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Friday, November 13

Ag Appreciation Banquet in Aberdeen
Debate and Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central
NO SCHOOL - Faculty In-Service
Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, creamed peas, fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.

Birthday: Lindsey Tietz

Saturday, November 14

Debate and Oral Interp at Aberdeen Central
Anniversary: Loren & Holly Johnson
Birthday: Tricia Keith
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
Mass

Sunday, November 15

Anniversary: Fred & Elaine Wolken
Birthdays: Glenn Cooper • Landon Jondahl • Amber Meister Miller
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
Mass
9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship
10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with communion
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
3:30pm: All-School Play at GHS Gym
3:30pm: Emmanuel Fellowship at Golden Living Center with young adults serving

Monday, November 16

Groton Garden Club Meets
School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.
School Menu: Chicken nuggets, tater tots, carrots, fruit.
Senior Menu: Beef stew, buttermilk biscuits,

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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**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

Crops, Pheasants and Entrepreneurial Spirit Thrive on Sombke Family Farm

Celebrating a century of service to South Dakota's farm and ranch families, throughout 2015, South Dakota Farmers Union highlights members who farm or ranch with their families each month. This November, South Dakota Farmers Union features the Sombke family who farm together near Conde.

By Lura Roti, for SDFU

In 1978, when Doug Sombke made the decision to farm fulltime after high school, times were tough. "To explain how broke we were, I tell people that when Mel and I got married we couldn't afford an oven. We cooked on a hotplate," Sombke recalls.

But he was determined to make a go of it. Starting with 38 acres and the 4-H flock of 150 registered Suffolk ewes he and his brother, Dean, had built, Sombke stuck with it. He leased from neighbors, share cropped and eventually purchased land.

Along with sheep, the fourth generation Brown County farmer started a cow/calf herd and eventually expanded to operate a feedlot.

"Everything Mel and I earned went back into the farm." Together the couple raised four, now grown children: Nikki, Brett, Bryan and Bryce.

Fast forward 20 years. Like their dad, as his sons grew into men, they wanted to return to the family farm. However, the now 2,300-acre farm was not large enough to support four families and land prices had escalated dramatically. So, Brett, 29, Bryan, 28, and Bryce, 28, began looking for innovative ways to supplement their farm income.

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Holiday Open House
November 12, 13, & 14

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Doug Sombke, SDFU President, and his sons, Bryce, Bryan and Brett, farm together near Conde. (photo by Kaylee Speck photography)

Today, along with farming, Brett is co-owner of No Limits Soil Services and Bryan and Bryce co-own Coteau View Hunt and Kennels.

Crops, Pheasants and Entrepreneurial Spirit Thrive on Conde Farm

Looking for a career path off the farm, Doug Sombke headed to college in 1978. However, only a few weeks into his freshman year, he was ready to pack up and head back to his family's Conde farm.

"Sitting in class I began to think of how many heifers or ewes I could buy with the money I had just spent on books and college tuition," explains Doug, 55, a fourth generation farmer.

Up to this point, he had seen college as a way to escape the farm. "It was hard work and there was little reward. Only a few weeks away from the farm, I could not wait to return." Farming was hard work alright. And in 1978 a future in farming didn't look bright, but Doug had discovered his calling and he was determined to make it work.

With 38 acres and a flock of 150 ewes he owned with his brother, Dean, Doug set about building his farming operation. He had support from his dad, Dallas, who let Doug use his machinery in exchange for labor. He sharecropped and leased ground from retiring neighbors. In time, those same neighbors sold him their land.

"It was a different time. My neighbors didn't pit me against another neighbor or family member trying to get the best price; they felt fortunate to have someone farm their ground who they knew would take care of it," Doug explains.

In one season he went from farming two quarters and 38 acres to four quarters. "That more than doubled my farm ground. It doesn't sound like a lot today, but in those days of 12-foot drills, it was a lot," he said.

Lifetime Farmers Union member

Along with supportive neighbors, Doug found an ally in Farmers Union.

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His dad was a lifetime member of Farmers Union and actively served on the board of several local co-operatives, so Doug was familiar with the organization.

However, it was not until he became concerned about packer consolidation and the resulting impact on local markets that he became involved.

"Farmers Union was lobbying on behalf of family farmers like me," Doug explained. "This was about the same time that Sen. Johnson first introduced COOL (Country of Origin Labeling)." He attended a D.C. Fly-In. "I was impressed by how professionally the national staff handled themselves. I was also impressed by the respect the organization received from Congressional staff," he says. "During the Fly-In, Farmers Union was determined to help us share our stories. I was able to share my family's farm story, and Congressmen actually listened to me. That was a big deal."

After the Fly-In experience, Doug became actively involved in the South Dakota Farmers Union. He served on the Brown County Farmers Union board, and like his dad, also served on the local board of the Ferney Farmers Union Oil Cooperative Association board.

In 2005 he was elected to serve as President of the S.D. Farmers Union.

"Fortunately, I was asked to serve at the same time that my sons were home to help with farm work. I can focus my energies on carrying my neighbors' concerns and the concerns of South Dakota's farmers and ranchers to change policy and activate change," Doug says. "I love helping people. My mom always

said that helping people is either my passion or vice. I have always found great satisfaction in helping people get what they want." Today, South Dakota Farmers Union takes second place only to Doug's family.

"Farming is how I unwind these days," says Doug, who starts most mornings before dawn reading online articles, blogs and newspapers to stay on top of issues impacting South Dakota's family farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

"These are the people and issues that are important to me," Doug says as he recalls a Tom Daschle quote:

"If I don't do it, who will? If not now, when?" Family life In 1980, Doug and Mel married. The couple began dating in high school. Since the beginning, Mel worked off the farm as a postal clerk.

Today, she is Postmaster of the Groton Post Office. "Mel's off-farm income was helpful, but the biggest reason she worked off the farm was healthcare. With four kids, that was a big deal - we needed to find a way to supplement healthcare costs." Together they raised four children on the farm: Nikki, Brett, Bryan and Bryce.

"We all did chores together and hunted together," says Bryan, 28, of the work and hobby that would bring him back to the family's farm in ironically a similar way that his dad came home.

"I was pursuing a Business Economics degree and sitting in an accounting class one day when the department head walked in and encouraged all of us to change our majors because the job

 *Holiday* 
open  house
November 12-14 
 Thursday 9am-7pm
Friday 9am - 5pm
Saturday 10am-4pm

Discounts through
out the store

Daily door prize
drawings

Wine sampling on
Thursday

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market was so bad," Bryan says of the 2008 moment that motivated him to return to the farm fulltime.

Coteau View Hunt & Kennels is born

"Bryce and I were just getting the dog kennel and lodge off the ground, so I saw college debt more as dead weight, when I could be investing that money into these businesses," he explains.

Twins and now business partners, Bryce and Bryan had been trying to figure out a way to



Farming has been in the Sombke family for decades. (photo by Kaylee Speck photography)

make returning to the farm feasible.

Doug suggested they look into building a hunting lodge and business around the wild pheasant population which already flourished on the farm.

Both Dallas and Doug were strong advocates for conservation and had been placing marginal production acres into Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP) for more than 20 years.

"We only hunt wild birds and they need plenty of cover to survive winter and have a successful hatch without CRP and the food plots, we wouldn't have pheasants," Bryan says.

They converted a 1950s-era grain bin into a hunting lodge and began visiting sportsman shows across the U.S. to drum up business.

"You talk to thousands of hunters and maybe book 12 guys, but that's what it took to get started," Bryan says.

From there, word of mouth did the work for them. They haven't attended a show for a few years now because each season they are booked - hosting about 80 hunters.

Doug helped his sons get started by loaning them the capital they needed.

"At 19 there wasn't a bank that would loan us the money we needed. He believed in us," Bryce says.

Along with the lodge, Bryce and Bryan raise pointing Labradors and train hunting dogs. "These are not flushing dogs. They will point a bird until you produce a bird and kill it," Bryan explains.

Together they train about 20 dogs a year and sell about 50 puppies. To guarantee their puppies' health, they have all breeding stock genetically tested before purchasing them. "These tests rule out things like hip and elbow dysplasia and eye issues basically all inherited diseases," Bryce explains.

Looking back on the history of their family farm, Doug says since the beginning breeding registered animals has been part of its legacy. "Great Grandpa Albert, who homesteaded this land, raised registered Percheron horses; my Grandpa, Alvin, raised Registered Hereford cattle and I raised registered Suffolk. Now my sons are raising registered Labradors."

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No Limits Soil Services

Growing up farming with his dad and brothers, Brett, 29, knew the value of soil sampling. As precision ag technologies took off across farm country, he noticed that the soil sampling process had become much more precise and time consuming. "Today, it takes a lot of time and technology, so agriculture cooperatives are looking for third parties to do the work," explains Brett of the niche he and business partner, Austin Clark, fill with the soil sampling business they began five years ago.

"We are busy sampling from the time soybeans come off the field until the ground freezes." Brett says the days become quite long he works until dark and then heads home to help with harvest - but he says the business provides the supplemental income he needs to farm with his dad and brothers.



Below is the sign along SD Highway 37 south of Groton. Above, hunters are going after pheasants. (photo by Kaylee Speck photography)



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"Land today is so expensive that if you can't pay for it up front, it's difficult to make it work. Because we all wanted to return to the farm, we all had to find different avenues to make it work," he explains. "I love the lifestyle farming provides. I like being my own boss and living out in the country." The next generation Reflecting on the work it took to get their respective businesses off the ground, all three sons say timing was everything. When they started, grain markets were good.



Doug Sombke is a life long member of the South Dakota Farmers Union and he serves as its president. (photo by Kaylee Speck photography)

"The farm was actually making enough that we would have been OK just farming, but we knew it wasn't sustainable and eventually the markets would level off. I'm so thankful we were ready for it and our businesses were off the ground," says Bryce.

In today's markets, Bryce says if it weren't for their off-farm income, the farm income would not be able to sustain four families.

Brett is married. He and his wife, Stephanie, have a baby son, Braxten, born this August. Stephanie works as a radiology technician at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen.

Bryan is married. He and his wife, Whitney, have a baby daughter, Maryn, born this August. Whitney works as a nurse at same day surgery at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen.

Bryce's girlfriend, Amber, is in her last year of veterinary school at Iowa State University.

Nikki has a daughter, Adeline, 5, and works as a radiology technician for Orthopedic Surgery Specialists and Avera in Aberdeen. She is currently pursuing a degree in MRI. Nikki has always helped out on the family farm and currently helps Bryce and Bryan by cleaning the lodge in between groups of guests.

"The boys have exceeded my expectations of the businesses that they have built," Doug says. "I have said this to my sons and I truly believe it a good life is not about the money you make. It's about the place you live and doing what you like to do. If you love what you do, then it's not work."

Order of Eastern Star members receive awards

L-R is Lee Schinkel, who received the Rob Morris pin from General Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, for signing up new members; and Grace Albrecht, who received a pin for 65 years of membership in Eastern Star, at the November meeting of Claremont O.E.S. Judy Albrecht, Worthy Matron, made the presentations.



2015 Groton Area Elementary Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds

December 1, 2015

Parents of children ages 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time.

The Developmental Screening will take place at the Groton Area High School Arena . Please park and use the east entrance to the gym.

Today in Weather History

November 13, 1985: Snowfall of 4 to 8 inches spread from the southwest part of South Dakota on the morning of the 13th to the northeast part of the state by early morning on the 14th. Winds gusted to 35 mph in the western half of the state and produced considerable blowing and drifting snow, which greatly reduced visibilities. The snowfall caused many accidents, including a four vehicle pileup that occurred three miles east of De Smet in Kingsbury County, during the afternoon of the 13th. Some snowfall amounts include; 7.0 inches in Britton; 5.5 inches in Timber Lake and 5.0 inches in Leola.

1933 - The first dust storm of the great dust bowl era of the 1930s occurred. The dust storm, which had spread from Montana to the Ohio Valley the day before, prevailed from Georgia to Maine resulting in a black rain over New York and a brown snow in Vermont. Parts of South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa reported zero visibility on the 12th. On the 13th, dust reduced the visibility to half a mile in Tennessee. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1946 - General Electric scientists produced snow in the Massachusetts Berkshires in the first modern day cloud seeding experiment. (The Weather Channel)

1953 - Strong southeasterly winds associated with a Pacific cold front reached 70 mph at Sacramento CA to equal their all-time record. The previous record had been established in a similar weather pattern on December 12th of the previous year. (The Weather Channel)

1981 - A powerful cyclone brought high winds to Washington State and Oregon. The cyclone, which formed about 1000 miles west of San Francisco, intensified rapidly as it approached the Oregon coast with the central pressure reaching 28.22 inches (956 millibars). A wind trace from the Whiskey Run Turbine Site, about 12 miles south of Coos Bay in Oregon, showed peak gusts to 97 mph fifty feet above ground level. The wind caused widespread damage in Washington and Oregon, with 12 deaths reported. As much as four feet of snow fell in the Sierra Nevada Range of northern California. (Storm Data)








1987 - A storm moving off the Pacific Ocean produced rain and gale force winds along the northern and central Pacific coast, and heavy snow in the Cascade Mountains. Cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S. Five cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville NC with a reading of 21 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure brought rain and snow and gusty winds to the northeastern U.S. A thunderstorm drenched Agawam MA with 1.25 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. Winds gusted to 58 mph at Nantucket MA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thirty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s as far north as Michigan and Pennsylvania. Afternoon highs in the 80s were reported from the Southern Plains to the southern Atlantic coast. Columbia SC reported a record high of 86 degrees, and the high of 71 degrees at Flint MI was their warmest of record for so late in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 50 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 58 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 55 °F



A Bit Warmer Today, Much Less Wind!

Follow us on *Social Media*

Issued: November 13, 2015

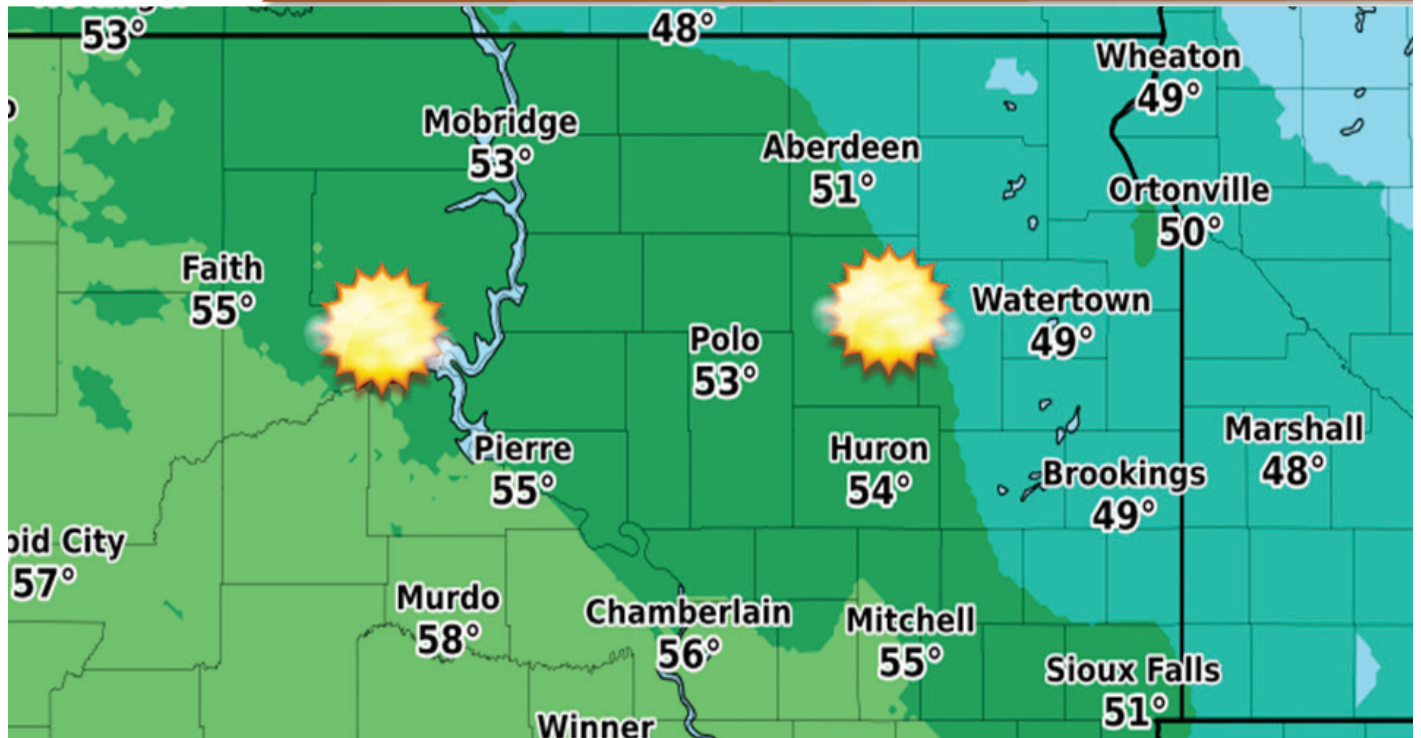
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 11/13/2015 at 4:43AM

Quiet weather is in store for the next few days, with dry conditions and warming temperatures expected. Highs today will be in the upper 40s to mid 50s for most areas under mostly sunny skies. We'll add several degrees to highs on Saturday with most areas rising into the upper 50s and low 60s!

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 45.9 at 1:25 PM

Low: 25.2 at 4:16 AM

High Gust: 43 at 11:30 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 69° in 1999

Record Low: -11° in 1919

Average High: 41°F

Average Low: 20°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.37

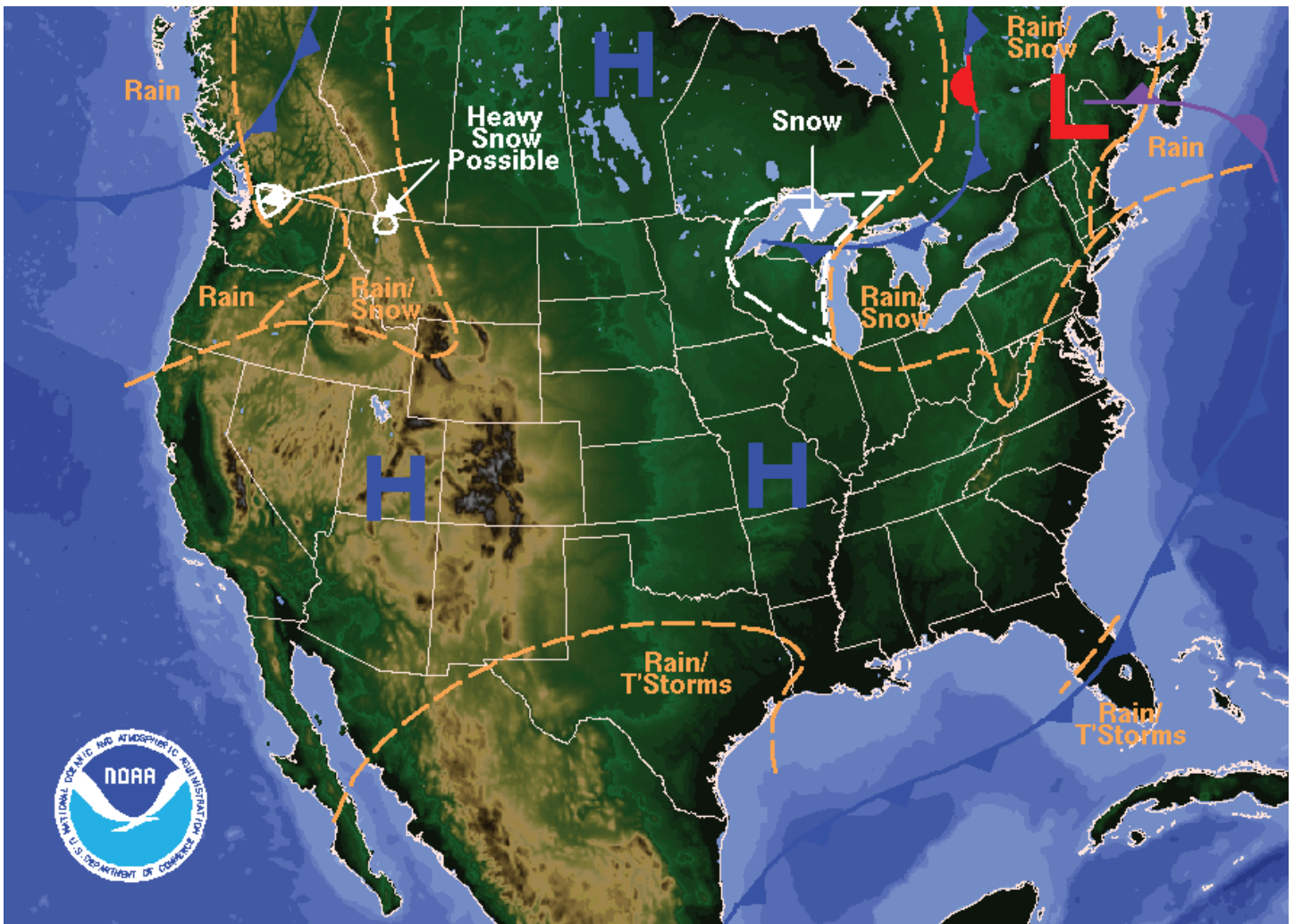
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.39

Average Precip to date: 20.84

Precip Year to Date: 19.50

Sunset Tonight: 5:05 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:30 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Nov 13, 2015, issued 4:08 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



SAVED BY A SHADOW

A college athlete was training for the Olympics. Late one night he couldn't sleep so he decided to go to the pool and practice diving. The lights were not on but the moon was shining brightly through the skylight providing enough light to see the outline of the pool.

He turned his back to the pool as he stood on the edge of the high diving board. As he prepared to jump into the pool, he stretched out his arms. The light from the moon at his back cast the shadow of a cross on the wall he was facing. As he prepared to jump into the pool the janitor came into the room and turned on the lights. The lights startled him and he looked downward and saw that the pool was empty.

Immediately he climbed down the ladder, fell to his knees and thanked God for the Light that saved his life, and the Light that led him into the Kingdom of God.

Perhaps there are some who will consider this event a "stroke of luck" or a "fortunate experience" in the scheme of life. But in God's plan for each of our lives there is no such thing as "luck" or "good fortune." He wants to work out His perfect will for our lives and is constantly waiting for us to seek His guidance. However, we must be open and sensitive to His voice, and when He appears before us, be anxious to do what He calls us to do.

Prayer: Father, open our eyes that we may see You, our ears that we may hear You and to live lives that will please You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

News from the Associated Press

At smaller schools, reluctance to pay full cost for athletes

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — When North Dakota State announced in August it would boost its athletic scholarships to cover expenses beyond traditional tuition, board and books, it sent shivers through the so-called second tier of college sports. Stipends were supposed to be the domain of the biggest schools as they chased top recruits and national championships.

Though two neighboring schools quickly followed the Bison's lead, the rest of the Football Championship Subdivision world has not — at least so far. Coaches and athletic directors cite the high cost and worry about the precedent, and some say they simply don't feel they have to do it to get top talent.

"There was not a conscious decision on our part to say let's slow this wave," said Montana athletic director Kent Haslam, whose Grizzlies upset then-top-ranked North Dakota State in the season opener. "It was based on fiscal stability and being able to make this sustainable, and not just jumping because everyone else is jumping."

A week after Montana and Montana State said they wouldn't offer stipends, the presidents of nine FCS schools — Vermont, Delaware, New Hampshire, James Madison, VMI, William and Mary, Elon, Hofstra and Wofford — signed a letter opposing them.

Athletes have financial need, but so do their fellow students, the presidents wrote. They also said the cost could require eliminating other sports.

Haslam estimated Montana would need \$600,000 to pay all athletes' costs, and the money wasn't there. He acknowledged stipends could help in recruiting but said many other factors go into an athlete's choice of a school.

"Recruiting is not a level playing field anyway," Haslam said. "Cost of attendance just becomes one more tool to use."

The plan to pay full college costs for athletes started with the top conferences at the larger Bowl Subdivision (FBS) level. Athletic scholarships have historically covered tuition, fees, room, board and books, but the stipends go farther in giving money that can be used to cover things such as laundry, extra food, travel home and more.

The issue may have been driven by football, but the effect and implications aren't limited to that sport. UAB men's basketball coach Jerod Haase is using part of his new seven-figure contract to fund stipends for both the men's and women's teams.

North Dakota State is the four-time defending champion at the second-tier FCS level, so its aggressiveness in launching stipends isn't surprising. But the school is offering them across all sports, a potential recruiting boon throughout its athletic department.

In contrast to the rest of the FCS world, the Bison's closest competitors moved immediately to match their program. In-state rival North Dakota had already offered stipends in men's and women's hockey, and announced it would expand to all sports. South Dakota jumped on board, with President Jim Abbott promising that donors would cover the added \$300,000 to \$400,000 annual expense because they "want us to compete in everything."

For schools weighing whether to jump into stipends, the decision likely is strongly influenced by the strength of their donor base.

North Dakota State boosters raised nearly \$4 million for athletics in 2014; North Dakota's nearly \$3 million. South Dakota, home to the state's medical and law schools, brought in nearly \$4 million. All three schools are relying on donations to make the move.

South Dakota State sees itself as North Dakota State's peer in football but has so far held off on offering stipends. It's a largely agricultural school whose annual scholarship donations in 2014 fell well behind its Dakotas colleagues at a little more than \$1 million. Much of the school's recent efforts are already

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earmarked for a new football stadium to open in 2016, too.

Montana and Montana State have also said no to stipends so far. They each take in between \$1 million and \$1.5 million in annual athletic donations.

No other Missouri Valley Football members have declared their intention to offer the stipends, said Patty Viverito, the league commissioner.

"I think everybody's taking a wait-and-see attitude," she said.

The first FCS school to move to stipends was Liberty, though its move attracted less attention than North Dakota State's because Liberty had made clear its goal of eventually jumping up to the FBS. Monmouth, which competes against Liberty in football, has no interest in following Liberty or any FBS school down the stipend path, athletic director Marilyn McNeil said. It's an institutional decision, McNeil said, but she feels stipends aren't necessary for athletes who get opportunities far beyond those afforded typical students.

"I think the student athletes are getting an extremely good deal," she said. "I think that if there are unmet needs, the student-athlete should consider taking out a loan like every other student in America. I think that many of their needs are being taken care of."

Abbott, the South Dakota president, disagreed, saying most athletes just don't have time for part-time jobs.

"You can't exist on zero dollars," he said. "How do you do laundry? How do you do anything?"

Big Sky Conference Commissioner Doug Fullerton said covering an athlete's true cost of attendance is a good idea — but they are costly.

Fullerton said that under Title IX, a school that offers stipends to a men's program would have to do the same for the women's program. But he envisions some schools offering stipends to some recruits within a sport but not others.

McNeil said if smaller schools are forced into offering stipends to compete for recruits, they're going to have to find that money somewhere. Some worry that less popular sports such as men's track and field could be targeted, and that would be bad for college athletics, she said.

"Who knows where this is going to end?" she said. "Are we going to get into huge recruiting wars as to who's worth what? It's bad enough as it is."

MDU Resources authorizes quarterly dividend of 18.75 cents

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — MDU Resources Group Inc. has raised its quarterly dividend to 18.75 cents per share.

The dividend is up from a prior payout of 18.25 cents per share.

The Bismarck-based energy, mining, construction and utilities company says it's the 25th year that it has increased its common stock dividend.

MDU Resources will pay the dividend on Dec. 10 to shareholders of record.

MDU Resources Group is the parent company of Montana-Dakota Utilities, which provides electricity to parts of the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming.

Madison beats West Central for first 11A title

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Mitch Hansen threw three TD passes to Mason Leighton as Madison beat West Central 28-21 on Thursday for its first state 11A title.

Hansen and Leighton connected on scores of 9, 76 and 44 yards. The 76-yard catch was an 11A title game record.

Hansen completed 12 of 18 passes for 220 yards. Leighton caught five passes for 169 yards.

The Bulldogs (12-0) led 21-0 after three quarters but the Trojans (10-2) got within 21-14 before Madison added an insurance TD set up by Hansen's 40-yard run.

Brodie Frederiksen rushed 24 times for 114 yards and scored on a 1-yard run late in the fourth quarter.

West Central quarterback Dan Skinner led two long scoring drives in the fourth quarter. He finished with 274 yards passing and two TDs to Jonah Rechtenbaugh.

It was Madison's third straight title game. It had lost the previous two, including one to West Central.

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West Central's two losses this season were to Madison.

Thursday's Scores The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Class 9AA

Championship

Wolsey-Wessington 36, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 22

Class 9A

Championship

Canistota 56, Sully Buttes 8

Class 11A

Championship

Madison 28, West Central 21

Volleyball

Region 1AA

State Qualifier

Harrisburg def. Watertown, 24-26, 25-20, 25-18, 25-23

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Sioux Falls Washington, 25-19, 25-17, 25-18

Region 2AA

State Qualifier

Huron def. Douglas, 25-9, 25-11, 25-17

Pierre def. Rapid City Central, 25-16, 24-26, 25-18, 25-11

PUC approves construction permit for wind farm near Newell

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission has approved a construction permit for a 103-megawatt wind farm about 10 miles northeast of Newell.

The Willow Creek Wind Energy Facility to be built by Wind Quarry LLC will include 45 wind turbines and will interconnect to a 115-kilovolt transmission line owned by the Western Area Power Administration. Construction of the wind farm and substation could begin next month, and the farm could be operational as early as December 2017.

Wind Quarry filed its application on May 27, and the PUC held a public hearing in Newell in July. The commission approved the permit on Thursday.

The National Renewal Energy Laboratory says South Dakota ranks fourth in the nation for potential to generate energy from wind.

Wolsey-Wessington wins 9AA state title

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Hunter Johnson rushed for an all-class championship game record 303 yards and scored three touchdowns as Wolsey-Wessington beat Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central 36-22 Thursday for the state 9AA championship.

Johnson carried 31 times and scored on runs of 5, 70 and 45 yards.

Johnson sealed the win with a 5-yard run from the 50 on fourth down with under two minutes to play, and on the next play ran 45 yards for an insurance score.

The Warbirds (11-1) ran for 404 yards to win their first state title. Darian Ogunjemilusi added 79 yards and a score and caught a 25-yard TD pass from Jerret Weber.

Tucker Kingsbury passed for 137 yards and two TDs for the Blackhawks (11-1). He threw a 39-yard TD to Dillon Moore and a 5-yard TD to John Witte.

Dillon Ochsner ran for 121 yards and a 56-yard TD.

Dairy farm, staffing firm debarred from visa program

VOLGA, S.D. (AP) — A federal administrative law judge has upheld the findings of a U.S. Department of Labor investigation that debarred a Volga dairy farmer and an Aberdeen-based employment agency from a program that allows employers to hire temporary foreign labor for agricultural work.

The Labor Department says Employment USA LLC, its operations manager, Kevin Opp, and Old Tree Farms LLC have been debarred for three years from the H-2A temporary worker visa program for falsifying documents to employ temporary foreign agricultural workers on a year-round basis.

Wage and Hour Division administrator David Weil says the violations denied U.S. workers access to jobs and wages they deserved and gave the employment agency and the dairy operation an unfair advantage over competitors.

Messages left with the employment firm and farm were not immediately returned.

Mount Marty offering master's in education in Watertown

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — Mount Marty College will begin offering a master's degree in education in Watertown.

The school and the Watertown Board of Education say the two-year degree program will be open only to Watertown teachers and will be delivered during the summer of 2016 and 2017 at the school's Watertown location.

Mount Marty Master of Education program director Debbi McCuin says the college's partnership with the school district has made the program possible.

Watertown Superintendent Lesli Jutting says the program will share effective research in teaching and learning, and teachers will apply that research in their classrooms.

The application process will be open until Dec. 15.

Nielsen, Canistota claims state 9A title

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Jerad Nielsen ran for three touchdowns and returned an interception for a score as Canistota overwhelmed Sully Buttes 56-8 Thursday in the South Dakota 9A championship game.

Nielsen rushed for 255 yards on 15 carries and scored on runs of 9, 60 and 90 yards. He returned one of two Canistota interceptions 36 yards for a TD.

Hawks quarterback Shay Jolley was 6-for-10 for 134 yards and TD passes of 16 yards to Drew Seubert and 66 yards to Scott Jolley. Seubert had a 44-yard interception return for a score.

Canistota (12-0) used a quick-strike offense to take a 36-0 halftime lead. The Hawks' scored from 66, 60 and 90 yards on the first play of three drives in the first half.

The Hawks outgaining Sully Buttes 479-130 in total yards.

Brady Hill ran for 46 yards for the Chargers (10-2). Cody Nelson caught two passes for 51 yards, including a 41-yard TD.

Hartford businessman appointed to South Dakota House seat

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has appointed Hartford businessman Wayne Steinhauer to a vacant District 9 seat in the state House.

Steinhauer will succeed Rep. Steve Hickey, who resigned earlier this year to move to Scotland for religious study. He'll serve the remainder of Hickey's term, which expires after the 2016 general election.

Steinhauer is the outgoing chairman of the Minnehaha County Planning Commission. He retired last year as chief operations officer of Amesbury, after a 30-year career in business. He also owns and operates the Best Western Hotel in Murdo. He's been active in many community organizations and is a member of the Murdo Chamber of Commerce.

District 9 encompasses northwestern Minnehaha County, including the Hartford, Humboldt, Crooks and Wall Lake areas, as well as part of Sioux Falls.

\$270,000 Wild Card 2 jackpot won in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A ticket sold in Sioux Falls has won the \$270,000 Wild Card 2 jackpot. South Dakota lottery officials say winning numbers in Wednesday's drawing were 3, 7, 13, 21 and 22, and the Wild Card was the King of Clubs.

The odds of winning the Wild Card 2 jackpot are one in about 1.9 million. The winner has about six months to claim the prize.

Another ticket sold in Sioux Falls won the game's \$6,000 second prize. The odds of winning that are one in about 127,000.

Wild Card 2 is played only in the Dakotas, Montana and Idaho. The jackpot starts again at \$200,000 for the next drawing, on Saturday.

Sioux Falls after-school program recognized by White House

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An arts and science program sponsored by the Washington Pavilion Community Learning Center in Sioux Falls is being recognized by the White House.

The center's after-school program is being awarded one of a dozen 2015 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards, the nation's highest honor for such programs.

Center Director Rose Ann Hofland and 17-year-old high school senior Chofian Abokbar are going to Washington, D.C., on Tuesday to receive the award from first lady Michelle Obama. The center also will get \$10,000 to support its programming.

The program began in 1999 to bring art and science experiences to children with limited access to extracurricular activities. It now serves more than 500 youth at more than 20 locations in Sioux Falls.

"These young people are learning how to use creative thinking to work as a team, to solve problems and to express themselves constructively," Hofland said. "These are exactly the kinds of skills we want them to have to be able to succeed in school, in work and in life."

Abokbar took part in the after-school program and now is a teen leader volunteer for pavilion programs.

"Having the chance to represent my peers in accepting this award from the first lady of the United States in the White House is going to be an experience that I'll never forget," she said. "It showed me that the power of programs like Action Arts and Science to change kids' lives is recognized and valued."

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

1. KURDISH IRAQIS ADVANCE STRONGLY IN IS-HELD TOWN

Iraqi Kurdish militia fighters battling to take back Sinjar from Islamic State militants reach the town center, though officials caution it is too soon to declare victory in the strategic community.

2. THE MACABRE FASCINATION WITH 'JIHADI JOHN'

The Islamic State militant, targeted in a U.S. drone strike with fate unknown, horrified the world with his atrocities, but also served as a recruiting tool for those drawn to extremism.

3. SUU KYI'S PARTY SECURES HISTORIC MAJORITY IN MYANMAR

The victory makes it possible for them to form the Southeast Asian country's first truly civilian government in more than half-a-century.

4. MISSOURI ENLISTS FORMER PROTESTER TO LEAD UNIVERSITY

As an undergraduate in the 1960s, Mike Middleton was a founder of the Legion of Black Collegians, an activist student group instrumental in this week's resignation of the university's president.

5. TRUMP INCREASES HARSH RHETORIC

The billionaire real estate mogul equates rival Ben Carson's childhood "pathological temper" to the illness of a child molester, questions Carson's religious awakening and berates his supporters.

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6. MIGRANT CRISIS WEIGHS ON MERKEL

The German chancellor's signature phrase — "We will manage it" — is wearing thin at home, bringing rare open criticism from her own conservative bloc.

7. WHAT IS FACT, WHAT IS FICTION

For presidential candidates, a compelling personal history is an essential item in the campaign tool kit. That's not to say they tell the story straight.

8. SEXTING LATEST EMBARRASSMENT FOR SECRET SERVICE

The arrest of a uniformed officer on charges of trying to solicit a teenage girl for sex and sending obscene images and texts online is the latest blunder for the agency.

9. POLICE DOG DEFIES BREED'S SAVAGE STEREOTYPES

Usually the domain of German shepherds and Belgian Malinois, Kiah will be one of just a few pit bulls to serve in the K9 unit.

10. REX RYAN'S RETURN TO MEADOWLANDS A SUCCESS

Buffalo's defense shuts down the head coach's former team for most of the game, and the Bills score on offense and special teams in a 22-17 victory over the New York Jets.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 13, the 317th day of 2015. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 13, 1985, some 23,000 residents of Armero, Colombia, died when a volcanic mudslide buried the city.

On this date:

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter to a friend, Jean-Baptiste Leroy: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1849, voters in California ratified the state's original constitution.

In 1909, 259 men and boys were killed when fire erupted inside a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois.

In 1927, the Holland Tunnel opened to the public, providing access between lower Manhattan and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River.

In 1937, the NBC Symphony Orchestra, formed exclusively for radio broadcasting, made its debut.

In 1940, the Walt Disney film "Fantasia," featuring animated segments set to classical music, had its world premiere in New York.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure lowering the minimum draft age from 21 to 18.

In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public city and state buses.

In 1969, speaking in Des Moines, Iowa, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew accused network television news departments of bias and distortion, and urged viewers to lodge complaints.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, died in a car crash while on her way to meet a reporter.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, designed by Maya Lin, was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

In 1995, seven people, including five Americans, were killed when a bomb exploded at a military training facility in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in Jerusalem, strongly rebuked Iran's leadership, saying "no civilized nation" can call for the annihilation of another - a reference to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's (mahk-MOOD' ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zhadhz) remark that Israel should be "wiped off the map." An Iraqi woman arrested by Jordanian authorities confessed on television to trying to blow herself up with her husband in one of the three Nov. 9 suicide attacks in Amman. American Indian historian and activist Vine Deloria Jr. died at age 72.

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Five years ago: Pro-democracy hero Aung San Suu Kyi (soo chee) walked free in Myanmar after more than seven years under house arrest. Former White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel officially announced his ultimately successful candidacy for mayor of Chicago.

One year ago: The European Space Agency published the first images taken from the surface of a comet; the photos sent back to Earth showed a rocky surface, with one of the lander's three feet in the corner of the frame. Clayton Kershaw became the first pitcher to win the National League MVP award since Bob Gibson in 1968; Los Angeles Angels' outfielder Mike Trout was a unanimous pick for the AL MVP.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Madeleine Sherwood is 93. Journalist-author Peter Arnett is 81. Producer-director Garry Marshall is 81. Actor Jimmy Hawkins is 74. Country singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is 69. Actor Joe Mantegna is 68. Actress Sheila Frazier is 67. Actress Frances Conroy is 62. Musician Andrew Ranken (The Pogues) is 62. Actress Tracy Scoggins is 62. Actor Chris Noth (noth) is 61. Actress-comedian Whoopi Goldberg is 60. Actor Rex Linn is 59. Actress Caroline Goodall is 56. Actor Neil Flynn is 55. Former NFL quarterback and College Football Hall of Famer Vinny Testaverde is 52. Rock musician Walter Kibby (Fishbone) is 51. Comedian Jimmy Kimmel is 48. Actor Steve Zahn is 48. Actor Gerard Butler is 46. Writer-activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 46. Actor Jordan Bridges is 42. Actress Aisha Hinds is 40. Rock musician Nikolai Fraiture is 37. NBA All-Star Metta World Peace (formerly Ron Artest) is 36. Actress Monique Coleman is 35. Actor Rahul Kohli (TV: "iZombie") is 30.

Thought for Today: "I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library." - Jorge Luis Borges, Argentine author (1899-1986).