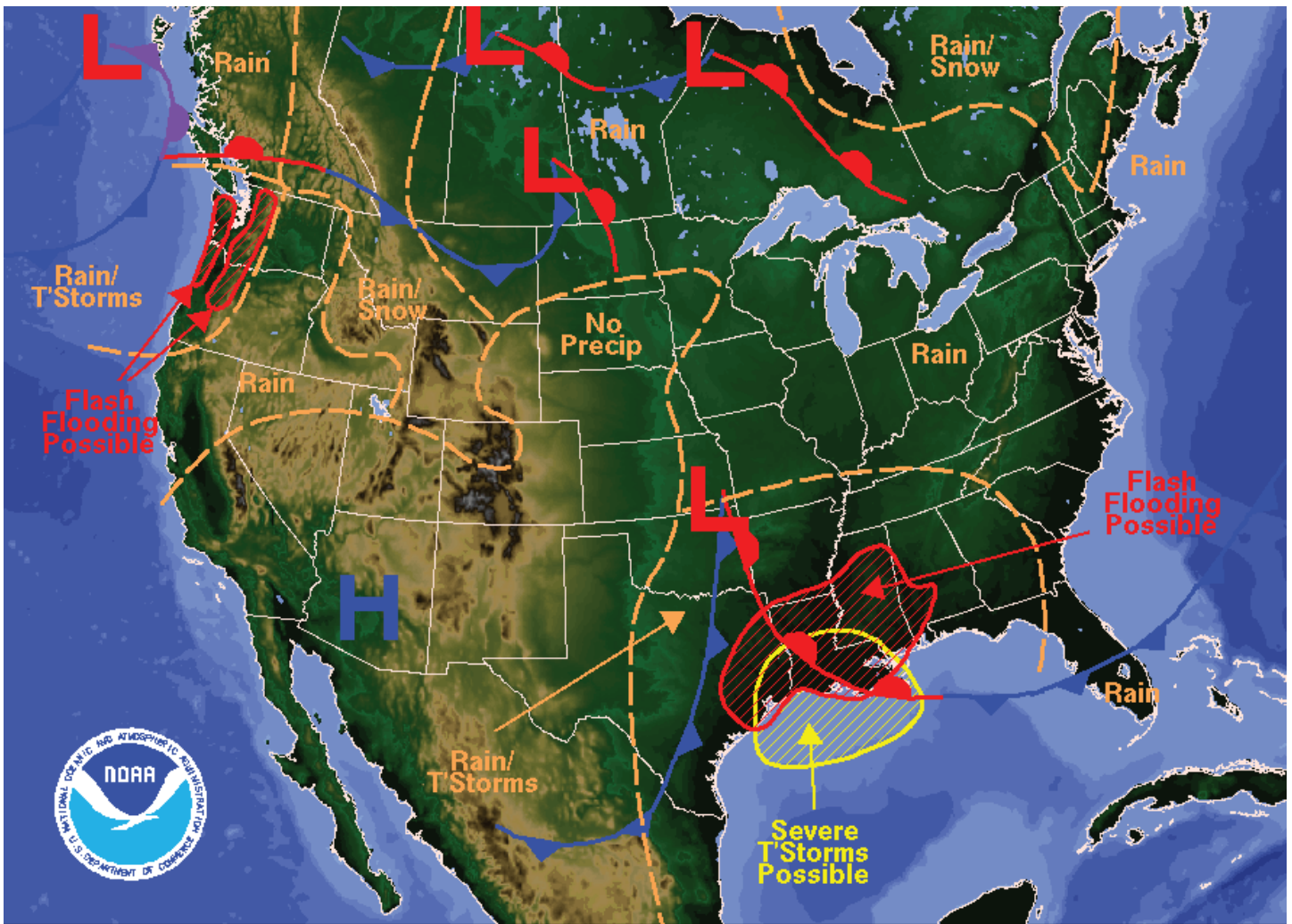
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.99

Average Precip to date: 20.47

Precip Year to Date: 19.11

Sunset Tonight: 6:22 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:12 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Oct 31, 2015, issued 4:53 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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"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;

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News from the Associated Press

Baseball exhibit opens at Cultural Heritage Center

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — As baseball fans are focused on the World Series, the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre is showcasing an exhibit that traces the history of baseball in South Dakota.

“Play Ball! The National Pastime in South Dakota” explores the sport from South Dakota’s territorial era to the present through artifacts, images, video and hands-on activities.

Museum director Jay Smith says it’s a great time to visit the exhibit as another Major League Baseball season concludes.

Among the items on display is a collection of Northern League paraphernalia donated by Aberdeen native Paul Gertsen.

Two South Dakota women who played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, as well as Hall of Fame players James “Cool Papa” Bell and Jim Palmer are featured in the exhibit.

The exhibit runs through August.

Injured trooper to be honored during Rapid City hockey game

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper recovering from last weekend’s assault will be honored Saturday during a Rapid City Rush hockey game.

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

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/1SdINhp>) that the Rush will honor Bader and his family at the team’s afternoon game against the Alaska Aces.

Bader will be proclaimed the Hero of the Game, a Rush tradition to honor a person in law enforcement or military service.

Rush spokeswoman Katie Lenerville says that Bader’s family will participate in the ceremonial puck drop, and the Rush Foundation will make a donation to the family.

Friday’s Scores **The Associated Press**

Volleyball

Wessington Springs def. Gregory, 25-18, 25-17, 17-25, 25-22

South Dakota asks US not to remove state from EB-5 program

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota’s economic development office on Friday defended its ability to administer a program for recruiting wealthy foreign investors for projects in exchange for green cards, saying problems flagged by the federal government stem from a private company that previously ran the program.

The state asked that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services refrain from ending South Dakota’s participation in the EB-5 visa program as a result of alleged problems going back several years.

The agency determined that South Dakota’s regional center for the EB-5 visa program isn’t promoting economic growth and said administrators have failed to submit required information to the agency, according to the late September notification. The state had until the end of the month to respond.

SDRC Inc. previously managed the program, but the state took over administration after ending that contract in 2013. Since then, there haven’t been any new projects.

The Governor’s Office of Economic Development said in its response to the immigration agency that it is not seeking to defend SDRC, as it recognized the firm’s problems and responded by terminating its contract.

Joop Bollen, a pioneer of EB-5 in South Dakota whose firm is the target of a state lawsuit about the

program, said in a separate response to the federal agency that its grievances against him are overstated. He argued that Citizenship and Immigration Services shouldn't terminate the state's participation and said the regional center helped spawn successful projects with very few failures, according to a copy of his responses to the agency provided to The Associated Press.

Many questions raised in an agency inquiry into the South Dakota regional center concern the management of the program under Bollen, who oversaw it as a public employee and as part of SDRC.

The notification to the state cites conflicting information in federal filings that leaves \$5 million in EB-5 funds unaccounted for, and the diversion of about \$1.7 million intended for a South Dakota beef plant to a Cyprus-based holding company for two Russian firms involved in railway transportation and the repair of railroad rolling stock, among other allegations.

In his responses, Bollen denied intentionally providing inaccurate or incomplete information to Citizenship and Immigration Services and said the agency never flagged reports as problematic. He also "vehemently" disputed failing to meet management and oversight responsibilities when he was associated with the state's regional center.

Bollen explained that fund discrepancies came from simple mathematical errors and argued that neither he nor anyone associated with SDRC were aware of the wire transfers to the Cyprus firm.

A review of the notice "indicates that (the agency) has gone well out of its way, beyond any norm, to terminate South Dakota's regional center," he said.

The state filed a lawsuit earlier this month against SDRC in part to compel it to turn over all documentation about its management of the program. Bollen said in written testimony to a legislative oversight committee in 2014 that he gave the state EB-5 documents when the contract to run the regional center was canceled.

The economic development office maintains that it still hasn't received a complete set of records from SDRC, including contact information for all EB-5 petitioners and the books, records and reports relied upon to complete its immigration agency reports. The office also wants the books, records and reports from each limited partnership created to pool investors' money.

SDRC said it has provided the records it uses to file its immigration reports, but limited partnership records are not part of the management of the regional center.

Auditor GEAR UP probe to go deeper into program management

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An expanded inquiry into organizations that managed grant money as part of a federal college readiness program that came under scrutiny after an apparent murder-suicide is being accelerated.

The findings of an audit into the federal GEAR UP program convinced Auditor General Martin Guindon that his office should look deeper at Mid-Central Educational Cooperative and potentially other organizations that worked with Mid-Central, Guindon told a legislative oversight committee Friday.

GEAR UP has been aimed at improving college readiness for American Indians. Mid-Central managed the program until last month, receiving about \$10.7 million in federal funding for it over the last four years.

Criminal investigators believe Mid-Central employee Scott Westerhuis shot his wife and four children in September, then set the family home near Platte ablaze before shooting himself. That was just hours after the state Department of Education informed Mid-Central that it was losing its most recent \$4.3 million GEAR UP contract because of financial problems and failure to follow proper accounting procedures.

A judge earlier this month granted the Department of Legislative Audit access files and financial documents in connection to state authorities' investigation. The state Division of Criminal Investigation's inquiry encompasses Scott Westerhuis' personal finances, and Gov. Dennis Daugaard has asked Attorney General Marty Jackley to look beyond Westerhuis for evidence of wrongdoing in the administration of GEAR UP.

Guindon said his office had previously planned to start its deeper inquiry next year.

"Well, the Westerhuis fire changed all that," he said.

Mid-Central attorney Scott Swier said in an e-mail that the cooperative hasn't discussed the inquiry with the auditor general. He said the organization will continue to cooperate with the state in its investigations.

Guindon declined to elaborate on which nonprofit or related parties the office's audit would encompass. Previous audits did not look at organizations that received GEAR UP funding from Mid-Central through the agreement. Scott Westerhuis and his wife Nicole Westerhuis had ties to at least two of those nonprofit organizations — the American Indian Institute for Innovation and the Oceti Sakowin Education Consortium — which have received at least \$2 million in GEAR UP funding since 2012, according to Internal Revenue Service records.

Swier has previously said the cooperative was aware of Scott Westerhuis' ties to both nonprofits but wasn't aware of the extent of the affiliation. IRS documents list Westerhuis as chief financial officer of the institute — he was also was an incorporator with the state — and his wife as business manager of the consortium.

An attorney for the American Indian Institute for Innovation and Stacy Phelps, who has been the organization's chief executive officer, have declined to comment to The Associated Press. The organization's governing board chairman, John Herrington, didn't immediately return a telephone message requesting comment. Carlos Rodriguez, secretary and treasurer of the governing board, didn't answer a telephone call for comment.

Phelps resigned from the state Board of Education in early October. Daugaard, in a letter to the legislative oversight committee, said Phelps' "continued position on that board would be a distraction from the important work the board performs, given his involvement with GEAR UP."

Roger Bordeaux, governing board president for the Oceti Sakowin Education Consortium, said in a recent interview that the members decided at a recent board meeting to take the money in the group's account and move it from Mid-Central to another organization.

Jackley is expected to provide an update about the death investigation next week.

Bosworth can practice medicine while license case proceeds

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Minnehaha County judge is allowing former Republican U.S. Senate candidate Annette Bosworth to continue to practice medicine while her medical license revocation case is reviewed.

A medical board voted last month to revoke Bosworth's medical license, but she's appealing the decision. Friday's ruling allows her to practice medicine while the case proceeds.

A jury in May found Bosworth guilty of six counts each of perjury and filing false documents. She avoided serving prison time when a judge handed down a suspended sentence provided she completes three years of probation and 500 hours of community service.

Bosworth was out of the country on a medical mission during the period her nominating petitions were circulating, yet attested to witnessing people signing them. She cited inexperience for the mishandling.

AP News in Brief

Egypt Ministry of Civil Aviation: Russian aircraft crashes over Sinai with 224 aboard

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's Ministry of Civil Aviation said a Russian aircraft carrying 217 passengers and seven crew members crashed Saturday in the restive Sinai peninsula.

The statement said search and rescue teams found the wreckage of the Russian passenger jet in the Hassana area south of the restive city of el-Arish, where Egyptian security forces are fighting a burgeoning Islamic militant insurgency.

It said the plane took off from Sinai's Sharm el-Sheikh, a popular destination for Russian tourists, and disappeared from radar screens 23 minutes after takeoff.

The aircraft took off at 5:51 a.m. local time bound for St. Petersburg in Russia, the statement said. Earlier in the day, an Egyptian official with the government's Incidents Committee told local media that the plane had briefly lost contact but was now safely in Turkish airspace.

Plane tracking website Flight Radar said Metrojet flight (hash)7K9268 disappeared over Egypt 23 minutes after departure from Sharm el-Sheikh.

The Latest: Egypt confirms that Russian passenger plane has crashed in the Sinai peninsula

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The latest news on a Russian passenger plane that has crashed on a flight from Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, to St. Petersburg, Russia.

11:15 a.m.

Egypt's Ministry of Civil Aviation has confirmed that a Russian passenger plane has crashed in the Sinai peninsula.

The ministry said earlier Saturday it had lost contact with a Russian aircraft carrying 217 passengers and 7 crew members.

27 dead in Bucharest nightclub inferno; 180 injured and fears the death toll will rise

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Romanian officials feared the death toll could rise after a heavy metal band's pyrotechnical show sparked an inferno and a stampede at a Bucharest nightclub that killed 27 people and left 180 injured.

Some 146 club-goers remained hospitalized across the Romanian capital Saturday morning after hundreds fled in a panic late Friday, trying to get out of the Colectiv club's only exit door from a basement in downtown Bucharest.

Raed Arafat, an emergency situations official, said Saturday that 17 of those who died still have not been identified and he feared that others would die of their injuries.

TV stations posted a number for families to call to find out about the tragedy, the deadliest of its kind in the country's history.

Witnesses told Antena 3 TV that between 300 to 400 mostly young people had been at the club, housed in a former factory, when the metal band Goodbye to Gravity was performing and a pyrotechnical show went awry. They said there was only one exit.

Analysis: Obama crosses his own red line with incremental troop deployment in Syria

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even as President Barack Obama sent U.S. troops back to Iraq and ordered the military to stay in Afghanistan, he insisted Syria would remain off limits for American ground forces. Now the president has crossed his own red line.

His deployment of up to 50 U.S. special operations troops into northern Syria to assist in the fight against the Islamic State is the kind of incremental move that has defined Obama's approach to the Middle East in his second term.

While the U.S. military footprint in the region grows, each step is taken on a small scale so as to reassure the public that Obama isn't plunging the country into another large, open-ended conflict.

The strategy may help ease Americans back into the realities of war, but regional experts as well as some of Obama's political allies say his slow ramp-up may be insufficient in defeating the fast-moving militants.

"Deploying a handful of U.S. special operations forces to Syria will not change this situation significantly," Frederic Hof, Obama's former Syria special adviser, said of Friday's announcement. "It is a Band-Aid of sorts."

South Carolina school incident highlights tough policing year for black women as well

WASHINGTON (AP) — Black men are not alone when it comes to difficult relations with the police. Black women are having a tough time too.

From the schoolgirl who was slammed to the floor in a South Carolina classroom to the mysterious death of Sandra Bland inside a Texas jail cell, videos showing black women being manhandled by police are bringing their problems to the forefront at a time when Americans' attention has been focused primarily on the relationship between black men and law enforcement.

Civil rights groups and organizations representing women say closer attention must be paid to what's happening between police and women of color, despite the ongoing fight over incidents of police brutality against black men.

"We cannot continue to wait for something to show up on a video to ask for change," said Melanie Campbell, president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and convener of the Black Women's Roundtable Public Policy Network.

Earlier this week, South Carolina deputy sheriff Ben Fields was fired after flipping a black girl out of her desk and tossing her across the floor for disrupting her math class at Spring Valley High School in Columbia, South Carolina. Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott called Fields' actions "unacceptable," and said videos recorded by her classmates show the girl posed no danger to anyone.

Syndergaard buzzes Escobar; Mets break out bats, beat Royals 9-3 to cut Series deficit to 2-1

NEW YORK (AP) — Two balls launched into the seats, one fired over the first hitter's head and just like that, David Wright and the New York Mets are right back in a World Series that has suddenly turned testy.

Wright homered and drove in four runs, Curtis Granderson also connected and rookie Noah Syndergaard set a nasty tone at the start of a 9-3 victory against the Kansas City Royals that trimmed New York's deficit to 2-1 Friday night.

Syndergaard's first pitch was a 97 mph fastball just off the inside corner and above the head of a ducking Alcides Escobar, eliciting a loud cheer from fans as the ball sailed all the way to the backstop. The skinny shortstop went down to the dirt on his rear end and stayed there, legs splayed, catching his breath for several seconds.

"I feel like it really made a statement to start the game off, that you guys can't dig in and get too aggressive because I'll come in there," said Syndergaard, who alluded Thursday to having "a few tricks" up his sleeve for the leadoff man.

"My intent on that pitch was to make them uncomfortable, and I feel like I did just that," he added. "I think every postseason game that Escobar has played in, he's swung at the first-pitch fastball, and I didn't think he would want to swing at that one."

Search for 2 missing to continue after flash floods in Central Texas kill at least 2

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Another round of thunderstorms was moving across Central and Southeast Texas on Saturday as crews search the Austin area for two people missing from flash floods.

Teams from the National Weather Service were to examine three areas Saturday where tornadoes were thought to have wreaked havoc on Friday.

Two people were known to have died — one in Austin and one near San Antonio — when they were swept away by rapidly rising flood waters. However, a man and a woman were still unaccounted in separate incidents in the Austin area on Friday.

The storms and suspected tornadoes have socked an already-sodden swath of Texas that was still dry-

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ing out from the remnants of Hurricane Patricia, forcing evacuations of flood-prone areas and slowing or shutting down traffic on long stretches of Interstate 35.

More than 16 inches of rain soaked one neighborhood and Austin Bergstrom International Airport suspended all flights after a half-foot of water flooded the air traffic control tower. A lazy creek cutting through Texas wine country swelled into a rushing torrent, sending eight members of a vacationing church group scrambling to a second floor before they were rescued by the National Guard.

Myanmar reforms mark 1st steps on democratic path, but haven't changed balance of power

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — The sweeping reforms Myanmar announced in 2011 after a half-century of crushing military rule seemed too good to be true to much of the outside world. And to some degree, they were.

Myanmar citizens are experiencing an unprecedented degree of economic and political freedom, but the balance of power has changed little. Most of those in charge are former military men who have just swapped their khakis for suits and longyi — the sarong-type skirt traditionally favored by both men and women in Myanmar.

Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whom the junta kept under house arrest for years, now tours the country stumping for votes. But even if her National League for Democracy wins the Nov. 8 election in a landslide, the odds are that the generals and their cronies will continue to dominate both politics and the economy.

Many familiar with Myanmar's government say that while it has made significant reforms in the past five years, it still faces a long journey to achieve a stable, prosperous democracy.

"This is a huge improvement and we have to keep it in context for what it is," said Daniel Aguirre, legal adviser in Yangon for the International Commission of Jurists. But he adds, "The prevailing narrative of 'open for business and everything's fine' is completely, way off."

Al Molinaro, TV character actor known for "Happy Days" and "The Odd Couple," dies at 96

GLENDALE, Calif. (AP) — Al Molinaro, the loveable character actor with the hangdog face who was known to millions of TV viewers for playing Murray the cop on "The Odd Couple" and malt shop owner Al Delvecchio on "Happy Days," died Friday at Verdugo Hills Hospital in Glendale, his son Michael Molinaro said.

Molinaro, retired from acting since the 1990s, died of complications of gallstone problems, his son said. He was 96.

The Kenosha, Wisconsin, native was a journeyman performer well into middle age when a comedy improv class led to his breakthrough. Producer Garry Marshall heard about Molinaro and hired him for the part of police Officer Murray Greshler on "The Odd Couple," the TV version of Neil Simon's play about feuding roommates. It starred Tony Randall as photographer Felix Unger and Jack Klugman as sports writer Oscar Madison and featured Molinaro as one of their buddies, a simpleminded policemen who at times seemed as much a threat to his friends as he did to any crooks.

"The Odd Couple" ran from 1970-75 and not only demonstrated Molinaro's knack for goofiness, but exploited his most distinctive feature — his plus-sized nose. In one defining scene, Murray attempts to enter his friends' apartment, but the door is locked. Murray instead sticks his nose through a peephole.

"Oh, hi Murray," Oscar calls out.

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Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Oct. 31, the 304th day of 2015. There are 61 days left in the year. This is Halloween. A reminder: Daylight saving time ends Sunday at 2 a.m. local time. Clocks go back one hour.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Palace church, marking the start of the Protestant Reformation in Germany.

On this date:

In 1795, English poet John Keats was born in London.

In 1864, Nevada became the 36th state as President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation.

In 1887, Nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek was born in Zhejiang Province.

In 1926, magician Harry Houdini died in Detroit of gangrene and peritonitis resulting from a ruptured appendix.

In 1941, the Navy destroyer USS Reuben James was torpedoed by a German U-boat off Iceland with the loss of some 100 lives, even though the United States had not yet entered World War II. Work was completed on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, begun in 1927.

In 1955, Britain's Princess Margaret ended weeks of speculation by announcing she would not marry Royal Air Force Group Captain Peter Townsend.

In 1961, the body of Josef Stalin was removed from Lenin's Tomb as part of the Soviet Union's "de-Stalinization" drive.

In 1964, Theodore C. Freeman, 34, became the first member of NASA's astronaut corps to die when his T-38 jet crashed while approaching Ellington Air Force Base in Houston.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a halt to all U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, saying he hoped for fruitful peace negotiations.

In 1984, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh (seek) security guards.

In 1994, a Chicago-bound American Eagle ATR-72 crashed in northern Indiana, killing all 68 people aboard.

In 1999, EgyptAir Flight 990, bound from New York to Cairo, crashed off the Massachusetts coast, killing all 217 people aboard.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush nominated Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. Civil rights icon Rosa Parks was honored during a memorial service in Washington, D.C.

Five years ago: A former teenage al-Qaida fighter, Omar Khadr, was sentenced by a military judge at Guantanamo to eight more years in custody under the terms of a plea agreement. Theodore C. Sorensen, President John F. Kennedy's aide and speechwriter, died in New York at age 82. The San Francisco Giants beat the Texas Rangers 4-0 in Game 4 of the World Series, taking a 3-1 edge. Kim Clijsters beat top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki to win the season-ending WTA Championships in Qatar, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3. Tiger Woods lost golf's No. 1 ranking after 281 consecutive weeks to England's Lee Westwood.

One year ago: Commercial space tourism suffered a huge setback when a prototype passenger rocket, Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, exploded during a test flight, scattering debris over the Mojave Desert and killing one pilot while seriously injuring the other.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lee Grant is 90. Former astronaut Michael Collins is 85. Former CBS anchorman Dan Rather is 84. Folk singer Tom Paxton is 78. Actor Ron Rifkin is 77. Actress Sally Kirkland is 74. Actor David Ogden Stiers is 73. Actor Brian Doyle-Murray is 70. Actor Stephen Rea is 69. Olympic gold medal long-distance runner Frank Shorter is 68. Actress Deidre Hall is 68. Talk show host Jane Pauley is 65. Actor Brian Stokes Mitchell is 58. Movie director Peter Jackson is 54. Rock musician Larry Mullen is 54. Actor Dermot Mulroney is 52. Rock musician Mikkey Dee (Motorhead) is 52. Rock singer-musician Johnny Marr is 52. Actor Rob Schneider is 51. Country singer Darryl Worley is 51. Actor-comedian Mike O'Malley is 50. Rap musician Adrock is 49. Songwriter Adam Schlesinger (SHLES'-in-ger) is 48. Rap performer Vanilla Ice (aka Rob Van Winkle) is 47. Rock singer Linn Berggren (Ace of Base) is 45. Reality TV host Troy Hartman is 44. Gospel singer Smokie Norful is 42. Actress Piper Perabo (PEER'-uh-boh) is 39. Actor Brian Hallisay is 37. Actress Samaira (SAH'-mee-rah) Armstrong is 35. Folk-rock musician Tay Strathairn (Dawes)

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is 35. Actor Eddie Kaye Thomas is 35. Rock musician Frank Iero (My Chemical Romance) is 34. Actor Scott Clifton is 31. Actress Vanessa Marano is 23. Actress Holly Taylor (TV: "The Americans") is 18. Actress-singer Willow Smith is 15.

Thought for Today: "Success is a public affair. Failure is a private funeral." - Rosalind Russell, American actress (1911-1976).