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- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
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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.

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 com-

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

6:00pm: Adult Bible Study

Monday, November 2

2nd Round FB Playoffs: 7 p.m.: Groton Area hosts Bridgewater-Ethan/Emery

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice,

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 10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study leaders meet

Tuesday, November 3

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken sandwich, puzzle tots, carrots, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, iced honey cookie, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Jon & Gayleen Voss 10:00am: United Methodist Women's

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**

Harry Implement "Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"

(605) 395-6421 Ferney

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2nd Round FB Playoffs Video Stream

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



Playoffs: Groton Area hosts Bridgewater-Ethan/Emery

G S Aberdeen Chrysler Center

A P Bahr Spray Foam & Construction

M O Blocker Construction

E N Harry Implement, Ferney

S James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgenson

James Valley Telecommunications

R McKiver Collision

S Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.

Olson Backhoe & Trenching

S & S Lumber

Spanier Harvesting & Trucking

Subway

Titan Machinery - Justin Hanson Tuffer'nHell Livestock Equipment

Weber Landscaping

Nov. 2 7:00 pm

Service Notice: Maijill Smeins

Memorial services for Maejill "Jill" Smeins, 64, of Andover and also of Natalia, TX will be 11 a.m., Thursday, November 5 at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Jay Haaland will officiate. Burial will take place in the spring in Homer Cemetery, Pierpont.

Jill died October 30, 2015 at her home near Andover.



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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Perpetual Conservation Easements: Forever Is a Long Time By Senator Mike Rounds

In South Dakota, we take great pride in our land. We rely on our vast natural resources for nearly every aspect of our lives: to provide clean water, maximize ag production, provide recreation, attract tourism and more. As such, we are good stewards of our land and are willing to work with state, federal and local governments to keep it in tact for future generations. However, when it comes to permanent conservation easements, I have never been a fan. I am in favor of giving landowners the option to enter into shorter-term, renewable contracts with the federal government. Termed easements are more likely to keep the landowner and the grantee on equal footing and would result in greater public access to these lands.

A permanent conservation easement is a legally-binding agreement between a land owner and the government or in some cases, a non-profit group. The landowner is the grantee that places restrictions on the land and typically opens it up to public access in exchange for landowner tax benefits. Today, these conservation easement contracts are forever, they pass down through the generations or from seller to buyer.

I understand that – in some cases – permanent easements have their place. If a family is fully informed as to the effects, or if we're talking about public utilities or infrastructure – permanent easements can serve the greater good.

There have been plenty of passionate debates over property rights in South Dakota over the years – in the State Capitol while I worked as a state senator and governor and even around my own dinner table. My family comes from a long line of hunters and conservationists. We're also landowners and staunch supporters of property rights. We've developed our own working farm into a pheasant hunting paradise, through sound management and conservation. My family, like many South Dakota families, is a reflection of South Dakota's rural and urban population. That diverse blend of South Dakota perspective makes me believe there's a better way to protect our land, conserve habitat and honor individual property rights.

An important point that gets lost in the discussion surrounding permanent conservation easements is that perpetual means forever. The legally-binding contract with the federal government continues even when land is passed down within the family or sold to a new owner. The economic and ecological changes that we'll see over the coming years cannot be predetermined, and yet the government or the grantee essentially bans certain enhancement without regard to those inevitable changes – thus locking the landowner and their heirs into a contract that is unlikely to ever be revisited.

For example, thinning efforts within forests can help deter the threat of forest fires in the Black Hills and elsewhere. But, if the land is locked in to a permanent conservation easement and the federal government chooses to strictly abide by the terms of the contract, a permanent easement may not allow for necessary logging or underbrush thinning which increases the risk of a damaging forest fire. Another example is that farming practices will continue to evolve over time. A piece of valuable habitat today may not be as valuable 100 years from now, so it seems rash to put limitations on the location of certain public access points.

I've suggested that greater optionality for landowners would benefit everyone. Landowners have told me that they'd be more inclined to enter into an agreement with the government if they also had the option of a short-term, renewable contract as opposed to a permanent contract. Those shorter term contracts – 10 or 20 years, for example –should have the same tax benefits as a permanent easement. And, termed conservation easements may be a better fit for someone who isn't interested in tying up their property forever. A termed conservation easement is more likely to keep the landowner and the grantee on equal footing. The government would have to treat the landowner fairly in order to have the easement renewed. They could not arbitrarily impose heavy-handed fines for minor, often mistaken, violations of the easement contract. I believe more landowner options would result in greater public access.

If our goal is to increase habitat development and provide greater public access, more options seems like a good compromise. Forever is a long time and I'd rather we be stewards of the land, not stewards of the government.

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Noem: Support for South Dakota Rail is Good News for Producers, Shippers, and Economy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Representative Kristi Noem today applauded the U.S. Department of Transportation for prioritizing investments into South Dakota rail through a partnership between the state and the Rapid City Pierre & Eastern Railroad (RCP&E). After a months-long push by the South Dakota delegation and others, RCP&E earned a \$6 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation in order to increase the railroad's capacity.

"Nearly every commodity we produce in South Dakota is exported and shipped via rail," said Noem, who joined Senators Thune and Rounds in writing Transportation Secretary Foxx about the grant earlier this year. "Disruptions or delays in rail service have an immediate impact. That's what makes investing in our railways so critical to creating a healthy economy. The TIGER Grant is one way that our country makes that investment. I'm grateful the Secretary saw the merit of this project and recognized South Dakota freight rail as a worthy priority."

In June, Noem, alongside Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, wrote to Secretary Foxx urging the full and fair consideration of RCP&E's grant application and stressing the railroad's importance to South Dakota producers and shippers. Two months later, the congresswoman visited the RCP&E Yard Office near Rapid City, visiting with a number of the railroad's 185 employees.

The TIGER grant announced today aims to increase the railroad's capacity by constructing a siding near Phillip, S.D., and replacing approximately 10 miles of rail near Huron, S.D.

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Veteran's Supper In honor of our Veter-

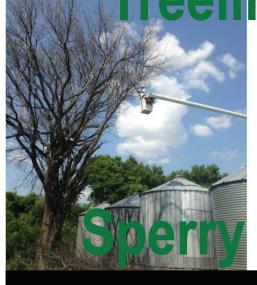
In honor of our Veterans and their spouses, the American Legion Auxiliary, is sponsoring a free Veterans Day Supper on November 11 from 6 to 8 at the American Legion hall, Groton. Make your reservation now by calling the Legion at 397-2603 or Jan Seibel at 448-5524.



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.





Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!

TJ Sperry: 380-7915
Tyler Sperry: 216-8431

Stump Removal

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Shipped Fresh.
Dried Fruit, Snacks, Flours,
Grains and More.

Get 4 FREE samples of your choice with your first purchase*





Extra Special Offer For New Customers: nuts.com/paper-m3w

FROM OUR NUTY FAMILY TO YOURS SINCE 1929

*Offer valid for new customers only, with \$25 minimum order. See website for full details.

Former First Lady Patricia Farrar Passes Away; Gov. Daugaard Requests Flags At Half-Staff

PIERRE, S.D. – Patricia Farrar, the wife of former Gov. Frank Farrar, died earlier today in Aberdeen. Mrs. Farrar, 84, was South Dakota's First Lady from 1969 to 1971.

The former Patricia Henley was born in Claremont on Aug. 13, 1931. She graduated with honors from the University of South Dakota, where she met Frank Farrar. The couple was married in on June 5, 1953, in Fort Benning, Georgia, where Farrar was stationed in the U.S. Army.

"Mrs. Farrar is still remembered for her graciousness during her time as our First Lady," said Gov. Daugaard. "Linda and I extend our sympathies to Gov. Farrar and to the Farrar family."

Arrangements are pending for funeral services on Saturday, Nov. 7, in Britton. Gov. Daugaard is asking that flags throughout South Dakota fly at half-staff on that day in honor of Mrs. Farrar.



A photograph of Mrs. Farrar during her time as First Lady is included, courtesy of the South Dakota State Historical Society

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Jills and Jeans 4H Club Harvest Carnival Saturday, Nov. 7th 5-7 pm Andover Legion Hall Soup Supper Carnival Games Cake Walk Bring a non-perishable donation for the Needs Anonymous Food Bank and you will be entered to win a door prize.

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Today in Weather History

November 1, 1999: High winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts to around 55 mph caused some spotty tree and building damage throughout Big Stone and Traverse counties. On Highway 10 just west of Browns Valley, the high winds blew a semi-tractor trailer full of 12,000 pounds of meat off the road and into a ditch. High winds from 30 to 50 mph gusting to near 65 mph also caused building and tree damage throughout central, north central, and northeast South Dakota. In Eureka, the high winds blew down a large part of the ballpark fence. In Mellette, a 250-foot diameter grain-bin under construction also received some damage from the high winds.

November 1, 2000: A tornado event on the 1st of November was a rare and unusual weather phenomenon to occur so late in the year in North Dakota. Several tornadoes, with five distinct paths, hit south central North Dakota causing property damage and injuries. The majority of the damage and injuries occurred in the Bismarck area. Forty two homes suffered minor to moderate damage. The tornadoes were rated F0 and F1 on the Fujita scale, packing winds up to 90 mph. Another unusual phenomenon, these tornadoes traveled from east to west. This was caused by a strong low pressure system, centered over north central South Dakota, spinning counterclockwise, allowing the low level flow over Bismarck to move east to west. At the same time period these tornadoes were occurring, snow began to fall in the far western area of North Dakota. Winter storm watches and warnings were posted across north central and western North Dakota that afternoon. Prior to this the last recorded tornado to occur in the state was October 11th 1979 in Sargent County in southeast North Dakota.

1755: A magnitude 8.7 earthquake devastated the city of Lisbon, Portugal on this day, killing as many as 50,000 people. The epicenter was located 120 miles west-southwest of Cape St. Vincent. Many individuals who sought safety on the Tagus River were killed by an estimated 20 foot tall tsunami that struck 40 minutes after the earthquake.

1848: When Henry came to the Smithsonian, one of his first priorities was to set up a meteorological program. In 1847, while outlining his plan for the new institution, Henry called for "a system of extended meteorological observations for solving the problem of American storms." By 1849, he had budgeted \$1,000 for the Smithsonian meteorological project and established a network of some 150 volunteer weather observers. A decade later, the project had more than 600 volunteer observers, including people in Canada, Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Its cost in 1860 was \$4,400, or thirty percent of the Smithsonian's research and publication budget.

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This Afternoon	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
All and a second						İ
Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 69 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 65 °F	Low: 40 °F	High: 62 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 52 °F



Published on: 11/01/2015 at 4:32AM

A low pressure system will move across the region today, providing some cloudiness but little to no rain. Meanwhile, westerly winds will provide for mild temperatures through Monday.

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Yesterday's Weather

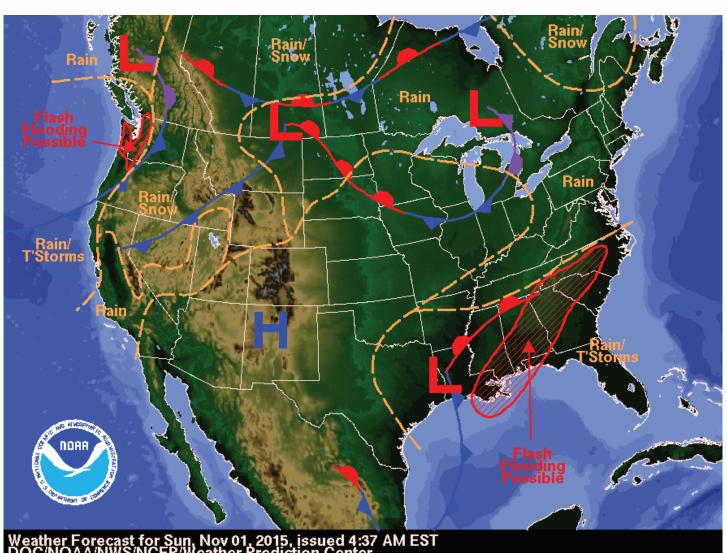
High: 60.7 at 1:56 PM Low: 35.4 at 11:57 PM High Gust: 37 at 3:26 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 78° in 1903

Record Low: -3° in 1935 **Average High: 49°F Average Low:** 26°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.03 Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00 Average Precip to date: 20.50 Precip Year to Date: 19.11 Sunset Tonight: 5:21 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:14 a.m.



ecast for Sun, Nov 01, 2015, issued 4:37 AM EST NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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CHALLENGING THE UNKNOWN

It was the responsibility of Doc, our German shepherd, to be the protector of our home. He had been specially trained for this duty. Each evening he would travel from room to room making sure that "all was well." After he completed his "tour" he would lie patiently between our chairs never leaving us for a moment.

One evening he heard thunder for the first time. Up went his ears. His eyebrows furrowed. Finally, he sat up ready to do something. His only problem was that he did not know what to do: they did not teach him "thunder" at the dog training school. So, he immediately began running from room to room, barking loudly and looking for an intruder who dared to challenge him.

Initially, it was rather humorous. But as the intensity of his search continued and his fear and frustration became more futile, I called him to my side. Then I ordered him to sit, placed his body next to my leg and petted him gently until the thunder and his fear were gone.

Thunderstorms are common in all of our lives. They often appear with no warning. One moment the sky is blue, the clouds bright and the breeze gentle. The next moment we are facing driving rains and fierce winds. Wisely, for all of us, King David said, "But when I am afraid, I put my trust in You!"

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the peace that comes with Your protection and the strength You give with Your grace. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 56:3 Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

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News from the App Associated Press

Rail funding expected to fuel job growth, development

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Tens of millions of dollars in rail upgrades across the state are supporting business growth and creating significant development along rail lines in South Dakota, according to officials and agricultural businesses.

Recently announced public and private funding for about \$12.4 million in additional upgrades near Philip and around Huron are expected to significantly boost transit times and train speeds and could help spread growth elsewhere. Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who announced more than \$50 million in public and private money for rail upgrades last year, said rail upgrades are imperative because of the rapidly growing grain production that South Dakota is experiencing.

The upgrades announced last week will allow trains to pass each other near Philip and will make improvements to about 10 miles of tracks near Huron that will allow travel speeds to increase dramatically.

"This kind of investment reassures existing businesses that they can invest in expansion projects because the rail is going to be not only there, but better for them as their demand increases for shipping," Daugaard said. "This siding alone will allow up to 100 more trains a year to make that trip just because of the ability to pass."

About 42 miles of mostly derelict tracks from Chamberlain to Presho are under restoration with the help of a roughly \$12 million federal grant the state received in 2014. Rehabbing that stretch of railway will open up grain-shipping opportunities for farmers in south-central South Dakota who currently must use trucks to transport their grain to faraway railways.

The roughly \$28 million project comes as the region sees significantly increasing crop yields. The rail redevelopment has also attracted a roughly \$40 million Wheat Growers grain facility on the line.

Steve Briggs, senior vice president of agronomy and corporate marketing for Wheat Growers, said the facility is partially operational. He said the track upgrades were key for the investment to move forward.

"It's an awesome thing when you drive by Kennebec and you look up on the hill and see that huge facility," said Steve Halverson, a farmer south of Kennebec who helped in securing the 2014 grant.

Without nearby rail service, producers have to move grain to rail lines by roads, which is costly and destroys infrastructure in the region, Halverson said. He said using rail transportation adds up to a quarter per bushel to a farmer's bottom line.

Millions of dollars of state and private funds for rail line upgrades to the state-owned Britton Line in northeastern South Dakota and construction of a grain terminal near Britton are also moving forward. Work on the Britton Grain Terminal broke ground earlier this year, and it's expected to be completed in August 2016.

"As soon as the state made a commitment on rail rehabilitation, then we were able to make a commitment on a \$30 million facility," said Philip Deal, general manager of Wheaton Dumont Co-op Elevator.

South Dakota U.S. Sen. John Thune, who helped secure the most recent \$6 million in federal grant funding, said the improvements near Philip and Huron will support job creation and attract future business development.

Rapid City, Pierre and Eastern Railroad, which mainly ships grain, clay and cement, is also funding the upgrades along with the state. General Manager Todd Bjornstad said the upgrades will allow the railroad to improve transit time.

"It's basically going to help our current customer base to grow their businesses in the future because it will allow us to move cars more efficiently as a railroad," he said.

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SD man gets 3 years in prison in abusive sexual contact case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man who admitted to sexually abusing a woman on the Rosebud Indian Reservation has been sentenced to three years in federal prison.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange ordered the 31-year-old Cyprian Night Shield to follow his prison term with five years of supervised release. The Rosebud man earlier pleaded guilty to one count of abusive sexual contact.

Federal prosecutors say Night Shield was at his home on Aug. 15, 2014, when a woman visited him. Authorities say Night Shield took the woman to a back bedroom and locked the door, showed her pornography and sexually abused her.

Night Shield is now under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

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SDPB to air Great Sioux Horse Effigy return celebration

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State Historical Society's recent event celebrating the return of a historic artifact to Pierre will be broadcast on public television Sunday.

The Great Sioux Horse Effigy was recently returned to the Cultural Heritage Center after being featured in "The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky," an international touring exhibition that was showcased in Paris and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

South Dakota Public Broadcasting Television will air the celebration at 2 p.m. CST. The event included presentations by Kevin Gover, director of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., and Gaylord Torrence, senior curator of American Indian Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri.

Torrence was one of the chief curators involved in the touring exhibition.

A 50-state look at officer decertification for sex incidents

NOMAAN MERCHANT, Associated Press REESE DUNKLIN, Associated Press

An Associated Press investigation into sexual misconduct by law enforcement officers in the U.S. identified some 1,000 in six years who lost their licenses for sexual assault or other sex offenses or misconduct, including possession of child pornography, voyeurism and sex on duty. The findings are based on an analysis of state records for an administrative process called decertification, but the AP found that policies regarding decertification vary widely from state to state. Forty-one states provided information, three did not, and six states and the District of Columbia said they did not decertify officers for misconduct.

Here is a summary of state actions from 2009 through 2014, including AP's tally of sex-related decertifications. The numbers do not reflect the full scope of the problem because not all incidents get reported; some states, for example, reported no officers removed for sexual misdeeds, even though the AP identified cases in court records or news reports.

In determining whether a decertification was sex-related, the AP relied mostly on the reason a state

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provided, but cause was not always clear. Some states gave no reason for a revoked license, or used terms such as "conduct unbecoming an officer" or "voluntary surrender" for officers the AP determined, through additional reporting, had committed sex-related crimes or misconduct.

—ALABAMA: The state's Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission decertified 123 officers, 20 for sex-related misconduct. Alabama requires local law enforcement agencies to report any officer's arrest. Convictions or lying to the commission can result in decertification.

—ALASKA: The Alaska Police Standards Council decertified 52 officers, two for sex-related misconduct. Any time officers leave, their agency must notify the state council as to whether they were fired or resigned in lieu of termination. The state may strip an officer's license even if an incident wasn't criminal.

—ARIZONA: The Arizona Peace Officers Standards and Training Board decertified 352 officers, 27 for sex-related misconduct. Law enforcement agencies must notify the board of any officer fired for cause, including a "detailed description" as to why. Convictions and noncriminal matters can lead to decertification.

—ARKANSAS: The Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training decertified 116 officers, 22 for sex-related misconduct. Agencies are required to report when they fire an officer. They also can recommend decertification, which can result even when an officer is not charged with a crime.

—CALIFORNIA: California requires agencies to report when an officer is convicted of a felony, and notes all convictions in officers' personnel files. But the state doesn't decertify officers and keeps no tally of such information. Under state law, California may strip officers' certifications only if they were obtained fraudulently.

—COLORADO: The state decertified 142 officers, 22 for sex-related misconduct. According to the state's online standards manual, officers can lose their licenses after a conviction, though it is unclear whether noncriminal incidents can also result in decertification. Colorado officials did not respond to questions about reporting requirements for misconduct.

—CONNECTICUT: The Police Officer Standards and Training Council decertified 33 officers, five for sexrelated misconduct. Law enforcement agencies must notify the state of any felony convictions, as well as any time an officer is disciplined for making a false statement, perjury or tampering with a witness while on duty.

—DELAWARE: The Delaware Council on Police Training decertified 53 officers, none for sex-related misconduct. Law enforcement agencies are required to notify the state council any time they fire an officer. Convictions for a felony or misdemeanor, or obtaining a license by fraud, can result in decertification. Delaware provided no reasons for its decertifications.

—DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: The district has a police standards board, but the Metropolitan Police Department said there is no process for certifying or decertifying officers. The department provided a list of charges for which it fired officers for a six-year period, but did not name them and said they were not considered decertified. The AP excluded them from its count.

—FLORIDA: The Florida Department of Law Enforcement decertified 2,125 officers, 162 for sex-related misconduct. Florida officials are automatically alerted if an officer is arrested. Agencies must also disclose if a "moral character violation" is sustained against an officer. Noncriminal incidents, in addition to convictions, may also lead to decertification.

—GEORGIA: The Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council decertified 2,800 officers, 161 for sex-related misconduct. Law enforcement agencies must report to the state when an officer is arrested, indicted or convicted, or suspended for 30 days or more for misconduct. The state has broad discretion to strip a license. Georgia said some officers decertified in the 2009-2014 records may have later regained their licenses. The AP found about a dozen officers who had their licenses revoked for sex-related misconduct listed as certified on a state website in October 2015.

—HAWAII: Hawaii does not certify officers at the state level and did not provide any information to the AP.

—IDAHO: The Idaho Peace Officer Standards & Training Council decertified 202 officers, five for sexrelated misconduct. Idaho requires agencies to report within 15 days any officer's firing or resignation in lieu of termination. The state can decertify for a conviction or noncriminal incident.

—ILLINOIS: The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board decertified 62 officers, 10 for

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sex-related misconduct. The board can decertify only for felony convictions or certain misdemeanors, but not for conduct that doesn't result in a conviction. Law enforcement agencies and police officers are responsible for reporting any arrests or convictions to the board.

—INDIANA: The Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board decertified 31 officers, eight for sex-related misconduct. There's no requirement for agencies to inform the state about officer arrests or noncriminal misconduct allegations. The state can decertify an officer for a felony conviction, multiple misdemeanor convictions or filing a false application with the board.

—IOWA: The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy decertified 53 officers, seven for sex-related misconduct. Agencies must notify the state when an officer resigns and explain why if there is a "substantial likelihood" that certification could be revoked or suspended as a result. Noncriminal misconduct, in addition to convictions, can prompt decertification.

—KANSAS: The Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training decertified 143 officers, 28 for sex-related misconduct. Agencies must notify the commission of any officer's arrest. Kansas can take action on convictions or noncriminal matters.

—KENTUCKY: The Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training decertified 43 officers, five for sex-related misconduct. Kentucky doesn't mandate notification when an officer is arrested or found to have committed conduct that could result in decertification. Officers can lose their licenses over a felony conviction or noncriminal activities.

—LOUISIANA: A state website says agencies must report officer convictions for possible decertification. The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, however, said it hadn't decertified any officers for several years and did not provide any records to the AP.

—MAINE: The Maine Criminal Justice Academy decertified 109 officers, 22 for sex-related misconduct. Agencies must tell the state about officers arrested or convicted of a crime, as well as those fired or allowed to resign for misconduct. Maine can decertify for convictions or on-the-job misconduct.

—MARYLAND: The Maryland attorney general says the state does decertify, but the state's police standards agency said it had no information responsive to the AP's request. Police and Correctional Training Commissions policy director Thomas Smith said it is "extremely rare" for the agency to revoke an officer's license.

—MASSACHUSETTS: Massachusetts does not certify officers at the state level and did not provide any records.

—MICHIGAN: The Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards decertified 52 officers, 10 for sex-related misconduct. Michigan requires that agencies disclose when officers are fired for reasons that could warrant decertification. Those include felony convictions or noncriminal misbehavior.

—MINNESOTA: The Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training decertified 16 officers, seven for sex-related misconduct. Officers must tell the state about any possible cause for losing their license. Decertification can result even when an incident isn't criminal.

—MISSISSIPPI: The state Department of Public Safety's Office of Standards and Training decertified 12 officers, one for sex-related misconduct. Agencies must inform the state about officers fired for misbehavior that could result in decertification. Mississippi doesn't need a conviction to strip an officer's license.

—MISSOURI: The Missouri Department of Public Safety decertified 144 officers, 26 for sex-related misconduct. Agencies must notify the state when an officer leaves and specifically if it's for a crime, violation of agency regulations or failure to meet minimum state standards. Missouri can decertify for reasons other than a conviction.

—MONTANA: The Montana Public Safety Officer Standards and Training Council decertified 24 officers, nine for sex-related misconduct. Agencies don't have to disclose officer misconduct, but must report firings within 10 days of the action. Convictions and noncriminal activities can lead to decertification.

—NEBRASKA: The Police Standards Advisory Council decertified 45 officers, eight for sex-related misconduct. Nebraska doesn't require agencies to report officer misconduct. Officers can lose their licenses for convictions or noncriminal misbehavior.

-NEVADA: The Nevada Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training decertified 19 officers,

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eight for sex-related misconduct. The state requires notification when agencies fire officers over an arrest or misconduct that could result in decertification. Nevada can decertify both for felony and misdemeanor convictions involving issues of "moral turpitude."

- —NEW HAMPSHIRE: The New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council decertified 20 officers, one for sex-related misconduct. Agencies are not required to report officers who are arrested or commit conduct that could warrant decertification. New Hampshire can strip licenses over convictions and non-criminal activities.
 - —NEW JERSEY: New Jersey does not license officers at the state level and did not provide records.
- —NEW MEXICO: The New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy Board decertified 108 officers, 16 for sexrelated misconduct. Officers terminated or allowed to resign because of misconduct must be reported by their agencies to the state. Convictions and noncriminal incidents can prompt decertification.
 - —NEW YORK: New York does not certify officers at the state level and did not provide records.
- —NORTH CAROLINA: North Carolina says state law prevents it from disclosing details or providing statistics on most decertified officers. The state requires notification if an officer leaves an agency or is the subject of a criminal or internal investigation. Decertification is possible for felony convictions, misdemeanors or showing "a lack of good moral character."
- —NORTH DAKOTA: The North Dakota Peace Officer Standards and Training board decertified eight officers, three for sex-related misconduct. Agencies are required to report to the state officers arrested or fired for conduct that could lead to decertification. That conduct can include a noncriminal incident.
- —OHIO: The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission decertified 149 officers, 39 for sex-related misconduct. Agencies must tell the state that an officer has left their employment, but they aren't required to provide an explanation. Court clerks in each county are required to notify the state about an officer's conviction. The state can decertify for a conviction but not noncriminal misconduct.
- —OKLAHOMA: The Oklahoma Commission on Law Enforcement Education and Training decertified 130 officers between 2012 and 2014, 15 for sex-related misconduct. The agency said it was too much work to provide the number of decertified officers going back to 2009. The agency considers most decertification information confidential under state law and allowed the AP to review only final records for officers it deemed to have committed sexual misconduct. Oklahoma requires that agencies disclose when they fire officers for misconduct that could result in decertification. The state can decertify for felony and misdemeanor convictions.
- —OREGON: The Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training decertified 237 officers, 104 for sex-related misconduct. Officers fired for any reason must be reported to the state within 10 days. State law allows an officer's decertification for felonies and many misdemeanors, as well as dishonesty, misuse of authority and several other categories of misconduct.
- —PENNSYLVANIA: The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission decertified 20 officers, none for sex-related misconduct. The state can decertify any officer who commits a criminal offense that carries a potential sentence of more than one year in prison, under state law. The commission says it relies on local law enforcement agencies to notify it when an officer is eligible for decertification.
 - —RHODE ISLAND: Rhode Island does not certify officers at the state level and did not provide any records.
- —SOUTH CAROLINA: The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy decertified 546 officers, 46 for sexrelated misconduct. The state requires notification when an officer is fired for misconduct that could lead to decertification, including convictions and noncriminal activity.
- —SOUTH DAKÓTA: The Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training Commission decertified 19 officers, three for sex-related misconduct. Agencies must disclose to the state when they fire an officer for reasons that may justify decertification. South Dakota can revoke licenses for convictions or noncriminal misbehavior.
- —TENNESSEE: The Tennessee Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission decertified 159 officers, 22 for sex-related misconduct. Officers fired for misconduct that may warrant decertification must be reported. Convictions or providing false statements to the commission can also lead to decertification.
 - —TEXAS: The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement decertified 619 officers, 79 for sex-related miscon-

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duct. Agencies are required to report officer arrests to the state, though not the cause of those arrests. Decertification can happen when an officer is convicted or found to have committed noncriminal misconduct.

- —UTAH: The Utah Peace Officers Standards and Training Board decertified 145 officers, 61 for sex-related misconduct. Utah requires agencies to investigate any misconduct allegation and notify it if substantiated. Officers can lose their license over a conviction or noncriminal incident.
- —VERMONT: The Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council decertified five officers, none for sex-related misconduct. Vermont does not require agencies to report when they fire an officer. Felony convictions and fraud in the application process are cause to revoke a license.
- —VIRGINIA: The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services decertified 17 officers, seven for sexrelated misconduct. Felony convictions and noncriminal misconduct can lead to decertification. The state did not respond to questions about what types of officer misconduct it required agencies to report.
- —WASHINGTON: The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission decertified 54 officers, 10 for sex-related misconduct. Washington requires notification of firings or misconduct that may warrant decertification. Officers can lose their licenses even if not convicted.
- —WEST VIRGINIA: The West Virginia Division of Justice and Community Services decertified 28 officers, five for sex-related misconduct. Agencies must disclose an officer's firing, as well as any arrest or noncriminal incident that could prompt decertification. Officers also must tell West Virginia about charges against them, other than minor traffic offenses.
- —WISCONSIN: The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board decertified 15 officers, none for sexrelated misconduct. Convictions don't necessarily lead to decertification, and agencies aren't required to disclose the reason for an officer's departure.
- —WYOMING: The Wyoming Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission decertified 17 officers, four for sex-related misconduct. Wyoming doesn't require agencies to report officer arrests or misbehavior. It decertifies for convictions and noncriminal incidents.

AP investigation into officer sex misconduct, by the numbers

The Associated Press

Here is a by-the-numbers look at the findings of an Associated Press investigation into sexual assault and sex-related misconduct by law enforcement officers, using state officer discipline records from 2009 through 2014. While the AP's review is the most comprehensive available, the numbers are an undercount because some states did not provide information, and even among those that did, some reported no officers removed for sexual misdeeds even though cases were identified via official records and news stories.

State records examined involve state and local police, sheriff's officials, prison guards and school resource officers. No federal officers are included. The U.S. Justice Department defines sexual assault as any type of sexual contact that occurs without explicit consent, including intercourse, sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling and attempted rape.

- —990, the total number of officers who lost their law enforcement licenses because of sexual assault or other sex-related allegations.
- —549, the subset of officers who were decertified on allegations of rape, child molestation and other acts meeting the DOJ definition of sexual assault.
- —441, the subset of officers who lost their licenses for other sex crimes or sex-related misconduct, such as possessing child pornography (a federal crime); sexting; propositioning people in exchange for ignoring violations of the law.
- —310, the number of officers with victims younger than 18. These include school resource officers or those working in police youth programs.
- —154, the number of officers whose victims were jail or prison inmates. (Cases include forced sex and allegedly consensual sex among inmates and guards, though even that is prohibited and in some states illegal.)

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- —44, the number of states that have a process for revoking an officer's license for misconduct, known as decertification.
 - -7, the number of states and the District of Columbia that said they do not decertify officers.
 - —3, the number of states that provided no information to the AP.

A look at some recent cases of sex crimes involving officers

The Associated Press

A yearlong Associated Press investigation uncovered about 1,000 officers in six years who lost their licenses to work in law enforcement for rape, other sex crimes or sexual misconduct. The number is unquestionably an undercount because it represents only those officers who faced an administrative process known as decertification, and not all states take such action or provided records. California and New York, for example, did not provide records because they have no statewide process for decertification. Even among states that provided records, some reported no officers removed for sexual misdeeds even though the AP discovered cases via news stories and court records.

Below are 10 cases from across the U.S. that reflect how such crimes can occur, and the devastation they leave behind. Most of the officers have been convicted and are serving time. Some await trial.

SERGIO ALVAREZ

Sergio Alvarez, 40, of the West Sacramento Police in California, is serving 205 years to life after being convicted of kidnapping five women and then raping them or forcing them to perform oral sex. The victims testified at Alvarez's criminal trial last year, recounting how he picked them up while they walked alone in the darkness along a strip known for prostitution, drugs and homelessness. Investigators found a personal "spycam" that Alvarez used to record some of the sex acts. One of the women referred to Alvarez as a "creepy cop" she tried to avoid, but couldn't. California doesn't decertify officers for misconduct, though Alvarez relinquished his badge when he was arrested.

JONATHAN BLEIWEISS

Jonathan Bleiweiss, 35, of the Broward Sheriff's Office in Florida, began serving a five-year sentence in February after he was accused of bullying about 20 immigrant men living in the country illegally into sex acts. The victims shied away from testifying, so prosecutors reached a plea deal revolving around false imprisonment charges, allowing Bleiweiss to escape conviction on any sexual offenses and thus avoid being labeled a sex offender. Prosecutors said he used implied threats of deportation to intimidate the men. His guilty plea means the state will decertify him.

MICHAEL GARCIA

Michael Garcia, 39, of the Las Cruces Police in New Mexico, was sentenced last year to nine years in prison for sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl interning at the department. Garcia, at the time assigned to a unit investigating child abuse and sex crimes, was one of the girl's mentors. The victim said the assault made her give up her dream of being an officer and left her crippled by depression, anxiety and nightmares. In court, she said Garcia "took my spirit away from me" and that "it had never occurred to me that a person who had earned a badge would do this to me or anybody else." Under questioning by an investigator, Garcia said a brief lapse had cost him his career: "Three minutes for the rest of my life." Garcia was ordered to forfeit his law enforcement certification.

DANIEL HOLTZCLAW

Daniel Holtzclaw, 28, of the Oklahoma City Police, is scheduled for trial Monday, accused of sexual offenses against 13 women, including rape, forced oral sodomy and sexual battery. He has pleaded not guilty. The former college football star is accused of targeting mostly poor women from the same rundown neighbor-

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hood. Prosecutors say he often used the same ploy of accusing the women of concealing drugs beneath their clothes, then directing them to expose themselves. Central to their case is GPS data they say place him at the scenes of the alleged crimes. Oklahoma City Police Chief Bill Citty says Holtzclaw took advantage of those made vulnerable by their pasts; some of the accusers have criminal records. "It's somebody that he as a police officer felt like he had power over. And he abused that power," he said. Holtzclaw has been fired. He declined comment, and his attorney did not respond to messages.

WILLIAM NULICK

William Nulick, 44, of the Tulare County Sheriff's Office in California, is awaiting trial after being charged with sexually assaulting four women in 2013. Two who speak only Spanish claim Nulick pulled them over and led them into remote areas, asking for sexual favors in lieu of writing them tickets. Two others claim to have been groped in inappropriate pat-downs. All told, Nulick faces 18 criminal counts, including oral copulation under the color of authority, accepting bribes in the form of sexual favors, and false imprisonment. At a preliminary hearing, Detective Paul Gezzer said one victim told him she "was afraid she was going to die." Nulick's attorney, Galatea DeLapp, said her client admits accepting a sexual favor as a bribe but denies a charge of false imprisonment. Nulick resigned from the sheriff's office. California doesn't decertify officers for misconduct.

WILLIAM RUSCOE

William Ruscoe, 46, of the Trumbull Police in Connecticut, began a 30-month prison term in January after pleading guilty to second-degree sexual assault of a 17-year-old girl he met through a program for young people interested in law enforcement. The girl said she began receiving text messages from Ruscoe that grew sexual and that he eventually professed his affection for her and gave her a silver bracelet with a heart-shaped charm that said "Made with Love." In an incident at the officer's home, he removed her cadet uniform and sexually assaulted her. At one point, she said, he handcuffed her. Ruscoe has been decertified.

DARRELL BEST

Darrell Best, 46, of the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C., pleaded guilty in October to sexually abusing two teenagers who were members of the church where the officer was head pastor. The girls said the abuse occurred on several occasions and included incidents at Best's church and police headquarters. The officer also pleaded guilty to producing child pornography after detectives found sexually explicit pictures of the victims on his phone. "It takes a particular type of depravity, boldness and recklessness for a sexual predator to take photographs of his victim," the government argued in a court filing. Best is due for sentencing in February; his plea agreement calls for an 18-year prison term. His attorney, Nikki Lotze, called his guilty plea "an important step in accepting responsibility." The police department said Best resigned in August. The District of Columbia says it does not decertify officers.

REX NEWPORT

Rex Newport, 47, of the Colville Police Department in Washington state, was sentenced last year to 2½ years in prison for unlawful imprisonment with sexual motivation and other charges. Newport had entered an Alford plea, which allows a defendant to plead guilty while maintaining innocence. According to a detective's report, a woman said Newport followed her home from a bar and entered her apartment in the remote town near the U.S.-Canadian border. According to a probable cause affidavit, she went to a neighbor's apartment when he left to take a call on his radio, fearing he would come back to attack her. She saw him come and go and thought it was safe to return, but he was waiting inside. Newport handcuffed her, then removed the cuffs before having sex with her. After she reported the assault, police identified four other women who accused Newport of propositioning them while on duty. The state decertified Newport.

WALTER NOLDEN

Walter Nolden, 34, of the San Antonio Independent School District Police, was released from jail last year

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after being given a yearlong sentence related to improper searches of young girls. Nolden was a campus officer at Page Middle School, where six girls in seventh and eighth grade made similar accusations — that the officer had them expose their breasts or peered down their shirts when he conducted searches for drugs. Some of the girls claimed he groped them. Nolden ultimately pleaded no contest to a charge of official oppression. One of the girls said Nolden told her the search was necessary "to make sure she didn't have anything." Nolden was decertified.

CHRISTOPHER STEIN EPPERSON

Christopher Epperson, 37, of the Wasatch County Sheriff's Department in Utah, is serving three years' probation in the sexual assaults of two inmates. Epperson pleaded guilty to two federal counts of deprivation of rights under color of law for the offenses in 2009 and 2010 while he was a deputy sheriff working in the county jail. He had groped two female inmates. A separate civil lawsuit against Epperson, the county and the sheriff's department was filed by one of the women nearly five years ago but remains ongoing; the second woman later joined the litigation. The lawsuit alleges a pattern of behavior by Epperson that began with flirtation, smiles and winks, and grew more serious to include forcing one woman to be photographed shirtless and to fondle the offic

A look inside AP's investigation on officer sex misconduct

The Associated Press

When an Oklahoma City police officer was charged last year with sexually assaulting or exploiting 12 women and a teenage girl, The Associated Press wanted to know how often officers nationwide are accused of sexual misdeeds. The question has no easy answer because no federal accounting of police misconduct exists. However, most states have standards and training commissions that can strip officers of their law enforcement licenses for misconduct. That administrative process is commonly known as decertification.

Over a yearlong period, the AP collected and analyzed decertification records nationwide from 2009 through 2014. Of the nearly 9,000 cases in which officers were decertified, about 1,000 officers lost their licenses for conduct that the AP found included sexual assault, sex crimes such as possessing child pornography and misconduct that ranged from propositioning citizens to consensual but prohibited on-duty intercourse.

The AP compared the cases to a federal government standard to determine whether the officers' actions amounted to sexual assault or involved other forms of sexual misconduct. The U.S. Justice Department defines sexual assault as "any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient," including forced sexual intercourse or sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling and attempted rape.

While the AP's review is the most comprehensive available — 41 states provided decertification information — the number is an undercount. Some states did not provide information, and even among states that did, some reported no officers removed for sexual misdeeds even though cases were identified via official records and news stories.

Six states, including some with the nation's largest law enforcement agencies, said they did not decertify officers for misconduct and kept no official tally of officer wrongdoing. They are California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island. Three states — Louisiana, Maryland and North Carolina — did not provide information to the AP. The District of Columbia said it had no process for certification.

Standards for revoking an officer's license varied: Almost every state in the U.S. can decertify an officer convicted of a felony. More than 30 have the ability to also decertify for misconduct that may not be criminal. But some states have no reporting requirements, leaving it to local law enforcement to seek the removal of an officer's license or instead let him or her quietly leave the force.

The quality of information in the decertification records also varied widely.

Florida provided the most detailed review, sharing copies of its statewide database of officers' employment

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histories and discipline reports. Georgia supplied spreadsheets with the names and offenses of officers disciplined for misconduct and access to an online database of information. About 20 states provided a list of all decertified officers' names, agencies and dates and reasons for decertification.

Minnesota refused to name the officers it decertified, though it provided their agencies and reason for decertification. Oklahoma refused to let the AP review all of its files, and released records only for officers it said were decertified for sexual misconduct.

In determining whether an officer had committed sexual misconduct, the AP mostly relied on what a state gave as its reason for decertification. But a cause for decertification was not always clearly stated in the records. Some states gave vague reasons, such as "conduct unbecoming an officer" or "voluntary surrender," for officers who the AP later found — through additional state information, court or other official records, or media accounts — had actions that met the federal definition of sexual assault or constituted another sex crime or sexual misconduct.

Not all decertified officers face charges or a trial, where the standard of proof is "beyond a reasonable doubt." State commissions generally apply a "preponderance of the evidence" standard in deciding whether to revoke a law enforcement license.

The AP found fewer than a dozen cases among the sex-related decertifications it studied in which an officer was acquitted in court or later on appeal. Those officers' licenses were not reinstated, and the cases were included in AP's count. It is also possible for officers to appeal their decertifications and later regain their licenses.

South Dakota State shuts out Missouri State, 39-0

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — It took some time for South Dakota State's offense to find its stride Saturday in a 39-0 Missouri Valley Football Conference win over Missouri State.

The Jackrabbits defense saw to it that the offense had all the time it needed by dominating the Tigers. SDSU (6-2, 3-2 Missouri Valley Conference) held Missouri State (1-7, 0-5) to just 211 total yards in notching its first road shutout in 16 years. Missouri Straight has lost six straight games.

"When you play great defense it just energizes your whole unit," SDSU coach John Stigelmneier said. "Our guys played with confidence."

The Jackrabbits limited the Bears to just 89 yards passing and 122 on the ground. SDSU has given up just four touchdowns in the last 18 quarters.

Brady Mengarelli rushed for 142 yards on 15 carries. He and Kyle Paris (15 yards) were the only South Dakota State players with positive rushing yards.

The Jackrabbits offense in the first two quarters consisted mostly of Mengarelli and kicker Jay Carlson. Mengarelli opened the scoring with a 13-yard run and Carlson kicked the PAT for a 7-0 lead with 11:12 left in the first quarter. Carlson followed with field goals of 34, 41 and 47 yards for a 16-0 lead. Carlson kicked another 41-yarder in the second half.

With 1:04 to play in the half, SDSU quarterback Zach Lujan found Matt Raymond from 7 yards out for a TD and a 22-0 lead.

Mengarelli had 92 yards in the first half and SDSU outgained the Bears 250-90 in the first two quarters. "Brady's an unbelievable student-athlete," Stiegelmeier said. "He never stops and, again, we had a good scheme for him."

Lujan completed 15 of 19 passes for 208 yards as he slowly returns from an injury. He hooked up with Jake Wieneke seven times for 161 yards and a 48-yard TD.

"I feel like a little kid again," Lujan said. "I thought our receivers really stepped up."

Backup quarterback Taryn Christion threw a 14-yard TD pass to Connor Lundberg to cap an 87-yard drive - the longest of the game - with 8:34 left to play.

Missouri State quarterback Brodie Lambert was 12-for-25 for 77 yards. Ryan Heaston led the Bears in rushing with 73 yards.

Missouri State's longest drive took 15 plays and moved 54 yards but the drive ended on downs. It had

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nine drives of four plays or less.

"When you come out and score right away on offense and hold them on defense, that's a sign of a team that is focused." Steigelmeier said.

Bailey, defense lead Northern Iowa over South Dakota 20-7 CEDAR FALLS, Iowa (AP) — Aaron Bailey threw a touchdown pass and ran for another to lead Northern

Iowa to a 20-7 victory over South Dakota on Saturday.

Bailey was 16-of-27 passing for 231 yards with 44 yards rushing to lead the Panthers (4-4, 2-3 Missouri Valley), who have won consecutive games since snapping a three-game losing skid.

The Coyotes (4-4, 2-3) had just 187 yards of offense with two fumbles and an interception.

"They were too much for us," South Dakota coach Joe Glenn said. "We've run on everybody, including North Dakota State, but these guys had us."

Michael Fredrick led the Coyotes in rushing with 50 yards on 25 carries. Ryan Saeger was 11-of-21 for 133 yards passing with a touchdown.

Defenses dominated until South Dakota opened the scoring with 1:25 left in the first quarter. Saeger threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to Brandt Van Roekel to cap a 13-play, 81-yard drive that took six minutes for the Coyotes Ione score. Van Roekel had six catches for 89 yards.

Bailey threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Braden Lehman with 7:31 left in the first half. He scored on a 1-yard guarterback sneak to give the Panthers a 14-7 halftime lead.

Michael Schmadeke kicked a 48-yard field goal early in the third quarter. Deiondre Hall's interception led to a 50-yard Schmadeke field goal midway through the third quarter to cap the scoring.

USD was pinned inside its own 5-yard line twice in the fourth guarter following punts from Sam Kuhter. "We didn't get much going all day long," said Glenn, who was denied his 200th win. "Our bread and butter stuff they took away from us. They've got a tough defense."

The Northern Iowa offense did just enough, with Savon Huggins leading the Panthers with 66 yards rushing on nine carries.

Four receivers had three catches: Braden Lehman for 45 yards; Darrin Miller for 42 yards; and Charles Brown and Michael Malloy 40 yards apiece.

It was Northern Iowa's second straight win over a South Dakota team. It beat No. 6 South Dakota State last week.

AP News in Brief

AP Investigation: Hundreds of law enforcement officers lose licenses over sex misconduct

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Flashing lights pierced the black of night, and the big white letters made clear it was the police. The woman pulled over was a daycare worker in her 50s headed home after playing dominoes with friends. She felt she had nothing to hide, so when the Oklahoma City officer accused her of erratic driving, she did as directed.

She would later tell a judge she was splayed outside the patrol car for a pat-down, made to lift her shirt to prove she wasn't hiding anything, then to pull down her pants when the officer still wasn't convinced. He shined his flashlight between her legs, she said, then ordered her to sit in the squad car and face him as he towered above. His gun in sight, she said she pleaded "No, sir" as he unzipped his fly and exposed himself with a hurried directive.

"Come on," the woman, identified in police reports as J.L., said she was told before she began giving him oral sex. "I don't have all night."

The accusations are undoubtedly jolting, and yet they reflect a betrayal of the badge that has been repeated time and again across the country.

In a yearlong investigation of sexual misconduct by U.S. law enforcement, The Associated Press uncovered

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about 1,000 officers who lost their badges in a six-year period for rape, sodomy and other sexual assault; sex crimes that included possession of child pornography; or sexual misconduct such as propositioning citizens or having consensual but prohibited on-duty intercourse.

A look at some recent cases of sex crimes involving officers

A yearlong Associated Press investigation uncovered about 1,000 officers in six years who lost their licenses to work in law enforcement for rape, other sex crimes or sexual misconduct. The number is unquestionably an undercount because it represents only those officers who faced an administrative process known as decertification, and not all states take such action or provided records. California and New York, for example, did not provide records because they have no statewide process for decertification. Even among states that provided records, some reported no officers removed for sexual misdeeds even though the AP discovered cases via news stories and court records.

Below are 10 cases from across the U.S. that reflect how such crimes can occur, and the devastation they leave behind. Most of the officers have been convicted and are serving time. Some await trial.

SERGIO ALVAREZ

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The Latest: Russian ministers tour plane crash site in Egypt, will view plane's black box

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — The latest developments after a Russian passenger plane crashed in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, killing all 224 people on board (all times local).

12:35 p.m.

Three Russian Cabinet ministers are inspecting the crash site of a Russian passenger jet in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

Photos from the site, 70 kilometers (44 miles) south of the city of el-Arish, have shown heaps of smoldering debris dotting the barren terrain, including the plane's badly damaged sky blue tail. The Airbus A321-200 charter jet crashed Saturday, killing all 224 aboard, mostly Russians.

Autopsies begin on victims of Romanian nightclub fire; dozens of injured struggle with burns

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Forensic experts are carrying out the first autopsies of victims of a night-club fire in the Romanian capital, where 27 people were killed and 180 injured.

The national prosecutors' office said autopsies would be conducted Sunday on the bodies of some of those who died as they fled a fire and ended up in a panicked stampede Friday night toward the only door in the basement nightclub Colectiv in downtown Bucharest.

Witnesses say the fire erupted after a spark on stage from a heavy metal pyrotechnics show ignited foam decor.

Some 146 people are still hospitalized around the Romanian capital. Doctors say 35 of them are in serious condition.

Authorities are still collecting evidence from the scene.

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Leaders of South Korea, Japan, China agree to repair strained ties as they meet in rare summit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The biggest result of the first meeting of South Korean, Chinese and Japanese leaders in more than three years? More meetings.

But for three Northeast Asian economic and diplomatic heavyweights who spend a huge amount of time bickering over history and territory, the agreement for more dialogue at Sunday's rare summit was a significant step forward. The long-running spat between Seoul and Tokyo, crucial U.S. allies, has been especially worrying for Washington as it looks to counter China's rise and North Korea's pursuit of nuclear bombs.

High-level contact between Tokyo and its two Asian neighbors nose-dived after hawkish Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took office in late 2012. Beijing and Seoul see Abe as whitewashing Japan's wartime atrocities.

A joint statement issued after the meeting said the sides agreed to try to resolve history-related issues and improve ties by "facing history squarely and advancing toward the future."

The countries also pledged to hold a leaders' summit every year and push to deepen their economic cooperation by accelerating free trade negotiations among themselves. They also reaffirmed a resolve to resume stalled international negotiations on North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Turks vote amid national tensions; ruling party seeks to claw back parliamentary majority

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turks headed to the polls Sunday for the second time in five months in a crucial election that will determine whether the ruling party can restore the parliamentary majority it enjoyed for 13 years.

The contest is a rerun of a June election in which the ruling Justice and Development Party, or AKP, surprisingly lost its one-party rule due to a strong showing by a Kurdish party. The key question Sunday is whether the ruling party gets enough seats for an outright majority in parliament or whether it will have to form a coalition in order to govern.

The election comes as Turkey is facing its worst violence in years. Renewed fighting between Turkey's security forces and Kurdish rebels has killed hundreds of people and shattered an already-fragile peace process. Two recent massive suicide bombings at pro-Kurdish gatherings that killed some 130 people, apparently carried out by an Islamic State group cell, have also increased tensions.

Turkey is a key U.S. ally in the fight against Islamic State and, since it hosts more Syrian refugees than any other nation in the world, a crucial player in efforts to end the war in Syria and resolve Europe's massive immigration crisis.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu is calling on voters to choose stability and give AKP a new majority. Opposition parties hope to force Davutoglu into forming a coalition.

Carter emphasizes South Korea support, visits buffer zone with North Korea

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter called on North Korea to shrink and eventually eliminate its nuclear weapons program, while acknowledging during a visit Sunday to the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas that prospects for reconciling with the defiant North are dim.

"For now what we have is what you see beyond us — a very starkly divided and heavily defended border area," Carter told reporters as he stood on the South Korean side of a marker inside the DMZ that forms the de-facto border. Several yards to his rear was the start of North Korea's portion of the zone, which amounts to a buffer meant to keep the peace even though the two Koreas are technically still at war.

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Carter's first stop near the DMZ was a reminder of long-simmering tensions here. His helicopter alighted at Camp Bonifas, named for Arthur Bonifas, an Army captain killed in a DMZ axe attack by North Korean soldiers in August 1976, along with Army 1st Lt. Mark Barrett. Carter was then driven to Observation Post Ouellette, just yards from North Korea's side; South Korean officers gave him the lay of the land.

At Panmunjom, the so-called truce village where the July 1953 armistice was signed pausing the Korean War, Carter, flanked by U.S. and South Korean soldiers, looked across the line dividing the Koreas and then turned to tell reporters the U.S. alliance with South Korea is "iron clad."

"Being here shows you up close how dangerous this part of the world is," he said.

US authorities: Wreckage believed to be cargo ship El Faro located in 15,000 feet of water

WASHINGTON (AP) — Searchers using high-tech sonars have discovered the deep-water wreckage of a vessel believed to be the cargo ship El Faro, which went missing Oct. 1 with 33 crewmembers during Hurricane Joaquin, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board said late Saturday.

The federal agency said the wreckage is some 15,000 feet below the water's surface and its identity still must be confirmed by sending down a remotely operated deep ocean vehicle.

The federal agency's statement added that experts aboard a specially equipped Navy vessel reported they located the wreckage at 1:36 p.m. EDT Saturday deep underwater in the area of the ship's last known position. The wreckage was detected on the fifth of 13 surveying passes by that ship, USNS Apache.

The 790-foot El Faro was reported missing east of the Bahamas, according to the Coast Guard.

The NTSB said investigators will now seek to survey the debris and confirm the identity of the wreckage, adding that effort could begin as early as Sunday. It added that the wreckage spotted in the depths is "consistent with a 790-foot cargo ship, which from sonar images appears to be in an upright position and in one piece."

Myanmar's ethnic minorities pin hopes on election to end decades of bloodshed

HPA-AN, Myanmar (AP) — During nearly seven decades the villages of the Karen have been torched, their men summarily executed and their women raped as the ethnic minority battled Myanmar's military regime in the world's longest-running insurgency. Their homeland has been called the "hidden Darfur," where some 350,000 people have been driven from their homes into the jungles or refugee camps in neighboring Thailand.

Now, many of the survivors are pinning their hopes on a historic election Nov. 8 pitting the military-backed ruling party against one helmed by pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi and numerous ethnic parties. They fear victory by the military's United Solidarity and Development Party would plunge Karen state and its 1.5 million people back into a hellhole.

"If the USDP comes into power, we will walk the same path. We will remain beggars. If they lose, the country will change. This is the final showdown," says Hkun Kyi Myint, an elder of several villages around Hpa-An, the state capital.

Ethnic minorities including the Karen make up about 40 percent of Myanmar's 52 million people. For them, the election is more than a step in Myanmar's uneven path toward democracy. It opens up the possible fulfillment of a long-cherished dream.

Shortly after the country, then known as Burma, gained independence from Britain in 1948, the Karen rose against the central government, which then and since has been dominated by the Burman ethnic majority. The country's first constitution and the 1947 Panglong Agreement, endowed with an almost mythic aura among ethnic people, promised a large measure of self-determination for minorities — even the possibility of secession.

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Royals rally in 8th inning on Murphy's error, beat Mets 5-3 to take 3-1 lead in World Series

NEW YORK (AP) — A charmed October for Eric Hosmer and the Kansas City Royals ended with one more comeback. Now, a win in November and they'll be World Series champions.

Second baseman Daniel Murphy's error on Hosmer's grounder in the eighth inning keyed another rally by the tenacious Royals, and Kansas City startled the New York Mets 5-3 Saturday night to take 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven matchup.

"There's just a belief amongst the guys that it doesn't matter what the score is, what the lead is, what the deficit is. The guys just believe that they're going to find a way to get it done," Kansas City starter Chris Young said.

Edinson Volquez returned Saturday from his father's funeral in the Dominican Republic and can pitch the Royals to their first crown in 30 years. He faces Matt Harvey in a rematch of Game 1, when Volquez went six innings just hours after his dad died.

Seemingly spooked by the raucous New York crowd early on Halloween, the Royals rallied for the seventh time in 10 postseason victories this year, this one from a 3-1 deficit.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, Nov. 1, the 305th day of 2015. There are 60 days left in the year. This is All Saints Day. Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 1, 1765, the Stamp Act, passed by the British Parliament, went into effect, prompting stiff resistance from American colonists.

On this date:

In 1478, the Spanish Inquisition was established.

In 1512, Michelangelo's just-completed paintings on the ceiling of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel were publicly unveiled by the artist's patron, Pope Julius II.

In 1604, William Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello" was presented at Whitehall Palace in London.

In 1861, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln named Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan General-in-Chief of the Union armies, succeeding Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott.

In 1870, the United States Weather Bureau made its first meteorological observations.

In 1936, in a speech in Milan, Italy, Benito Mussolini described the alliance between his country and Nazi Germany as an "axis" running between Rome and Berlin.

In 1945, Ebony, a magazine geared toward black readers, was first published.

In 1952, the United States exploded the first hydrogen bomb, code-named "Ivy Mike," at Enewetak (en-ih-WEE'-tahk) Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

In 1954, Algerian nationalists began their successful 7-year rebellion against French rule.

In 1968, the Motion Picture Association of America unveiled its new voluntary film rating system: G for general, M for mature (later changed to GP, then PG), R for restricted and X (later changed to NC-17) for adults only.

In 1979, former first lady Mamie Eisenhower died in Washington, D.C., at age 82.

In 1989, East Germany reopened its border with Czechoslovakia, prompting tens of thousands of refugees to flee to the West.

Ten years ago: Democrats forced the Republican-controlled Senate into an unusual closed session, questioning the intelligence utilized by the White House in the run-up to the war in Iraq; Republicans derided the move as a political stunt. The Federal Reserve increased a key interest rate by a quarter-point to 4 percent, the highest level in more than four years. Musical conductor Skitch Henderson died in New Milford, Connecticut, at age 87.

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Five years ago: Marjorie Diehl-Armstrong, 61, was convicted by a jury in Erie, Pennsylvania, of participating in a bizarre plot in which a pizza delivery driver was forced to rob a bank wearing a metal bomb collar that later exploded, killing him. (Diehl-Armstrong was later sentenced to life in prison.) The San Francisco Giants won the World Series with a 3-1 victory over the Texas Rangers in Game 5.

One year ago: The national average price of gasoline fell to \$2.995, according to AAA, marking the first time in four years that gas was cheaper than \$3 a gallon. The United Nations' expert panel on climate science, meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, finished a report on global warming that the agency said offered "conclusive evidence" that humans were altering Earth's climate system. Bayern won the \$5 million Breeders' Cup Classic by a nose, surviving a stewards' inquiry prompted by multiple horses bumping near the start. Wayne Static, 48, the front man for the metal band Static-X, died in Landers, California.

Today's Birthdays: Golfer Gary Player is 80. Country singer Bill Anderson is 78. Actress Barbara Bosson is 76. Actor Robert Foxworth is 74. Magazine publisher Larry Flynt is 73. Country singer-humorist Kinky Friedman is 71. Actress Jeannie Berlin is 66. Music producer David Foster is 66. Actress Belita Moreno is 66. Rhythm-and-blues musician Ronald Khalis Bell (Kool and the Gang) is 64. Country singer-songwriter-producer Keith Stegall is 61. Country singer Lyle Lovett is 58. Actress Rachel Ticotin is 57. Rock musician Eddie MacDonald (The Alarm) is 56. Apple CEO Tim Cook is 55. Actress Helene Udy is 54. Rock singer Anthony Kiedis (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 53. Pop singer-musician Mags Furuholmen (a-ha) is 53. Rock musician Rick Allen (Def Leppard) is 52. Country singer "Big Kenny" Alphin (Big and Rich) is 52. Singer Sophie B. Hawkins is 51. Rapper Willie D (Geto Boys) is 49. Country musician Dale Wallace (Emerson Drive) is 46. Actress Toni Collette is 43. Actress-talk show host Jenny McCarthy is 43. Rock musician Andrew Gonzales is 43. Actor David Berman is 42. Actress Aishwarya Rai (ash-WAHR'-ee-ah rye) is 42. Rock singer Bo Bice is 40. Actor Matt Jones is 34. Actress Natalia Tena is 31. Actor Penn Badgley is 29. Actor Max Burkholder is 18. Actor-musician Alex Wolff is 18.

Thought for Today: "People who bite the hand that feeds them usually lick the boot that kicks them." - Eric Hoffer, American author and philosopher (1902-1983).