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Monday, November 2

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

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

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 Bible Study

4:30pm: Volleyball regional at Milbank (3 matches)

7:00 pm: City Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 4

NCRC Testing Seniors

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Mini corn dog, baked beans, lettuce salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Lasagna rotini, tossed salad with dressing, ambrosia fruit salad, oatmeal spice cookie, whole wheat bread.



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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JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St.

Office: 605/397-2424

Groton, SD 57445

Home: 605/397-8565



The Life of Robert Haight



Memorial Services for Robert "Bob" Haight, 81, of Aberdeen will be 1 p.m., Monday, November 2, 2015 at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Father Mike Kelly will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton. Family will be present for visitation on Monday from 11-1 p.m.

Bob died October 29, 2015 at Aberdeen Health and Rehab.

Robert Eugene was born to James and Frances (Downs) Haight on January 8, 1934 in Redfield, SD. He has resided in Watertown, Sioux Falls and Groton with his mother until the time of her death. Bob then moved to Aberdeen Living Center then Aberdeen Health and Rehab until the time of his death.

When Bob was younger, he loved to drink coffee while watching soap operas and also enjoyed mowing the yard. Bob liked visiting with people and sitting at the nurses station at the nursing home. He liked to sit outside when the weather was nice. Bob was always up with current events. Everyone at the nursing home referred to Bob as Bobby. He even had a special supervisor name tag that he wore proudly every day.

Bob is survived by his sister, Beverly Dorfschmidt of Aberdeen and a brother, Pat Haight of Nashville, TN, 16 nieces and nephews and many great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, James, an infant sister, Mary Elizabeth, 2 sister-in-laws, Edna and Virginia, one brother-in-law, Harvey and a niece, Brenda.



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!



THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

The Cadillac Tax Brings More Costs, Less Value to Your Health Insurance

By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

More health insurance upheaval is coming your way. The value of your health insurance is shrinking, and you may be paying more for less this year and in years to come.

Perhaps your employer has taken away the choice of plans with large provider networks and instead is offering those with a much narrower selection of doctors and hospitals. Some companies are enticing workers with lower premiums if they leave preferred provider organizations (PPOs), which let them use any provider, and choose health savings accounts. These are tax-advantaged savings arrangements coupled with catastrophic coverage and high deductibles. Others require employees to pay higher premiums for the plans they have.

Blame those changes on the Cadillac tax, a provision in the Affordable Care Act, which calls for a 40 percent excise tax on employer-provided health insurance. Employers pay the tax, but ultimately it's passed on to some 60 million workers who have employer coverage.

The tax will be levied on the portion of health insurance premiums that exceed \$10,200 for single and \$27,500 for family coverage. Because premiums continue to rise (this year the average family premium from employers is about \$17,500), they have a strong incentive to lower the cost of coverage to avoid paying the tax. Many have begun making changes this year, and experts believe there will be more adjustments as 2018 approaches when the tax takes effect.

About four million people and about one-quarter of all employer plans will be touched by the tax the first year. However, Steve Wojcik, vice president of the National Business Group on Health, told me, "It's going to affect almost every plan as the years go on."

Wojcik explained the thresholds for determining the tax are indexed to the Consumer Price Index, but the price of healthcare grows faster than the CPI and will continue to rise. As that happens, more employer plans will bump into those thresholds and trigger the tax.

Why the tax?

Framers of the Affordable Care Act, urged on by economists, needed a way to pay for subsidies intended to help the uninsured buy coverage, and they argued the tax could bring in some \$150 billion to help the cause.

But there was another reason, too. Supporters of the law and others wanted the tax to deter workers from going to the doctor too much. In other words, make them have "more skin in the game." The thinking goes like this: If they use healthcare services more wisely like saying "no" to your doctor's advice and avoiding care you don't need, the price of medical care in the U.S. will drop.

That, of course, assumes doctors and hospitals won't raise prices. Since there's almost nothing to prevent them from doing that, they could respond by simply offering more services, procedures and tests to keep their incomes up. History has shown they've done that when cost containment measures were imposed.

History has also shown that people do cut back on medical services when they have to pay more. But they often can't discriminate between what care they need and what they don't. The result, of course, is that serious conditions may go untreated.

The tax had another big selling point. MIT economist Jonathan Gruber argued that as the tax began to keep costs down, employers would return the savings to workers in their paychecks. Most of those gains would go to those with incomes under \$200,000.

Few people expect those savings to materialize or that employers will share any if they do. Any "theoretical" savings is a "pipe dream," U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, a Democrat from Connecticut, wrote in a letter to the editor of the New York Times in early October. Who really believes employers are going to give broad wage increases to compensate workers for lower health benefits?

It's not just high-wage workers who will be affected by the tax even though it's thought they are the ones with generous insurance. It will hit middle-income workers, those in unionized industries, government employees and others in manufacturing jobs.

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Saving a Life from a potential catastrophe
EVERY 10 MINUTES

*I live
alone*

*but I'm
never alone.*

*I have
Life Alert®.*



One press of a button
sends help fast, 24/7, for:
medical • fall • fire • invasion
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even when you can't reach a phone.

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A broad group of employers and unions are fighting to repeal the tax, but say realistically that won't happen until after the presidential election next year if it happens at all.

There's really not much you can do except complain to your elected representatives and try to choose your insurance plan carefully this year. But remember, in order to keep premiums low you'll most likely have to pay higher deductibles and high coinsurance. That's a trade-off everyone faces whether or not there's a Cadillac tax.

What changes do you see in your insurance this year? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com

Funded by a grant from The Commonwealth Fund and distributed through Nebraska Press Association, Rural Health News Service provides newspapers at partnering press associations, including South Dakota Newspaper Association, with unbiased health-related information, designed to help better understand the health issues facing our communities, states and nation.

2nd Round FB Playoffs Video Stream

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

Playoffs: Groton Area hosts Bridgewater-Ethan/Emery				
Groton Daily INDEPENDENT	G S	Aberdeen Chrysler Center	Olson Backhoe & Trenching	
	A P	Bahr Spray Foam & Construction	S & S Lumber	
	M O	Blocker Construction	Spanier Harvesting & Trucking	
	E N	Harry Implement, Ferney	Subway	
	S	James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgenson	Titan Machinery - Justin Hanson	
	O	James Valley Telecommunications	Tuffer'nHell Livestock Equipment	
	R	McKiver Collision	Weber Landscaping	
	S	Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.		
			Nov. 2	7:00 pm

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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.

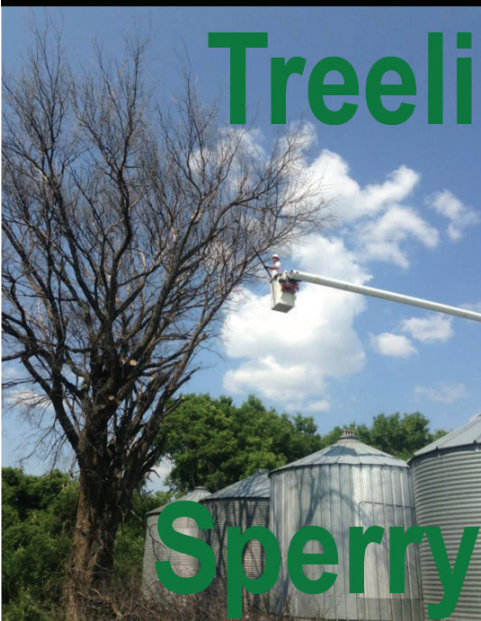
Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915**

**Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal



Very Warm October

October 2015 was another very warm month across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Average monthly temperatures were from 4 to 6 degrees above normal. Aberdeen, Mobridge and Timber Lake all set record highs on the 10th and the 11th while Pierre and Sisseton set record highs on the 11th. Wheaton, Minnesota broke their record high with 95 degrees on the 12th. Sisseton also tied their all-time record high for the month of October with 95 degrees previously set on October 10th 1955. With the very warm temperatures, most locations had one their top twentieth warmest Octobers on record. Kennebec, Mobridge, and Timber Lake all had one of their top ten warmest Octobers on record with Timber Lake having their eighth warmest October on record. With these warmer than normal temperatures, a hard freeze held off across the region until the middle of October.

Drought conditions expanded some across the northern part of our region throughout the month before a widespread rainfall event occurred from the 22nd through the 24th. A strong area of low pressure lifting across the region brought anywhere from a half inch to nearly two inches of rainfall. Despite this rainfall, monthly averages were still below normal across the region ranging from a third of an inch below to almost one and quarter inches below normal. Also, several locations had some snow showers towards the end of the month on October 28th.

High winds along with some blowing dust affected the region on Sunday the 11th into Monday the 12th. A large area of blowing dust moved across the region along a strong cold front reducing visibilities to less than a mile at times during the afternoon and evening hours of the 11th. High winds with gusts from 50 to 70 mph also occurred across the region from Sunday into Monday.

**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 2, 1961: A snowstorm began in western South Dakota and spread to the remainder of the state on November 2nd, ending late on the 2nd in the extreme east. Snowfall was fairly minimal, with 1 to 3 inches falling over most of the central and eastern parts of the state, but the storm was accompanied by winds of 40 to 50 mph in eastern South Dakota. In addition, temperatures fell rapidly with the passage of a cold front with 24-hour changes of 40 to over 50 degrees. Huron dropped from 73 on the 1st to 21 only 24 hours later, a 52-degree drop.

November 2, 1972: Freezing rain caused up to 2 inches of ice to form on trees, bushes, wires, cars and buildings. Many trees and utility lines were downed. Some of the greatest damage occurred from Tulare to Redfield and Doland and from Troy to Sisseton, in Spink, Brown, Day, Grant and Roberts Counties. Also, heavy snow up to 20 inches fell in south central South Dakota. Some snowfall amounts include; 5.2 inches in Huron; 10 inches in Wessington Springs; 12 inches in Platte; 12.5 in Bonesteel and 19.5 inches in Gregory.

November 2, 1997: A strong low pressure system over the Great Lakes produced winds of 50 to near 60 mph over much of northern and central South Dakota. Half of an unsecured double-wide trailer was overturned by the strong winds in Fort Pierre. In McLaughlin, strong winds damaged a catwalk at the McLaughlin livestock auction. Half of the 400-foot walkway was tipped over by the winds. The high winds, along with six-foot waves, destroyed an 85-year old 40 x 75 foot dance hall located by Medicine Lake, 15 miles northwest of Watertown. In Aberdeen, brick from a top portion of an abandoned building collapsed. There were also widespread reports of tree limbs blown down.

1743: Benjamin Franklin's "eclipse hurricane" unlocked the key to storm movement. Ben Franklin, at Philadelphia, PA was prevented from viewing a lunar eclipse in a northeast rainstorm, but his brother, who was in Boston, saw it, though the rain began an hour later. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the Hurricane Research Division.

1992: Another infamous November Great Lakes Storm brought windy conditions to Minnesota's Lake Superior shoreline. 70 mph winds caused waves to crash over 130 foot walls along the shore.

1946 - A heavy wet snow began to cover the Southern Rockies. Up to three feet of snow blanketed the mountains of New Mexico, and a 31 inch snow at Denver CO caused roofs to collapse. (David Ludlum)

1961 - The temperature at Atlanta, GA, reached 84 degrees to establish a record for November. (The Weather Channel)

1966 - A storm brought 18 inches of snow to Celia KY in 24 hours. It tied the state 24 hour snowfall record first established at Bowling Green. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - A dozen cities, mostly in the Ohio Valley, reported record high temperatures for the date. Record highs included 83 degrees at Paducah KY and 84 degrees at Memphis TN. Temperatures reached 70 degrees as far north as southern Lower Michigan. Showers and thundershowers over southern Florida, associated with a tropical depression, produced 4.77 inches of rain at Tavernier, located in the Upper Florida Keys. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A very intense low pressure system brought heavy rain, snow, and high winds, to parts of the northeastern U.S. Portland ME established a record for November with 4.52 inches of rain in 24 hours, and winds along the coast of Maine gusted to 74 mph at Southwest Harbor. Heavy snow blanketed parts of northern Vermont and upstate New York, with 15 inches reported at Spruce Hill NY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

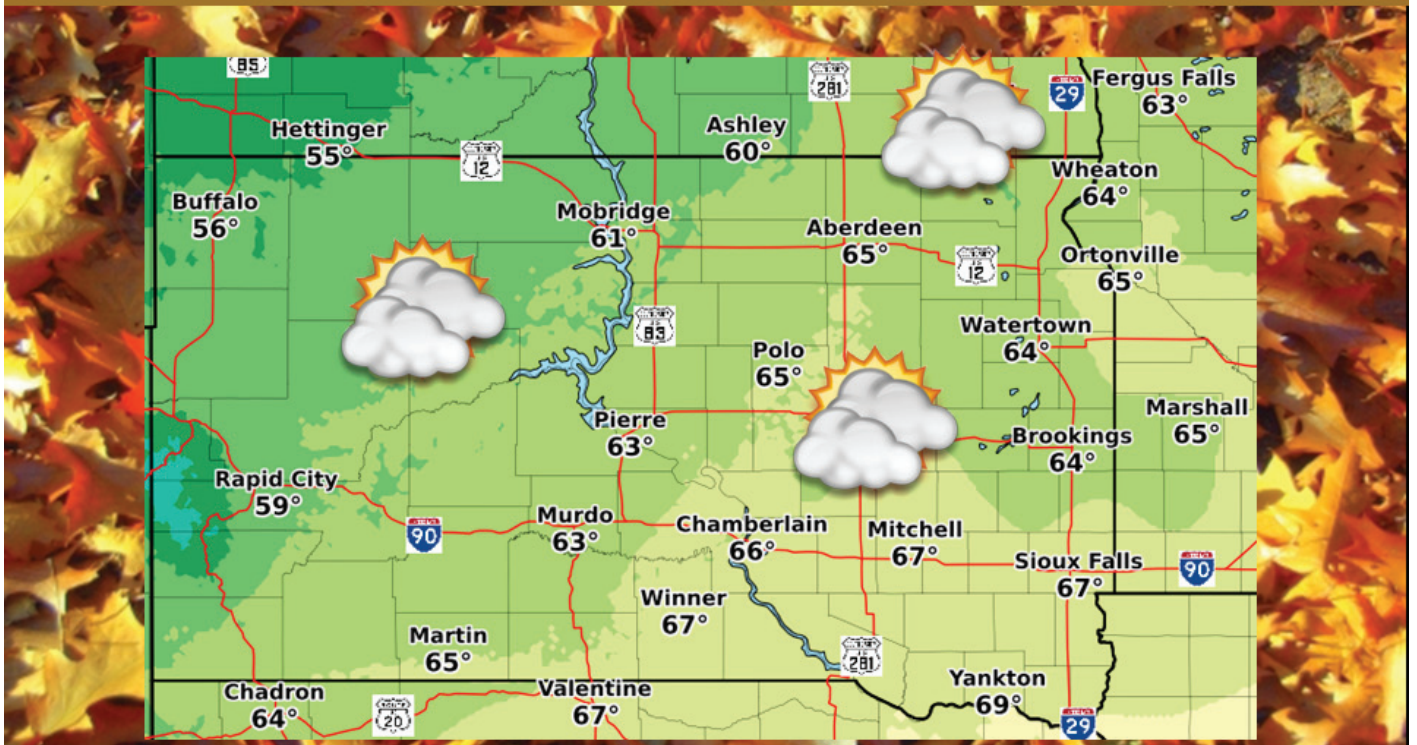
1989 - Squalls in the Upper Great Lakes Region the first three days of the month buried Ironwood MI under 46 inches of snow, and produced 40 inches at Hurley WI. Arctic cold invaded the Southern Plains Region. Midland TX reported a record low of 22 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Isolated Showers then Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Slight Chance Rain then Slight Chance Rain/Snow	Partly Sunny
High: 65 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 64 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 54 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 46 °F

Above Normal Temperatures Continue Today



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 11/2/2015 5:29 AM Central

Published on: 11/02/2015 at 5:37AM

Although we may see a passing sprinkle this morning - most of the area will remain dry and mild through the first half of the work week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 62.6 at 3:31 PM

Low: 29.8 at 3:43 AM

High Gust: 26 at 12:16 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 77° in 1931

Record Low: 0° in 1911

Average High: 48°F

Average Low: 26°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.06

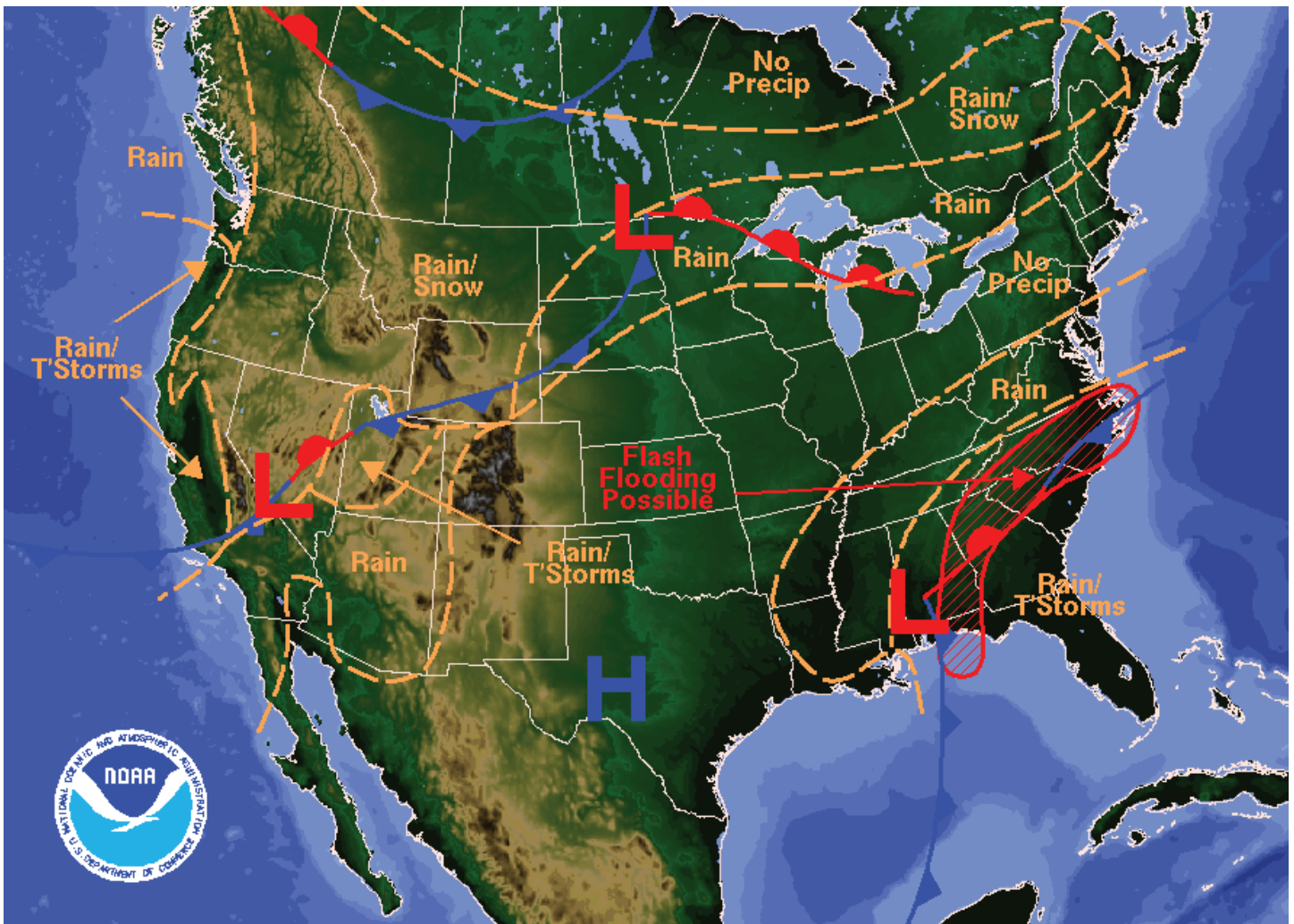
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.53

Precip Year to Date: 19.11

Sunset Tonight: 5:19 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:15 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Nov 02, 2015, issued 4:09 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



HOW TO STOP TRUTH DECAY

The defendant was being sworn in before he was to testify. After placing his hand on the Bible he was asked, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?"

"I do," he answered.

"Now," asked the judge, "what do you have to say in your defense?"

"Your Honor," he replied, "with the restrictions you've placed on me, I can't say anything!"

Lying is as old as recorded history. It was Satan who told the first lie in the Garden of Eden when he said to Eve, "You won't die." In one brief sentence he was able to bring into question all of the promises and privileges that God offered Adam and Eve. Ever since that day telling lies to deceive and destroy others, has been a common practice.

Paul has some strong advice for Christians, however. He says, "So, stop telling lies!" Because the Holy Spirit has given us a new nature, we are to behave in new ways. One of them is to speak the truth, at all times, in love.

God has blessed us with the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. And if the Lord controls us, He will control what we say. He knows our hearts and we know His truth. Whenever we speak the truth filled with His love, it can become a beautiful thing to those around us.

Prayer: Give us courage, Father, to surrender our minds and our mouths to You and always speak honestly and honorably. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Ephesians 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

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News from the Associated Press

Former South Dakota first lady Patricia Farrar dies at 84

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Former South Dakota first lady Patricia Farrar has died.

Farrar was the wife of former Gov. Frank Farrar, and was first lady from 1969 to 1971. Gov. Dennis Daugaard says Patricia Farrar died Saturday in Aberdeen, at age 84.

Funeral services are being scheduled Saturday in Britton. Daugaard asks that flags throughout South Dakota fly at half-staff that day in her honor.

Survey gives yet another sign of Midwest economic slowdown

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Figures have plunged in a third straight monthly survey of supply managers in nine Midwest and Plains states, providing more evidence of a slowdown in the region's economy.

A report issued Monday says the overall Mid-American Business Conditions Index dropped to 41.9 last month, compared with 47.7 in September and 49.6 in August.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he again cites the strong U.S. dollar and global economic weakness among the reasons for the region's economic slide.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Weekend crash on I-90 near Wall kills 1, injures 4 others

WALL, S.D. (AP) — A one-vehicle crash on Interstate 90 near Wall over the weekend killed one person and injured four others.

The Highway Patrol did not immediately identify the people involved in the crash that happened shortly after 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Authorities say the 20-year-old man who died was one of four passengers in the vehicle that went in the ditch and rolled. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Another passenger suffered life-threatening injuries. The driver and the other two passengers suffered injuries that the patrol says are serious but not life-threatening.

Patrol IDs Box Elder teen who died when hit by 2 cars

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — The Highway Patrol has identified a Box Elder teenager who was killed when he was struck by two vehicles on Interstate 90.

Authorities say 15-year-old Carter Woolover was hit by two cars about 9:30 p.m. Friday while trying to run across the interstate.

The patrol is continuing to investigate what happened.

Officials urge SD residents to turn in poachers, use tipline

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Wildlife officials are reminding South Dakota residents about a program that could reward them for reporting illegal hunting or fishing incidents.

The Turn In Poachers program is run through the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. It provides a tipline residents can use to report incidents anonymously and callers are eligible for rewards in cases that lead to an arrest.

Rewards may range between \$100 and \$300 depending on the reported violation. Higher rewards may be offered in extreme cases.

TIPS produced 213 investigations in the fiscal year ending June 30. It resulted in 126 arrests, more than

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\$18,500 in fines and over \$30,000 in civil penalties.

The department says TIPS has led to 3,700 arrests since it began in 1984.

The tipline is 1-888-683-7224.

South Dakota turns 126 years old on Monday

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota celebrates its 126th anniversary of statehood on Monday, but the birthday will pass without the festivities of last year's quasiquintennial.

South Dakota was admitted as the 40th state on Nov. 2, 1889, by President Benjamin Harrison. North Dakota was admitted on the same day.

No major celebrations are planned for the state's latest birthday.

Last year, Gov. Dennis Daugaard and First Lady Linda Daugaard attended a South Dakota Symphony Concert celebrating the state's 125th anniversary of statehood in the Capitol Building Rotunda. The event, held the Saturday before the anniversary because Nov. 2 fell on a Sunday, capped off more than a year of activities throughout the state.

North Dakota, South Dakota celebrate 126 years of statehood

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota and South Dakota are celebrating their 126th birthdays.

The two states entered the Union on Nov. 2, 1889. President Benjamin Harrison signed the admission papers for the two states on that day. North +Dakota+ became the 39th state, and South Dakota the 40th. Legend says President Harrison shuffled the statehood papers before signing them.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. METROJET PLANE LOST SPEED, ALTITUDE BEFORE CRASHING

The company says that no technical fault could have caused the Airbus A320-200 to break up in the air, adding that "only a mechanical impact" on the aircraft could have led to the tragedy.

2. HOW RUSSIAN GOALS IN SYRIA ARE DEFINED

The root answer lies in the timing: Putin finally decided Bashar Assad was in danger of losing control of Damascus, and that could threaten Moscow's foothold in the Middle East.

3. WHAT'S COMMON IN OFFICER SEX MISCONDUCT INCIDENTS

Flaws in law enforcement policies and a protective culture of policing can allow sexual predators in police ranks to go unnoticed or unpunished until it's too late, the AP finds.

4. WHO GETS PERSONAL IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PUSH

As Obama tours the country to advocate for law enforcement reforms, he isn't afraid to identify with the people being policed, as well as with the police.

5. JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA AGREE TO WORK TO RESOLVE WWII SEX SLAVE ISSUE

Japan has apologized many times before, but many South Koreans see the statements and past efforts at private compensation as insufficient.

6. PALESTINIAN LAWYER TALKS ABOUT ICONIC PHOTO OF TEAR GAS KICK

The image is unexpected: Palestinians clashing with Israeli soldiers are typically masked stone-throwers in scruffy jeans, not nattily dressed professionals.

7. BUSH RECOUNTS DAYS AS FLORIDA GOVERNOR IN NEW E-BOOK

"Reply All" is the GOP hopeful's attempt to reset a campaign hobbled by stagnant poll numbers, a fundraising slowdown and a poor debate performance.

8. FORMER SEN. FRED THOMPSON DIES AT 73

"Very few people can light up the room the way Fred Thompson did," says U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn.

9. CHINA UNVEILS FIRST LARGE PASSENGER JETLINER

The multibillion-dollar effort to create the homegrown C919 aircraft is aimed at clawing back some of

the commercial benefits that flow to foreign suppliers.

10. ROYALS WIN WORLD SERIES

"It's just a special, special group that doesn't come around very often," says manager Ned Yost.

AP News in Brief

The Latest: Russia says black boxes from Saturday's plane crash in Egypt are in good condition

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — The latest developments after a Russian passenger plane crashed in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, killing all 224 people on board Saturday. (all times local).

1:45 p.m.

Russia's emergency situations minister has examined the black boxes from Saturday's crash of a Russian plane in Egypt and says they are in a good condition.

Russian news agencies on Monday quoted Vladimir Puchkov as saying that Russian officials were shown the black boxes found at the site of the crash in the Sinai Peninsula.

Analysis: Russian goals in Syria defined by timing, prospect for negotiations to include Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's much speculation about Russian motives for intervening in Syria. The root answer lies in the timing.

Vladimir Putin, the Kremlin boss, finally decided Syrian leader and Moscow ally Bashar Assad was in danger of losing control of Damascus, the capital of the civil-war ravaged nation.

That, in turn, would have crushed a key Russian foreign policy objective — keeping Syria together as a unitary state and maintaining the Russian foothold in the Middle East.

"Assad has not been doing well for a long time, so that leads me to believe they (the Russians) saw something lately that made them think things were getting considerably worse, and they had to intervene," said Eugene Rumer, director of the Carnegie Endowment Russia and Eurasia program.

Holding together the status quo has played heavily in Kremlin foreign policy reaching deep into the past. And the logic of Mideast and North African developments — the centrifugal spinning apart of Iraq and Libya, for example — was deeply unnerving to Moscow.

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AP: Lax culture, supervision, policies common factors in officer sex misconduct incidents

WEST SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — As darkness falls, the most tattered section of this town's main drag feels more desperate with each passing hour. Under the cover of night, a slow but steady flow of wandering souls emerges — addicts, prostitutes, drifters. Sergio Alvarez knew the pickings were easy.

As a rookie officer on the West Sacramento police force, Alvarez was assigned to the overnight shift on a beat that included West Capitol Avenue. He volunteered to stay on late-night duty and, over his nearly six years on the job, he gained seniority and almost always patrolled alone. With the solitude came opportunity.

"That's where Alvarez falls through the cracks," said Sacramento attorney Justin Gingery, whose firm represented four of eight women who said they were sexually assaulted by the officer, many in a dark alley near "West Cap." Convicted last year of kidnapping five of those women and either raping them or

forcing them to perform oral sex, Alvarez is now serving 205 years to life in prison.

Alvarez is a poster child of a predator cop — and of the flaws in policies, technological glitches, and culture of policing that can allow such behavior to go unnoticed or unpunished until it's too late. His case prompted civil lawsuits over police procedures, with a total of \$4.1 million to be paid to six victims who sued, and left a new chief taking a hard look at the way the department does business.

"It hurts the heart to see victims. But it makes it even worse when you are, in one way, shape or form, a contributing factor to them being hurt," said Tom McDonald, a former captain for the Los Angeles Police Department who took over in West Sacramento after Alvarez's arrest.

Questions, answers about the issue of officer sex misconduct

A yearlong Associated Press investigation illuminated the problem of sex crimes and sexual misconduct committed by law enforcement officers in the United States. Below are some questions and answers about the issue, and steps officials have taken to address it:

Q: How big a problem is this?

A: Sexual misconduct is a common reason why law enforcement officers lose their licenses to work, in a process known as decertification. Of some 9,000 decertification cases assembled from 41 states, the AP found about 1,000 officers who lost their licenses for sex-related conduct from 2009 through 2014. Most certainly there are even more than that, because some states did not provide records and others, including New York and California, said they did not decertify officers for misconduct and kept no official tally of officer wrongdoing.

Phil Stinson, a researcher at Bowling Green State University, analyzed news articles between 2005 and 2011 and found that sex-related cases were the third-most common reason that officers were arrested, behind violence and profit-motivated crimes. Cato Institute reports released in 2009 and 2010 found sex misconduct the No. 2 complaint against officers, behind excessive force. The federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, which collects police data from across the country, doesn't track officer arrests.

In conversation about policing, Obama identifies with the policed

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Barack Obama has toured the country in a recent push for a criminal justice overhaul, he's worried publicly about the possibility of his daughters' teenage rebellion. He's mused about his own drug use as a wayward youth. He's told stories of being pulled over for speeding — and not always deserving the ticket.

In the national conversation about crime and punishment, Obama hasn't been afraid to identify with the people being policed, as well as with the police.

It's a remarkable shift in tone after decades of politicians worrying more about being labeled soft on crime than too hard on criminals. Previous presidents have talked tough on the topic and heaped praise on police. They've rarely woven in personal encounters with the law.

Obama, speaking to police chiefs in Chicago last week, praised police for their work but also called for "serious and robust debate over fairness in law enforcement." He used himself as an example.

"There were times when I was younger and maybe even as I got a little older, but before I had a motorcade — where I got pulled over," Obama told the crowd. "Most of the time I got a ticket, I deserved it. I knew why I was pulled over. But there were times where I didn't."

Centuries of complicated history bubble beneath surface as S. Korean, Japanese leaders meet

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Thousands of years of deeply complicated history bubbled beneath the surface images of handshakes and flashing cameras Monday at the first formal meeting of Japanese and South Korean leaders in 3½ years.

The two Asian heavyweights' relationship is so unique, so vexing, that the major accomplishment of the

summit, which included a three-way meeting Sunday with China's premier, was simply Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye rising, for now, above past disputes and agreeing to meet again.

More talk, in a cordial, formal setting, is no small result for these two often bickering neighbors. Here then is a look at five things that unite and divide Japan and South Korea:

Palestinian lawyer says tear gas kick captured in iconic photo shows extent of frustration

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — One of the most memorable images of the current Israeli-Palestinian confrontations shows a young Palestinian lawyer in dark shades, a suit and formal legal robe as he kicks away an Israeli tear gas canister, his legs flying high above billowing white gas.

Part of the appeal is the unexpected: Palestinians clashing with Israeli soldiers are typically masked stone-throwers in scruffy jeans, not nattily dressed professionals.

But Hassan Ajaj, the lawyer, believes the Oct. 12 image by Associated Press photographer Majdi Mohammed — with more than 1.8 million views on one photo-sharing site alone — also resonated because his spontaneous act of defiance expressed the extent of Palestinian frustration.

Many Palestinians say five decades of Israeli occupation hover like a dark cloud over every part of life, with Israeli restrictions imposed on even the most mundane activities people elsewhere take for granted, such as being able to drive to a beach or fly from the nearest airport.

"It shows that as a Palestinian lawyer, I am part of my people, part of the Palestinian wish for liberation," said Ajaj, 26, speaking in an interview Saturday at a rooftop restaurant owned by his well-to-do family in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Former Sen., actor Fred Thompson, from politics to Hollywood and back again, dies at 73

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Bouncing from politics to the big screen and back, Fred Thompson played many roles well and those who knew him say the folksy former U.S. senator won't soon be forgotten for his impact on American life and the arts. He died Sunday at age 73.

A Tennessee-trained lawyer, prosecutor, hard-driving Senate counsel at the Watergate hearings, movie and TV actor and even a fleeting presidential hopeful, Thompson commanded audiences with a booming voice, oversized charisma and a 6-foot-6 frame.

"Very few people can light up the room the way Fred Thompson did," said U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn. "He used his magic as a lawyer, actor, Watergate counsel, and United States senator to become one of our country's most principled and effective public servants."

Thompson, who appeared in feature films and television, including a role on the NBC drama series "Law & Order," died in Nashville after a recurrence of lymphoma, his family said.

Thompson appeared in at least 20 motion pictures. His credits include "In the Line of Fire," "The Hunt for Red October," "Die Hard II" and "Cape Fear." By the early 1990s, Thompson said he had become bored with his 10-year stint in Hollywood and wanted to go into public service. That's when he headed back to Nashville and embarked on a successful run for the Senate.

Crown 'em! Royals win first World Series title since 1985; rally in 9th, beat Mets 7-2 in 12

NEW YORK (AP) — They worked all season to take one more step in the World Series.

Eric Hosmer wouldn't wait any longer.

A daring dash by Hosmer tied the score in the ninth, and those bound-and-determined Kansas City Roy-

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als rallied yet again to beat the New York Mets 7-2 in 12 innings early Monday for their first championship since 1985.

One agonizing win from ecstasy last year, this time the Royals reign after their latest incredible comeback and a go-ahead hit in Game 5 from Christian Colon, maybe the most unlikely player in uniform.

So go ahead and crown 'em, Kansas City! The job is finally done.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 2, the 306th day of 2015. There are 59 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 2, 1865, the 29th president of the United States, Warren Gamaliel Harding, was born near Marion, Ohio.

On this date:

In 1795, the 11th president of the United States, James Knox Polk, was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

In 1889, North Dakota and South Dakota became the 39th and 40th states with the signing of proclamations by President Benjamin Harrison.

In 1914, during World War I, Russia declared war on the Ottoman Empire.

In 1936, the British Broadcasting Corp. inaugurated "high-definition" television service from Alexandra Palace in London.

In 1947, Howard Hughes piloted his huge wooden flying boat, the Hughes H-4 Hercules (derisively dubbed the "Spruce Goose" by detractors), on its only flight, which lasted about a minute over Long Beach Harbor in California.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman surprised the experts by winning a narrow upset over Republican challenger Thomas E. Dewey.

In 1950, playwright George Bernard Shaw, 94, died in Ayot St. Lawrence, Hertfordshire, England.

In 1963, South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem (noh ding ZEE'-em) was assassinated in a military coup.

In 1979, black militant JoAnne Chesimard escaped from a New Jersey prison, where she'd been serving a life sentence for the 1973 slaying of New Jersey state trooper Werner Foerster. (Chesimard, who took the name Assata Shakur, is believed to be living in Cuba.)

In 1984, Velma Barfield, convicted of fatally poisoning boyfriend Stuart Taylor, was put to death by injection in Raleigh, North Carolina, becoming the first woman executed in the United States since 1962.

In 1994, a jury in Pensacola, Florida, convicted Paul Hill of murder for the shotgun slayings of abortion provider Dr. John Britton and Britton's bodyguard; Hill was executed in September 2003.

In 2000, an American astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts became the first residents of the international space station, christening it Alpha.

Ten years ago: The Bush administration released details of its potential flu pandemic strategy, saying a pandemic that hit the United States would force cities to ration scarce drugs and vaccine and house the sick in hotels or schools if hospitals were to overflow. A Detroit church packed with 4,000 mourners celebrated the life of Rosa Parks in an impassioned, song-filled funeral.

Five years ago: Republicans won control of the House of Representatives, picking up 63 seats in mid-term elections, while Democrats retained a majority in the Senate; Republican governors outnumbered Democrats after gaining six states. Californians rejected a ballot measure that would have made their state the first to legalize marijuana for recreational use. Surfing champion Andy Irons, 32, was found dead in a Dallas-area hotel room. (An autopsy found that Irons had died from sudden cardiac arrest due to severe blockage of a main artery.)

One year ago: Islamic State group extremists shot dead at least 50 Iraqi men, women and children from the same Sunni tribe. A Taliban suicide bomber killed 60 in an attack on a paramilitary checkpoint

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in Pakistan close to the Wagah border crossing with India. Kenya's Wilson Kipsang and Mary Keitany won the New York City Marathon. (Kipsang finished in 2:10:55 - while Keitany won the women's race in 2:25:07.) Daredevil Nik Wallenda wowed Chicago and the world with two hair-raising skyscraper crossings on high wires without a safety net or a harness. Jazz clarinetist Acker Bilk, 85, died in Bath, England.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jay Black (Jay and the Americans) is 77. Political commentator Patrick Buchanan is 77. Actress Stefanie Powers is 73. Author Shere (shehr) Hite is 73. Rock musician Keith Emerson (Emerson, Lake and Palmer) is 71. Country-rock singer-songwriter J.D. Souther is 70. Actress Kate Linder is 68. Rock musician Carter Beauford (The Dave Matthews Band) is 58. Actor Peter Mullan is 56. Singer-songwriter k.d. lang is 54. Rock musician Bobby Dall (Poison) is 52. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage is 51. Actress Lauren Velez is 51. Actor Sean Kanan is 49. Actor David Schwimmer is 49. Christian/jazz singer Alvin Chea (Take 6) is 48. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is 48. Rock singer-musician Neal Casal is 47. Rock musician Fieldy is 46. Actress Meta Golding is 44. Rock singer-musician John Hampson (Nine Days) is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Timothy Christian Riley (Tony Toni Tone) is 41. Rapper Nelly is 41. Prodigy (Mobb Deep) is 41. Actor Danny Cooksey is 40. Rock musician Chris Walla is 40. Country singer Erika Jo is 29. Actor-singer Kendall Schmidt is 25.

Thought for Today: "Our most dangerous tendency is to expect too much of government, and at the same time do for it too little." - President Warren G. Harding (1865-1923).