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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.

Birthdays: • Lon Craig • Violet Moore • Lori Craig Webb • Parker Rossow • Carla Kjelden

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

8:30am: MathCounts at Roncalli

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle

6:45pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

Thursday, November 5

School Breakfast: Egg cheese omelet, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, garlic toast, romaine salad.

Senior Menu: Roast beef, potatoes, carrots and onions, gravy, peaches, multi-grain dinner roll.

Anniversary: Charles & Virginia Meister

Birthdays: Derek Carr • Jodi Sternhagen

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran India Circle

2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

6:00pm: Region VB at Milbank (2 matches)

Friday, November 6

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll,



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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MCKIVER COLLISION
Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!
13556 400th Ave., Groton SD 57445
Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404

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Bevitized: Celebrating the Little Things



by Beverly Patterson

There is a gnat keeping me company at the moment. It's probably one of the smallest I have ever seen in my entire life which is making it incredibly hard to catch between my two outstretched palms. A few seconds ago it landed on the computer screen giving me an opportunity to remove it from my presence but I didn't. I sat there and stared at it. It started hovering around my screen again and it will most likely drive me bananas but a part of me sat here completely amazed at how something so tiny could be alive and have wings and the ability to dodge two palms more than a dozen time that were several hundred times larger.

Some may find it odd but there are a lot of little things in this world that amaze me. I'm not always tickled pink about them, especially if they're a microscopic gnat that continues to dance around in my face but there are just a whole lot of fascinating details provided to us daily that are incredibly easy to miss out on if we're not willing to give up a small amount of our time. Have you ever set aside a few minutes to sit down with your niece to watch how her pet butterfly sucks sugar water out of a napkin? It's so cool. And have you ever tasted the nectar at the bottom of a honeysuckle blossom? It's sweeter than you would ever believe. Have you ever had

your mother tell you that she really wonders if you'll ever look old when you were two weeks away from celebrating your 50th birthday? It's something I'll never forget. And have you ever sent someone a text that read, "Have I told you lately...." and before you had a chance to send the second text with the rest of that thought, you receive a text that says "I love you more!"

It's easy to get caught up in the day to day struggles and juggles life has a tendency to deliver but it doesn't mean there isn't time to slow the pace, break the rules, really listen to what someone has to say every once in awhile and maybe, just maybe, let someone finish your sentences. It might end up revealing one of the sweetest, box-less, unwrapped, untied, bow-less gifts you'll ever receive!



11th Annual **Oakes, ND** Craft & Merchant Fair Saturday, November 7, 2015

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

Sponsored by:
Oakes Area Chamber
of Commerce

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

Oakes High School

Both Gyms Full...
with many NEW Vendors!

Admission: \$1
(6 and under free)

Concessions by
Sweets & Stories

Door Prizes
Throughout Event!



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Region 1A Volleyball Tournament

#1 Sisseton

Scores:

Date: 11-5-2015
 Time: 6:00 PM / Match 4
 Site: Milbank Armory

Scores:

Groton Area

Scores:

Date: 11-10-2015
 Time: 7:00
 Site: Milbank Armory

CHAMPION

State Qualifier

School	Seed Pts.
Sisseton	42.13
Milbank Area	41.92
Webster Area	40.48
Groton Area	40.32
Aberdeen Roncalli	40.00
Britton-Hecla	36.95
Tiospa Zina	36.21

#4 Groton Area

Scores: 14 24 **25 25 15**

Date: 11-3-2015
 Time: 20 minutes after Match 2
 Site: Milbank Armory

Scores: **25 26** 23 22 10

#5 Aberdeen Roncalli

#3 Webster Area

Scores: **25 25 25**

Date: 11-3-2015
 Time: 20 minutes after Match 1
 Site: Milbank Armory

Scores: 17 21 14

Webster Area

Scores:

Date: 11-5-2015
 Time: 20 minutes after Match 4
 Site: Milbank Armory

Scores:

Milbank Area

#6 Britton-Hecla

#2 Milbank Area

Scores: **25 25 25**

Date: 11-3-2015
 Time: 4:30 / Match 1
 Site: Milbank Armory

Scores: 7 8 10

#7 Tiospa Zina

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The various city department heads gave their reports at the council meeting Tuesday night. Pictured left to right are Shawn Lambertz, Terry Herron, Dwight Zerr and Stacy Mayou. Council members are (not pictured on the left is Burt Glover), David Blackmun, Jay Peterson, finance officer Anita Lowary, Mayor Scott Hanlon, city attorney Drew Johnson, Eddy Opp and Mary Flihs. David McGannon is out of town.

City getting ready for winter

The city's public works department is getting ready for winter. Twenty ton of salt and 120 ton of salt sand were ordered and then mixed together. Terry Herron said this is the most he has ordered in a few years.

Dwight Zerr said that once all of the leaves are all down, the streets will be swept one more time.

Shawn Lambertz reported that there are 21 places around town where trees need to be trimmed from the electrical service lines on private property. The council decided to send out a letter to those 21 people about trimming trees in the power line on private property. There would be no charge to trim the trees around the power lines. If they property owner does not allow it and a branch falls on the service line and it comes down, then the property owner will be responsible for the repair charges.

Police Chief Stacy Mayou reported that the 2012 Tahoe is now in need of a new transmission. This is the same vehicle that the rear end had to be replaced last year. The estimate cost to replace it is \$3,800 at Groton Ford. The council decided to install a rebuilt transmission.

Perry Huber requested a reduction in his sewer charges. During a two month period over the winter, he had a leaky toilet. His new sewer rate is \$13 a month. He requested a \$3.75 per month reduction. Since he was unable to provide a plumber's bill of repair, the council denied the request.

A request to sell Carnival of Silver Skates merchandise at the warming house was denied. It was stated that they can have a form there for people to order merchandise, but the city does not want the responsibility of handling their money.

After an executive session, the council gave Dan Sunne a positive review after his six-month probation and gave him a \$2 an hour raise.

A decorative advertisement for "Fall Annual Ladies Night" at "Olde Bank Floral 'N More". The background features a light-colored floral pattern. The text is arranged as follows:

- Top: "Fall Annual" in a script font, followed by "Ladies Night" in a large, elegant script font.
- Left side: "Designer Fashions" in a small font, followed by "50-75% off" in a bold font, and "with Deb Gengerke & new fall fashions showing" in a smaller font.
- Bottom left: "Hors d'oeuvre" and "Wine Tasting" in a small font.
- Center: A shield-shaped logo with a decorative border containing the text "Olde Bank Floral 'N More" in a stylized font.
- Right side: "10-30% discount" in a bold font, followed by "on regular priced merchandise" and "-some exclusions apply" in a smaller font.
- Bottom right: "Up to 50-75% off" in a bold font, followed by "select merchandise with several new markdowns" in a smaller font.

Friday, November 6th - 5-8 pm

101 N. Main St.
Groton, SD
605-397-8650

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Give a little

TENDERNESS[®]



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



Perfect Gifts
GUARANTEED

Happy Family Celebration

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

Reg. \$209.91 | Now Only **\$49⁹⁹**

PLUS, 4 more
Burgers
FREE!



Conde National League

Nov. 2 Team Standings: Mets 12 1/2, Cubs 12, Pirates 10, Braves 10, Giants 9, Colts 6 1/2

Men's High Scores: Larry Frohling 205, Troy Lindberg 199, Topper Tastad 184

Men's High Series: Troy Lindberg 488, Larry Frohling 473, Topper Tastad 430

Women's High Scores: Joyce Walter 180, 165; Mary Larson 175, 175; Nancy Radke 164

Women's High Series: Joyce Walter 507, Mary Larson 481, Deb Fredrickson 432

Netters beat Roncalli in thriller match

Groton Area trailed Aberdeen Roncalli, 2-0, in the first round of the Region 1A volleyball tournament held Monday in Milbank. The Cavaliers won the first two games, 25-14 and 26-24. Then Groton Area battled back, winning the third game, 25-23, the fourth game, 25-22 and the fifth game, 15-10.

Groton Area was 84 of 102 in serving with eight ace serves. Audrey Wanner was 13 of 17 with three ace serves and Marlee Jones was 22 of 24 with two ace serves.

In sets, Groton Area was 156 of 156 with 35 assists. Marlee Jones had 139 sets and all 35 assists.

In spikes, the Tigers were 118 of 132 with 46 kills, Carly Wheeting was 37 of 39 with 20 kills and Audrey Wanner was 33 of 39 with nine kills.

Katie Koehler had 30 digs and Wanner had 14 as the Tigers had a total of 87 digs.

Josie Doeden and Gia Gengerke each had three blocks.

Groton Area will play Sisseton in the next round on Thursday at Milbank with the match starting at 6 p.m. The second match will feature Webster Area and Milbank Area.

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

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

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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

**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 4, 1992: Significant snow blanketed much of the state except the southwest between November 1st and November 4th. The snow and slush caused numerous minor traffic accidents and further delayed the fall harvest in many areas. The greatest snowfall amounts included over a foot in north central and northeast South Dakota, and the northern Black Hills, with generally 3 to 7 inches reported elsewhere. Some of the more significant storm total snowfall reports were 25.2 inches at Lead, 15 inches at Eureka, 14 inches near Summit, 13 inches near Victor, 12.6 inches at Roscoe, and 12 inches in Leola and 23 mile north of Highmore.

1935: Called the Yankee Hurricane, a Category 2 hurricane that affected the Bahamas and South Florida remains the only tropical cyclone to hit Miami from the northeast in November.

1985: Heavy rains from the remnants of tropical storm Juan dropped 10 to 19 inches of rain on West Virginia and surrounding states, causing 62 deaths. A maximum of 19.77 inches was recorded near Montebello in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The flood in West Virginia was considered the worst in the State's history.

1927 - A great Vermont flood occurred. Tropical rains deluged the Green Mountain area of Vermont causing the worst flood in the history of the state. Torrential rains, up to 15 inches in the higher elevations, sent streams on a rampage devastating the Winooski Valley. Flooding claimed 200 lives and caused 40 million dollars damage. The town of Vernon reported 84 deaths. Flooding left up to eight to ten feet of water in downtown Montpelier VT. (2nd-4th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A super wet Gulf storm dumped upwards of fifteen inches of rain in the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia causing devastating damage and claiming forty lives. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)


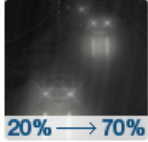





1987 - Thirty-two cities in the eastern and south central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 74 degrees at Portland ME and 86 degrees at Fort Smith AR equalled November records. It was the fourth day of record warmth for Beckley WV, Memphis TN and Paducah KY. A cold front ushered much colder air into the north central U.S. Gale force winds lashed all five Great Lakes. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a fast moving cold front produced severe weather over the Tennessee Valley and the Central Gulf Coast States during the afternoon and evening hours, and into the next morning. Thunderstorms spawned nineteen tornadoes, including eleven in Mississippi. The last of the nineteen tornadoes killed a woman in her mobile home in Lee FL. A tornado in Culbert AL injured sixteen people, and caused two million dollars damage. Thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail in Alabama. Unseasonably hot air prevailed south of the cold front. McAllen TX was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds plagued parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Winds gusted to 71 mph near Wheatland WY, and reached 80 mph west of Fort Collins CO. Up to five inches of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY closing many roads. Snow also blanketed northern Minnesota, with seven inches reported at Baudette. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Patchy Fog then Partly Sunny	Slight Chance Rain then Rain Likely 20% → 70%	Rain Likely 70%	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 60 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 43 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 47 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 49 °F



Precipitation Behind Front Tonight

Follow us on Social Media

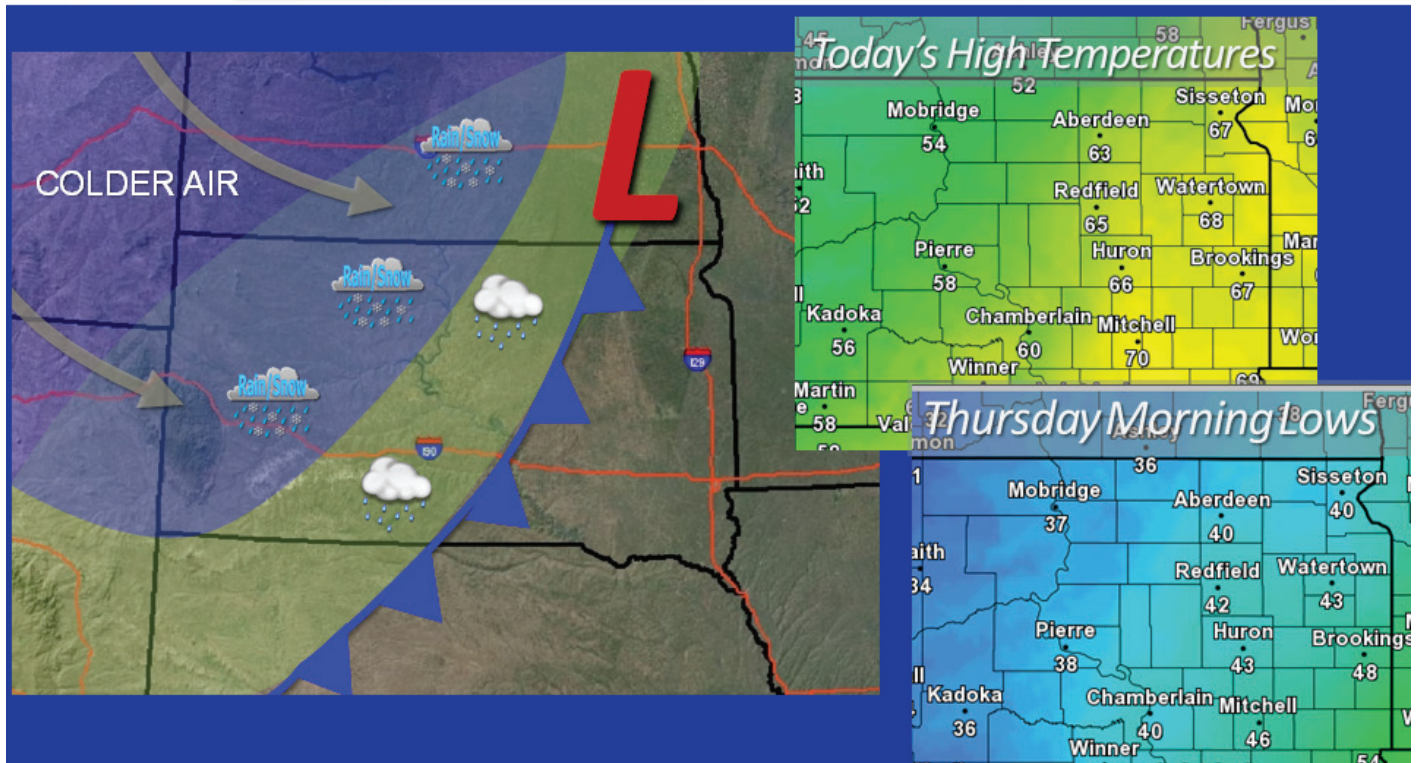
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 11/04/2015 at 4:39AM

A slow moving cold front will track across the region today, bringing clouds and fog to much of the area this morning. Light rain is expected behind this front, spreading northeast across the region, mainly after midnight tonight. As the cold air filters in, there could be a brief rain snow mix across parts of the western and central Dakotas by early Thursday morning. Little to no snow accumulation is expected. Precipitation will gradually end on Thursday, with cooler, but still seasonal, temperatures expected.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 69.4 at 2:13 PM

Low: 41.3 at 5:32 AM

High Gust: 20 at 11:08 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 78° in 1975

Record Low: -2° in 1991

Average High: 47°F

Average Low: 25°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.12

Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.59

Precip Year to Date: 19.11

Sunset Tonight: 5:16 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:18 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Nov 04, 2015, issued 4:14 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

He was a sickly child. Learning to read and write was a difficult task. But as he grew older, he wanted to learn everything he could. So, he forced himself to master difficult subjects. In fact, he is respected and honored as a theologian, philosopher, organist, physician, medical missionary, founder of a hospital in Africa and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952.

When he announced to his friends that the Lord called him to become a missionary to Africa, they were shocked. "Don't waste your life," they begged. But Dr. and Mrs. Albert Schweitzer refused to let their pleas of their friends overcome God's call and His plan for them. They labored as missionaries for fifty years, accomplishing much for God.

In Mark's Gospel Jesus assured His disciples that anyone who gave up anything for His sake would be repaid a "hundred times over" in this life, including a new family – the family of God and His children! What we gain by following the call of Jesus may not be more of what we once had, but the satisfaction of knowing Him and receiving His blessings and serving Him far outweigh any earthly loss.

And He continues by saying, "And you will also have eternal life." Imagine, if you can – His presence, peace and promises now and being with Him in health in the life to come.

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for calling each of us to a life of service. May everything we do bring others to You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Mark 10:29-31 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time..."

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News from the Associated Press

No urban deer hunt in Pierre this year due to low numbers

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's capital city will not have an urban deer hunt this year.

Pierre's City Commission voted Tuesday night to accept the recommendation of the city's Deer Management Task Force that culling deer won't be necessary due to low numbers of the animals.

City Commissioner Jamie Huizenga says deer used to be a tremendous nuisance in Pierre. In 2007 there were more than 120 of them counted. But the 2011 Missouri River flood displaced them and greatly reduced their numbers.

A survey last month counted fewer than 70, with most of them near the edge of the city.

Urban deer hunts have been done in Pierre since 2007, with the exception of 2011 and last year.

Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

Volleyball

District 1AA

Semifinal

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Brookings, 25-20, 25-19, 25-15

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Watertown, 17-25, 24-26, 25-17, 25-11, 15-13

District 2AA

District Semifinal

Brandon Valley def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-13, 25-18, 25-12

Harrisburg def. Sioux Falls Washington, 25-20, 25-20, 25-21

District 3AA

Semifinal

Aberdeen Central def. Mitchell, 25-12, 25-11, 25-9

Huron def. Pierre, 25-18, 18-25, 25-23, 25-13

District 4AA

Semifinal

Rapid City Central def. Douglas, 25-18, 25-12, 25-19

Rapid City Stevens def. Sturgis, 25-5, 25-8, 25-11

Region 1A

First Round

Groton Area def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 14-25, 24-26, 25-23, 25-22, 15-10

Milbank Area def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-7, 25-8, 25-10

Webster def. Britton-Hecla, 25-17, 25-21, 25-14

Region 2A

First Round

Clark/Willow Lake def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-14, 25-16, 25-14

Hamlin def. Deuel, 25-21, 25-21, 25-17

Region 3A

First Round

Baltic def. Garretson, 25-22, 25-14, 25-16

Flandreau def. Dell Rapids, 25-11, 25-20, 25-13

Madison def. Flandreau Indian, 25-9, 25-8, 25-6

Region 4A

First Round

Beresford def. Canton, 25-14, 25-16, 25-16

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Lennox def. Vermillion, 22-25, 25-11, 25-16, 18-25, 15-11

Tea Area def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-20, 25-19, 25-23

Region 5A

First Round

McCook Central/Montrose def. Bon Homme, 25-20, 26-24, 25-14

Wagner def. Parkston, 25-12, 25-20, 25-16

West Central def. Tri-Valley, 17-25, 25-21, 25-22, 21-25, 15-11

Region 6A

First Round

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Stanley County, 25-17, 25-23, 12-25, 26-24

McLaughlin def. Chamberlain, 25-17, 25-13, 25-18

Miller def. Crow Creek, 25-9, 25-10, 25-12

Region 8A

First Round

Custer def. Hill City, 25-16, 25-14, 25-19

Lead-Deadwood def. St. Thomas More, 25-21, 25-16, 23-25, 25-18

Spearfish def. Hot Springs, 25-19, 25-16, 25-8

District 1B

First Round

Waverly-South Shore def. Rosholt, 26-24, 25-17, 25-13

District 2B

First Round

Langford def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-20, 22-25, 25-10, 25-19

District 3B

First Round

Faulkton def. Ipswich, 25-19, 25-17, 25-14

Herreid/Selby Area def. Edmunds Central, 25-5, 25-8, 25-8

District 4B

First Round

Sunshine Bible Academy def. Lower Brule, 25-3, 25-11, 25-6

District 5B

First Round

Castlewood def. Lake Preston, 25-9, 25-12, 25-16

DeSmet def. Estelline, 25-15, 25-17, 25-20

Semifinal

Arlington def. DeSmet, 25-17, 25-21, 25-10

Castlewood def. Deubrook, 25-16, 25-21, 25-21

District 6B

First Round

Wessington Springs def. Iroquois, 25-8, 25-16, 25-21

District 7B

First Round

Colman-Egan def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-17, 25-19, 25-8

Semifinal

Chester def. Colman-Egan, 25-10, 25-8, 25-4

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 24-26, 25-14, 25-23, 25-21

District 8B

First Round

Howard def. Bridgewater-Emery, 21-25, 25-11, 25-17, 25-16

Mitchell Christian def. Canistota, 25-19, 25-17, 25-16

District 9B

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First Round

Menno def. Freeman, 25-15, 25-18, 25-9

Scotland def. Marion, 25-19, 25-16, 25-27, 29-27

District 10B

First Round

Viborg-Hurley def. Centerville, 25-11, 25-6, 25-16

Semifinal

Gayville-Volin def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-20, 25-21, 25-17

Irene-Wakonda def. Alcester-Hudson, 7-25, 25-10, 16-25, 25-21, 15-12

District 11B

First Round

Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-21, 25-18, 25-12

District 12B

First Round

Gregory def. Marty Indian, 25-15, 25-11, 25-7

District 13B

First Round

Jones County def. Crazy Horse, 25-7, 25-7, 25-9

Semifinal

Jones County def. White River, 17-25, 20-25, 25-22, 25-19, 15-12

Lyman def. Kadoka Area, 25-17, 25-14, 25-13

District 14B

First Round

Oelrichs def. Edgemont, 25-18, 25-21, 23-25, 25-15

Rapid City Christian def. New Underwood, 23-25, 25-20, 25-14, 11-25, 15-10

District 15B

First Round

Dupree def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-16, 22-25, 23-25, 25-9, 15-8

District 16B

First Round

Newell def. Takini, 3-0

Investigation: SD business manager killed wife, 4 kids, self

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

PLATTE, S.D. (AP) — Financial issues appear to have contributed to an educational cooperative business manager's decision to kill his wife and four children with a shotgun before setting the family home ablaze and then shooting himself, South Dakota's attorney general said Tuesday.

Attorney General Marty Jackley released the results of his office's investigation of the September deaths at a news conference in Platte, a few miles north of the burned ruins of the home where the bodies of Scott and Nicole Westerhuis and their children Kailey, Jaeci, Connor and Michael were found.

Their deaths occurred just hours after the state Department of Education informed Mid-Central Educational Cooperative that it was losing a \$4.3 million federal contract for GEAR UP, a program that seeks to improve Native Americans' college readiness, because of financial problems and accounting failures.

Jackley said the financial concerns were likely a factor in what occurred, but that he could not go into detail about an ongoing state-federal financial investigation that he disclosed at the news conference. He declined to comment on a timeline for that inquiry.

Scott Westerhuis served as Mid-Central's business manager, and the co-op employed Nicole Westerhuis as assistant business manager.

The family tragedy has gripped the town of about 1,200 people, and about 150 residents packed a Main

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Street community center to listen to the findings of the investigation. Some questioned Jackley on how the fire engulfed the home so quickly and whether authorities found any sedatives in Nicole Westerhuis or the children.

"Those four kids were wonderful children, and we miss them very much," resident Kristi Pheifer said from the front row. "I just want people to know that they were wonderful kids that did not deserve to get shot and burned."

Jackley said the investigation found no evidence that Nicole Westerhuis or any other party was responsible for the deaths. No soot was found in the airways of any of the six bodies, meaning all died before the fire engulfed the house, he added.

Authorities didn't find sedatives in Nicole Westerhuis or the children, he said, and it doesn't appear Scott Westerhuis was under the influence of illegal drugs at the time.

Firefighters were called to the home near Platte early on Sept. 17 after a passer-by reported the blaze, but the home was fully engulfed by the time they arrived. Five days later, Jackley announced that the state Division of Criminal Investigation found evidence of a murder-suicide.

The wreckage of the burned-out home remains on the property. Four pumpkins bearing the names of the Westerhuis children sit beside a "no trespassing" sign with caution tape still wrapped around it.

Jackley said authorities interviewed 26 people, gathered physical evidence for forensic testing, examined phone and text message records and studied medical and autopsy reports. He said investigators found a .12-gauge pump shotgun at the scene with a fired round that had not been cycled through.

An ATF-registered dog found evidence of a fire accelerant, he said.

Jackley said investigators confirmed through telephone records and follow-up that Scott Westerhuis spoke to someone on the phone about the GEAR UP contract the evening before the fire. Scott Swier, an attorney for Mid-Central, said in an email that Westerhuis and Mid-Central Director Dan Guericke spoke about the contract that evening.

Telephone records also show that someone using the family's land line called Nicole Westerhuis' cell-phone at about 3 a.m. on the morning of the fire, which was reported about 5:35 a.m. The content of that 43-second call remains unclear, Jackley said.

Authorities have been unable to locate a safe believed to have been in the house. Jackley said it's likely the safe was destroyed in the fire, but it could have been stolen or moved to another location.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has asked Jackley to look beyond Westerhuis for evidence of wrongdoing in the administration of GEAR UP. Jackley declined to name the federal agency working with state authorities in the financial inquiry, which he said was related to GEAR UP.

A separate inquiry by state Auditor General Martin Guindon is looking deeper at Mid-Central and potentially other organizations that worked with the cooperative.

Large-scale exercise set next month in bomber training site

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The first large-scale exercise in a huge bomber training area over the Northern Plains is scheduled for early next month.

The exercise is set Dec. 2-3 in the 35,000-square-mile Powder River Training Complex over the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming, according to Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

The exercise "is designed to train aircrew under realistic scenarios," and people in the region can expect to see many different types of aircraft in the sky, the Air Force said. Non-military aircraft are urged to check Federal Aviation Administration notices and avoid areas where the military planes will be flying.

The Air Force has said previously that as many as 88 civilian flights a day could be delayed when large-scale exercises are conducted.

"This type of training is limited to 10 days each year, with each exercise lasting no more than three days, and (will) only occur once every three months," the Ellsworth statement said.

The FAA in March approved the plan to roughly quadruple the training airspace, making it the largest over the continental U.S. The move came over the objections of some people in the region who worry

about military planes disrupting civilian flights, rural communities and ranching operations. Advocates say it will boost military training while reducing costs.

The airspace will primarily be used by B-1 bombers from Ellsworth and B-52 bombers from Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. The first flights in the expanded training area occurred in mid-September.

NBC's Al Roker to stop in SD, ND in world record attempt

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — NBC's Al Roker will be in North Dakota and South Dakota next week as he attempts to set the world record for the fastest time ever for reporting the weather from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Roker will kick off his world record attempt Friday in Hawaii and plans to hit all states and D.C. in just one week. He will be in Fargo, North Dakota, and Sioux Falls on Monday.

Roker will travel by planes, trains and automobiles. Roker's weather reports will air across NBC platforms, including local affiliates, which in southeast South Dakota is KDLT-TV.

Last year, Roker completed a 34-hour marathon weather forecast that was certified by Guinness World Records as the longest continuous live weather broadcast.

Husband of ex-day care provider gets probation on meth case

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The husband of a former in-home day care operator in Sioux Falls has been sentenced to three years of probation for his role in a methamphetamine operation that was run out of their child care center.

Judge Robin Houwman on Tuesday handed down a suspended sentence to 33-year-old Adam Darger, who earlier pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance and maintaining a place where drugs are kept, sold or used.

Darger and his wife, Jennifer, were arrested in March after a tip from her daughter led police to search their home. She was ordered to spend five years in prison Wednesday.

Minnehaha County State's Attorney Aaron McGowan says officers found a loaded shotgun and drug price lists on Adam Darger's truck. A urine test also showed meth in his system.

Sioux Falls Council clears the way for ride-hailing services

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — City Council members in Sioux Falls have approved rules to enable ride-hailing services such as Uber to operate in the city.

The decision isn't popular with taxicab and limousine drivers who feel they aren't being treated fairly. But Councilman Dean Karsky says it fosters free enterprise.

The council on Monday voted 7-1 to establish a separate category in the city's vehicle-for-hire ordinance and a unique licensing system for services that use cellphone apps to connect drivers with ride-seekers.

Those drivers won't need an individual city license like traditional cabbies, but a service such as Uber will need a \$1,500 license to cover anyone driving for them. They also must do background checks on drivers, and would have to submit license numbers for drivers to the city once a month for oversight purposes.

The new rules also remove a requirement that drivers-for-hire get their vehicles inspected yearly by a certified mechanic, though self-inspections would be mandatory.

Tallie Kinsley, co-owner of Yellow Cab, said that having different sets of rules for traditional taxi companies and ride-hailing services creates an unfair advantage.

"It's detrimental to my business," Kinsley said. "They are competing directly against us in our industry without having to follow the rules."

Uber spokeswoman Jaime Moore said the new rules open the door for services to come to Sioux Falls, but said there's no timeline at this point. The company said earlier this year that previous rules could prevent it from launching in the city.

Moore said in an email that Uber looks "forward to continuing to work with the city."

Keystone backers look to Obama's successor to make the call

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The company pleading for permission to build the Keystone XL pipeline looked beyond President Barack Obama on Tuesday in apparent hopes a future Republican president would greenlight the project. But the administration signaled it was in no mood to hand off the decision to the winner of the 2016 election.

TransCanada insisted its request for the U.S. to suspend its review of the proposed project had nothing to do with presidential politics even though a delay could thrust the decision a year or more into the future, likely putting it in the hands of Obama's successor. Questioning the motivation for the Canadian energy giant's request, the White House said "there might be politics at play" and Obama still intended to make the decision.

It was an unusual reversal of roles for TransCanada, which complained bitterly for years about Obama's delays before suddenly requesting one of its own. Likewise, Obama's administration, after seven years of delay, seemed to discover a newfound sense of urgency when faced with the prospect of letting the next president make the call.

The State Department, the official arbiter of the pipeline permit, said it was considering TransCanada's new request but in the meantime the pipeline review would move forward unabated.

"We'd like to finish this review process as swiftly as possible," spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau said Tuesday. That was 2,601 days after TransCanada first proposed the \$8 billion project.

For TransCanada, a delay into 2017 might improve the prospects for approval — if a Republican wins the White House. The GOP presidential field is unanimous in its support for Keystone, while Obama has downplayed its benefits and emphasized environmental risks, setting up a high bar for approval.

All of the major Democratic candidates oppose it — including front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton, who oversaw the early phase of the pipeline review as Obama's first-term secretary of state.

Ahead of TransCanada's request, Keystone supporters had feared Obama would seize on a brief window between Canada's recent elections and the conclusion of global climate talks next month to kill the project in grand fashion, solidifying his environmental bona fides. Obama hopes to make a global climate pact the capstone of his environmental legacy and has sought to show aggressive action to curb carbon dioxide emissions as world leaders prepare to finalize an agreement in Paris.

For Obama, the 1,179-mile proposed pipeline has swelled over the years into a behemoth political hot potato. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama had sought to "shield this process from politics," but the president's many delays have only injected more politics and posturing into the national debate.

Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., a vocal Keystone supporter, said it would be inconsistent for Obama to reject TransCanada's request since the company has worked diligently to meet every legal and regulatory hurdle.

"Are they going to have a double standard here? They've held TransCanada up for almost seven years," Hoeven said in an interview.

While most cross-border pipelines take less than 18 months to approve or reject, Keystone's has dragged on since September 2008 — shortly before Obama was elected. In late 2011, Obama announced he would hold off until after the 2012 election, taking the issue off the table for his own re-election fight. When Congress tried to force his hand, he rejected the application but allowed TransCanada to re-apply.

As envisioned, Keystone XL would extend from Alberta's tar sands to Nebraska, where it will connect with existing pipelines carrying crude oil to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast. Another delay in 2014, ostensibly prompted by a dispute over the Nebraska route, further pushed the decision until after the 2014 midterm elections.

The pipeline has drawn intense ire from environmental groups who say it's inconsistent with Obama's goal to cut emissions and reduce dependency on fossil fuels. Yet Republicans, energy advocates and other supporters maintain it will create jobs and reduce U.S. reliance on Middle Eastern oil.

TransCanada cited the ongoing legal questions in Nebraska as the reason to delay.

However, the sense of urgency that for years characterized the company's approach may have fallen off recently amid a sharp drop in oil prices. Once topping \$100 a barrel, crude oil has fallen to less than \$50, making the business of extracting and transporting the product much less lucrative. By keeping a decision at bay for another year or more, TransCanada could await a potential resurgence in the price of oil while increasing its prospects for Keystone's approval.

But TransCanada CEO Russ Girling, in a conference call to discuss corporate earnings Tuesday, said Keystone remains economically viable for the company, noting that oil prices are about the same now as they were in 2008 when the company first applied.

Former police officer in SD convicted of rape of minor

CANTON, S.D. (AP) — A former police officer in South Dakota has been found guilty of raping a minor.

A jury in Lincoln County returned the verdict against Marty Banghart Tuesday. The Lincoln County State's Attorney's office says Banghart was found guilty of first-degree rape of a victim under the age of 13 and acquitted on accompanying charges.

Banghart previously worked as a police officer in Corsica and Centerville. He faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison.

Banghart is in custody at the Minnehaha County Jail. A sentencing hearing has not been scheduled.

It wasn't immediately clear Tuesday if Banghart has an attorney who could comment on the case.

Feds sue SD agency alleging discrimination against Natives

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Justice Department has filed a lawsuit against the South Dakota Department of Social Services alleging that it repeatedly discriminated against well-qualified Native American job applicants because of their race.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday in federal court in Rapid City states that over two years beginning in 2010, the state agency posted 18 specialist vacancies for its office on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, receiving nearly 40 percent of its applications from Native Americans. But, federal authorities say, the department hired 11 people who are white and only one Native American, and removed six other openings entirely.

The department's spokeswoman didn't immediately return a phone message seeking comment on the complaint.

The lawsuit asks the court to order the department to adopt a selection process that complies with federal law.

TransCanada denies politics behind Keystone delay request

ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — The head of the Canadian company behind the proposed Keystone XL pipeline denied Tuesday that political motivation drove its decision to ask the U.S. government to delay consideration of the project.

TransCanada's request that the State Department suspend its review of the Alberta-to-Texas pipeline could delay any decision until the next U.S. president takes office in 2017, potentially leaving the fate of the controversial project in the hands of a more supportive Republican administration.

The request comes as many anticipate President Barack Obama will reject the project, which has been a flashpoint in the debate over climate change and source of friction between the United States and Canada. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the front-runner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, opposes the pipeline but the Republican candidates support it.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the State Department is considering TransCanada's request, but added that Obama intends to make a decision about the pipeline before leaving office. Earnest said it was important to consider what could be motivating TransCanada's request.

"It seems unusual to me that somehow it should be paused yet again," Earnest said.

TransCanada chief executive Russ Girling denied that the request has anything to do with an anticipated

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rejection of the pipeline. The company said a suspension of the review would be appropriate while it works to secure approval of its preferred route through Nebraska in the face of legal challenges. TransCanada anticipated it would take seven to 12 months to get approval from Nebraska authorities.

"We have worked very hard for seven years try to keep our head down and work our way through every twist and turn and every additional request to the regulatory process and we are intent on continuing to do that until you get the regulatory approval and we have solved people's issues through that process," Girling said on a conference call with analysts and media.

The Keystone XL project has undergone repeated federal and state reviews since TransCanada announced the project in 2008. The 1,179-mile (1,900-kilometer) pipeline would run from Canada through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day from the Alberta oil sands to refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Opponents say the development of Alberta's oil sands require huge amounts of energy and water and increases greenhouse gas emissions. They warn pipeline leaks could potentially pollute underground aquifers that are a critical source of water for farmers in the Great Plains. Supporters maintain it will create jobs and reduce U.S. reliance on Middle Eastern oil. They argue that pipelines are a safer method of transporting oil than trains, pointing to recent derailments.

The State Department is not obligated to grant TransCanada's request to halt the review, which is required as part of the application process because the \$8 billion pipeline would cross an international border.

"The chance of approval is slim," said Wenran Jiang, an energy expert and former special adviser to Alberta's Department of Energy. "They are looking to avoid a rejection and they are not betting on the slim possibility of being approved. They are waiting for the next administration so it's a bit of a delay but a better chance."

Delays in approving the pipeline have caused friction between the Obama administration and the government of Canada's outgoing conservative prime minister, Stephen Harper.

Canada, which relies on the U.S. for 97 percent of its energy exports, needs infrastructure in place to export its growing oil sands production.

The recent election of Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau could change the contours the Keystone debate. Trudeau, who will be sworn in Wednesday, supports Keystone but insists relations between the two countries should not hinge on it.

Trudeau might also persuade a Democratic-led White House to approve the project if Canada is aggressive about reducing greenhouse gas emissions, said David Goldwyn, a former energy official in the Obama administration.

"The prospects for KXL approval by the U.S. had been dim, but the ascension of the new Trudeau government, with its serious commitment to meeting greenhouse gas reduction targets matching those of the US, could change the dynamic," Goldwyn said. "If Canada is able to meet its national targets by offsetting emissions elsewhere in the economy the U.S. perspective on the salience of the pipeline could change. The Harper government was never credible on greenhouse gas reductions; this government could be very different."

Alberta has the world's third largest oil reserves, with 170 billion barrels of proven reserves.

Despite a sharp decline in oil prices, Girling said Keystone and other proposed pipelines remain viable. He said production has grown rapidly in Alberta and in the Bakken region since the company first applied for the permit in 2008. He said output is already high enough to make Keystone viable and added that pipelines are a cheaper option than moving oil by rail.

"This project remains very much in demand by our customers," Girling said. "Oil prices will not stay low forever but even if you think of when we made this application in 2008, the price of oil was \$40 per barrel. The price of oil is \$40 per oil again today."

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TransCanada request to US won't affect SD's Keystone review

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The permit application process that's underway in South Dakota for a portion of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline will not be affected by a request from operator TransCanada to the U.S. government to suspend its review of the project.

TransCanada on Monday asked the U.S. State Department to delay consideration of the Canada-to-Texas pipeline, citing uncertainties about the route it would take through Nebraska.

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Chairman Chris Nelson said Tuesday the panel will continue to review the project to determine whether to approve for the second time in five years construction of the portion of the pipeline that would cut through the state.

Commissioners held Keystone-related hearings throughout the summer. Nelson says he doesn't "see a reason why" the commission couldn't rule before the end of the year.

BHSU to increase visibility of 'H' on Lookout Mountain

Spearfish officials OK BHSU's request to increase visibility of 'H' on Lookout Mountain

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Black Hills State University has received permission from Spearfish officials to increase the visibility of a large concrete "H" on the northern range of Lookout Mountain.

The university hopes within the next three years to remove shrubbery, grasses and other foliage detracting from the letter's visibility and reapply paint to keep the "H" looking bright. The letter stands for "Hills" and is meant to encourage school spirit, the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/1WloGCB>) reported.

Students used to repaint the "H" before homecoming every year as part of an annual tradition dating back to the fall of 1955. The tradition, however, was discontinued in the late '70s after about 100 students were burned by the whitewash mixture, according to a history of the school written for its centennial in 1993.

"We'd like to bring back the tradition but in a safe non-hazardous way," said Jane Klug, director of student services at Black Hills State University.

Students have hiked up to the "H" sporadically over the past few years to touch up the letter with white spray paint, but the school wants to re-establish the tradition as an organized annual effort, she said.

The Spearfish City Council approved the school's request two weeks ago and will hash out specific details about the letter's maintenance during future meetings.

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. TAIWAN, CHINA'S PRESIDENTS TO MEET FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1949

This is a highly symbolic move that reflects quickly improving relations between the formerly bitter Cold War foes.

2. 33 VICTIMS OF PLANE CRASH IN EGYPT IDENTIFIED

The Russian jet crashed over the Sinai Peninsula early Saturday, killing all 224 people on board.

3. AT LEAST 25 DIE IN CARGO PLANE CRASH IN SOUTH SUDAN CAPITAL

The presidential spokesman says it was an aircraft destined for the Paloch oil fields in Upper Nile state.

4. FIRST REFUGEES TO BE RELOCATED FROM GREECE HEAD TO LUXEMBOURG

Meanwhile, France's top security official says 200 human-trafficking networks have been dismantled since the beginning of the year.

5. FIGHT NOT OVER FOR HOUSTON NONDISCRIMINATION MEASURE

"This ordinance, you have not seen the last of. We're united. We will prevail," Mayor Annise Parker says.

6. FOR TRANSGENDER, CROSS-DRESSING ARGENTINE GIRL SIGN OF HOPE

The AP looks at the life of the youngest person to come under Argentina's law allowing individuals to identify their own sex.

7. WHOM HALF OF BLACK MILLENNIALS KNOW

More than 50 percent of them indicate that they, or someone they knew, had been victimized by violence or harassment from law enforcement, a new report says.

8. WHAT TRUMP'S LATEST DEMAND IS

He is demanding as much as \$75 million from condo owners in Panama City's Trump Ocean Club, alleging that its directors wrongfully fired his company as administrator managing the luxury building.

9. HOW PUFF DADDY CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

The rapper is planning to release free music on Wednesday: a mixtape called "MMM."

10. AGE APPROPRIATE

Dusty Baker, who is hired at 66 to guide the Washington Nationals, is hoping to join the list of managers who won big in their golden years.

AP News in Brief

Presidents of China and Taiwan to meet for first time since sides split in 1949 amid civil war

BEIJING (AP) — The presidents of China and Taiwan will meet this weekend for the first time since civil war divided their lands 66 years ago, their governments said Wednesday, a highly symbolic move that reflects quickly improving relations between the formerly bitter Cold War foes.

The meeting Saturday in Singapore between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Taiwanese counterpart, Ma Ying-jeou, could be China's last chance to press its case for closer economic and political ties before Taiwan elections in January that may put the brakes on Ma's pro-China initiatives.

Ma's ruling Nationalists have been lagging in polls for the presidential and legislative elections. Saturday's meeting could boost their credentials for driving progress in relations with China, but also carries the risk of appearing too close to Beijing, further damaging their chances with voters wary of the mainland's government.

Presidents of the two sides have not met since Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists lost the Chinese civil war to Mao Zedong's Communists and the Nationalists rebased in Taiwan, 160 kilometers (100 miles) from the mainland, in 1949. The two sides have been separately ruled since then, with Taiwan evolving into a freewheeling democracy. Communist Party-ruled China insists that the two sides eventually reunite, by force if necessary.

Confirmation of the meeting from Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office came hours after the Taiwanese side announced the meeting earlier Wednesday.

Taiwan defined by conflicted identity, diplomatic isolation, complicating weekend China talks

BEIJING (AP) — It has no membership in the United Nations. In the Olympics, it competes as "Chinese Taipei." Most nations don't recognize it as a country.

The economically dynamic, self-governing island of Taiwan has struggled with diplomatic isolation and a conflicted identity that makes it not quite a sovereign nation — although many Taiwanese insist it is.

It has de facto independence from mainland China, but has never formalized that, so it technically still vies with the mainland to be the "real China."

Taiwan retains its official name "Republic of China," along with a constitution that defines its territory as encompassing all of mainland China. But as far as Communist China is concerned, Taiwan is part of its territory, and it insists that the two sides eventually reunite.

Among Taiwan's 23.5 million people, sentiment for unification with China is declining. Surveys show significant majorities favor simply maintaining the status quo of de facto independence.

1st 30 refugees to be relocated from Greece head to Luxembourg

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The first 30 refugees to be relocated from Greece have boarded a plane in Athens bound for Luxembourg.

The six families from Syria and Iraq who left Greece on Wednesday mark the start of a program seeking to relocate refugees who have arrived in Greece from nearby Turkey to other European Union countries without them having to make the arduous and often dangerous overland journey across the Balkans on foot.

More than 600,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Greece so far this year, most of them in the last few months.

Hundreds have died as their overloaded and unseaworthy boats and dinghies overturned or sank in the Aegean. Another four people — two children and two men — drowned Tuesday night.

Despairing of change, Afghans swell migrant tide as they flee war, unemployment

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — As a recent high school graduate from a middle-class Kabul family, Mohamed Fahim Aazar has the means to go to college and pursue a profession in Afghanistan, but instead he's acquired a \$5,600 visa and a plane ticket to Turkey, where he will embark on the migrant trail to Europe.

The 19-year-old said he has had enough of his country's never-ending wars and dismal job prospects. "Every day there is another suicide attack, and when a person leaves his house he cannot be sure he will make it back alive."

Bound for far-off Finland, he's joining the largest wave of global migrants and refugees since World War II, hundreds of thousands of people seeking a better life in Europe. Afghans make up the second largest nationality — after Syrians — arriving on Europe's shores, accounting for nearly a fifth of total arrivals, according to the U.N.

Their flight is driven by despair in a country that remains mired in war and poverty despite a 14-year U.S.-led intervention and billions of dollars in international aid. And their ranks include middle and upper-class Afghans with skills needed to rebuild the war-torn country.

"Even those who are working or studying are not sure they will be able to change the future of Afghanistan — it is not possible," Aazar said. "Everyone has lost hope and trust in this country and that is why they leave." He calls his own decision to depart a "matter of life or death."

Mayor says fight not over after Houston LGBT nondiscrimination ordinance defeated by voters

HOUSTON (AP) — Amid the defeat by voters of an ordinance that would have established nondiscrimination protections for gay and transgender people in Houston, Mayor Annise Parker rallied supporters of the measure, telling them the fight was not over.

The Houston Equal Rights Ordinance was soundly rejected Tuesday by a vote of 61 percent to 39 percent. The defeat came after a nearly 18-month battle in the nation's fourth-largest city that spawned rallies, legal fights and accusations of both religious intolerance and demonization of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

But Parker, who is gay and championed the ordinance, led a crowd of more than 100 people at an election night watch party in downtown Houston in a chant that referenced the ordinance's nickname, HERO, yelling, "A hero fights for justice."

"I guarantee that justice in Houston will prevail. This ordinance, you have not seen the last of. We're united. We will prevail," Parker said.

Still, the future of the ordinance looked uncertain. Parker is finishing her final two-year term, and it's unclear if the next mayor and city council will revisit the issue.

Romanian government to resign following protests over deadly nightclub fire.

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta announced the resignation of his government Wednesday following huge protests in the wake of a nightclub fire that killed more than 30 people.

"I'm handing in my mandate, I'm resigning, and implicitly my government too," Ponta said in a statement. He said he would stay on until a new government is in place.

"I am obliged to take note of the legitimate grievances which exist in society," said Ponta. "I hope handing in my and my government's mandate will satisfy the demands of protesters."

President Klaus Iohannis will name a prime minister to form a new government, which needs to be approved by Parliament. If this fails twice, early elections will be called. Romania is scheduled to hold parliamentary elections in December 2016.

Deputy leader of the opposition Liberal Party, Catalin Predoiu, hailed the resignations. "This is a victory of the street. It is a lesson for all politicians," he said.

More than half of black millennials say they know victim of police violence or harassment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Years before the high-profile deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Freddie Gray, more than half of African-American millennials indicated they, or someone they knew, had been victimized by violence or harassment from law enforcement, a new report says.

The information, from the "Black Millennials in America" report issued by the Black Youth Project at the Study of Race, Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago, reflects starkly different attitudes among black, Latino, Asian and white millennials when it comes to policing, guns and the legal system in the United States. Researchers, who have surveyed millennials several times during the past decade, point out that the disparities existed well before the "Black Lives Matter" movement began.

In the 2009 Mobilization and Change Survey, 54.4 percent of black millennials answered yes to the question "Have you or anyone you know experienced harassment or violence at the hands of the police?" Almost one-third of whites, 1 in 4 Latinos and 28 percent of Asian-Americans surveyed said yes to the same question.

This study, released to The Associated Press on Wednesday, comes as the United States grapples with concerns over policing in minority communities following the deaths of Martin, 17, in Florida three years ago, Brown, 18, in Ferguson, Missouri, last year and Gray, 25, in Baltimore earlier this year. Their deaths, as well as those of other black men and women, have inspired nationwide protests under the "Black Lives Matter" and "Say Her Name" monikers.

But even while being the wellspring of those movements, a clear majority of black millennials — 71 percent — said in that same survey they believe police in their neighborhood were "there to protect you." Eighty-five percent of whites, 76 percent of Hispanics and 89 percent of Asians also said police were in their neighborhood to protect them.

Cross-dressing Argentine girl changed gender, is international symbol in transgender community

MERLO, Argentina (AP) — Luana grabs her sparkly blue dress with one hand and spins, using her other hand as a guide while a strand of tulle floats around her body.

The 8-year-old has long brown curls, gold butterfly earrings and an amulet with a princess hanging from her neck.

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"I love it when my hair does this," she said, shaking her head as her hair flutters. "And I love dresses." Luana had to fight to be a girl. She was born a boy, and struggled with a world that insisted that was what she must be. Then, in 2013, she became the youngest person to take advantage of an Argentine law that allows people to identify their own gender for legal purposes.

The case turned the child into an international symbol of progress in the transgender community. At the same time, it sparked a debate in this conservative, Catholic country — the homeland of Pope Francis — about how best to raise children who identify themselves with the opposite sex.

Puff Daddy celebrates birthday by releasing free music; calls project 'sonic motion picture'

NEW YORK (AP) — It may be Puff Daddy's birthday, but the music mogul is giving out the gifts: The rapper is planning to release free music on Wednesday.

Puff Daddy, born Sean Combs, debuted new music late Tuesday in New York City and announced that a mixtape called "MMM" would be available for free at 7 a.m. Eastern.

He is calling the project "a sonic motion picture" and songs include collaborations with Lil Kim, Future, Wiz Khalifa, Jadakiss, French Montana and others.

"Before I used to make records when I made my music. Then I decided to make culture. And as I got older, I decided I'm going to make fashion. Ladies and gentlemen, listen and watch some fashion," Combs told the audience of music industry insiders as well as producer-rapper Swizz Beatz and Epic Records CEO L.A. Reid.

The "MMM" artwork features a 1999 photo, taken by Annie Leibovitz, of Combs in Paris with Kate Moss.

Today in History **The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 4, the 308th day of 2015. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 4, 1955, Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Cy Young died in Newcomerstown, Ohio, at age 88.

On this date:

In 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland was elected to his first term as president, defeating Republican James G. Blaine.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge, who'd succeeded the late President Warren G. Harding, was elected to a full term of office; Nellie T. Ross of Wyoming was elected the nation's first female governor to serve out the remaining term of her late husband, William B. Ross.

In 1939, the United States modified its neutrality stance in World War II, allowing "cash and carry" purchases of arms by belligerents, a policy favoring Britain and France.

In 1942, during World War II, Axis forces retreated from El Alamein in North Africa in a major victory for British forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Bernard Montgomery.

In 1952, Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president, defeating Democrat Adlai Stevenson. The highly secretive National Security Agency came into existence.

In 1964, comedian Lenny Bruce was convicted by a three-judge panel in New York of obscenity charges stemming from his performances at the Cafe Au Go Go in Greenwich Village. (Bruce received a posthumous pardon in 2003 from New York Gov. George Pataki.)

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some of them, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Jimmy Carter by a strong margin.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California; in attendance were

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President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon - the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a festive peace rally. Retired professor Morris Schwartz of "Tuesdays with Morrie" fame died in Newton, Massachusetts, at age 78.

In 2008, Democrat Barack Obama was elected the first black president of the United States, defeating Republican John McCain.

Ten years ago: Violent anti-U.S. protests broke out in Mar Del Plata, Argentina, where President George W. Bush was promoting free trade at the Summit of the Americas. Jewish Defense League activist Earl Krugel, imprisoned for his role in a bomb plot, died after being assaulted in a federal prison in Phoenix; he was 62. Actress Sheree North, 73, died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: Australian airline Qantas grounded all six of its Airbus A380 superjumbo jets after one of them blew out an engine over Indonesia; the plane made a safe emergency return to Singapore with 469 people aboard. An AeroCaribbean ATR 72 crashed in a mountainous area of Cuba, killing all 68 people on board. Hall of Fame baseball team manager Sparky Anderson died in Thousand Oaks, California, at age 76.

One year ago: Riding a powerful wave of voter discontent, resurgent Republicans captured control of the Senate and tightened their grip on the House during the 2014 elections. A Russian member of the Taliban made his first appearance in a federal court in Richmond, Virginia, marking the first time a military detainee from Afghanistan had been brought to the U.S. for trial. (In August 2015, a federal jury convicted Irek Hamidullin of planning and leading a Taliban attack on U.S. forces in Afghanistan.) Actor Richard Schaal, 86, died in Woodland Hills, California. S. Donald Stookey, 99, the inventor of CorningWare, died in Rochester, New York.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Doris Roberts is 85. Actress Loretta Swit is 78. Rhythm-and-blues singer Harry Elston (Friends of Distinction) is 77. Blues singer Delbert McClinton is 75. Former first lady Laura Bush is 69. Actress Ivonne Coll (TV: "Jane the Virgin") is 68. Actress Markie Post is 65. Rock singer-musician Chris Difford (Squeeze) is 61. Country singer Kim Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 55. Actress-comedian Kathy Griffin is 55. Actor Ralph Macchio is 54. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 54. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 46. Rapper-producer Sean "Puffy" Combs is 46. Talk show host Bethenny Frankel is 45. Actor Anthony Ruivivar is 45. Soul/jazz singer Gregory Porter is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Shawn Rivera (Az Yet) is 44. Celebrity chef Curtis Stone is 40. Actress Heather Tom is 40. Rhythm-and-blues/gospel singer George Huff is 35. Actress Emme Rylan is 35. Actress Gillian Zinser is 30.

Thought for Today: "A boy becomes an adult three years before his parents think he does, and about two years after he thinks he does." - Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service director (1893-1977).