

Groton Daily Independent

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The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

**Two bedroom apartment in the
Rix Apartments (former city
apartments) at 407 N Garfield**

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118

Monday, March 16

School Breakfast: Cheese Omelet, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Nachos, sweet potato tot, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, parsley buttered carrots, banana cake with icing, whole wheat bread.

6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study.

Tuesday, March 17

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: St. Patty's nugget, irish potato, broccoli with dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Wednesday, March 18

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hot dog, baked beans, romaine salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, baked potato with sour cream, green beans, cake, whole wheat bread.

6:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Lenten Meal (Nigeria and India Circles serve)

7:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

Thursday, March 19

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, rice/chow mein noodles, broccoli, breadsticks, sour cream apple pie square.

No School - Spring Break



**Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling**

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

A nice day to take an Iguana for a ride

It was a record breaking day as the temperature soared to 76 degrees at 3:31 p.m., breaking a previous record of 66 degrees set in 2012. People spent Sunday outdoors, walking, cleaning yards, or just visiting.

But for Lisa Harry, it was a nice day to an Iguana for a ride. The solar energy provided nice warmth in the pickup as Lisa and Elizabeth (the Iguana) got out of the house for a spell.

"I've had her since May 2014 and got her when she was four months old," Lisa said. When she got Elizabeth from Noah's Critters, she was about five inches long. This is the second Iguana that Lisa has had. The first one that she had, about 20 years ago, died of old age. When properly taken care of, an Iguana can live from 10 to 20 years. Lisa got another Iguana because her daughter, Darac, wanted to have one.



Lisa Harry with her Iguana, Elizabeth. They went for a drive on the beautiful Sunday afternoon.

But they are a touchy reptile.

Lisa said it has many special needs. "It's a pet that not anyone can have," she said. "People can abuse them because they don't know how to take care of them."

Elizabeth eats lots of squash, roots, greens - but not lettuce or roman lettuce - dandelion greens, asparagus, alfalfa, cucumbers, carrots, strawberries, blueberries and she loves raspberries.

In addition, the Iguana, which comes from the tropics, likes temperature around 120 degrees. She has a special solar light with the bulb costing up to \$70. In addition, there are other special lighting needs as well. Elizabeth has her own humidifier as the humidity should be around 70 percent. The temperature should not go below 75 degrees, but 75 degrees at night is okay.

Elizabeth gets a bath every day. "They say they should have a bath about three times a week, but she gets at least one every day." While her dogs have to wear a diaper in the house, Elizabeth is potty trained.

This summer, Lisa said that she will have a special cage built for Elizabeth so she can soak in the sun on the 90 degree days. She is planning to build a special cage in the garage as Elizabeth gets bigger - eventually up to 5.5 feet long and weighing around 15 pounds.

The Iguana is a special reptile so when it needs medical attention, the closest vet is in Sioux Falls, and even at that, its \$100 just to get the Iguana in the door.

Iguana

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Iguana (/ɪˈɡwɑːnə/, Spanish: [iˈɣwana]) is a genus of herbivorous lizards native to tropical areas of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. The genus was first described in 1768 by Austrian naturalist Josephus Nicolaus Laurenti in his book *Specimen Medicum, Exhibens Synopsin Reptilium Emendatam cum Experimentis circa Venena*. Two species are included in the genus Iguana: the green iguana, which is widespread throughout its range and a popular pet, and the Lesser Antillean iguana, which is native to the Lesser Antilles and endangered due to habitat destruction.

The word "iguana" is derived from the original Taino name for the species, *iwana*.

In addition to the two species in the genus Iguana, several other related genera in the same family have common names of the species including the word "iguana".



Julianna and Jeslyn Kosel had the opportunity to pet the Iguana.

Anatomy and physiology

Iguanas can range from 5 to 6 feet (1.5 to 1.8 m) including their tail. The two species of lizard within the genus Iguana possess a dewlap, a row of spines running down their backs to their tails, and a tiny "third eye" on their heads. This light-sensing organ is known as the parietal eye, visible as a pale scale on the top of the head, and cannot make out details, just brightness. Behind their necks are small scales which resemble spokes, known as tuberculate scales. These scales may be a variety of colors and are not always visible from close distances. They have a large round scale on their cheeks known as a subtympenic shield.

Iguanas have great vision and can see shapes, shadows, colors, and movement at long distances. Iguanas use their eyes to navigate through crowded forests, as well as for finding food. They use visual signals to communicate with other members of the same species

The tympanum, the iguana's ear drum, is located above the subtympenic shield and behind the eye. Iguanas are often hard to spot, as they tend to blend into their surroundings. Their scale colors are a mode of hiding from larger predators.

Male iguanas, as well as other male members of the order Squamata, have two hemipenes.

The Life of John Evans



Services for John Evans, 65, of Lake Benton, Minnesota and formerly of Conde will be 10:30 a.m., Monday, March 16 at the United Methodist Church, Conde. The Rev. Matt Richards will officiate. Burial will follow in Conde City Cemetery.

John died March 11, 2015 at Pipestone Hospice House in Pipestone, Minn.

John Michael was born on December 30, 1949 in Sioux Falls. He was raised in Conde with his parents, Layle and Marlyce (Mathieu) Evans. He attended school in Brentford and graduated in 1968 from Northwestern High School in Northville. John was united in marriage with Julie Kolb on July 12, 1968 in Ferney and they were blessed with two daughters, Kim & Teresa. On September 25, 1976 he married Scarlet Switzenberg and they had a son, Cody. The family made their home in Conde and John worked in sales for Harry Implement for 27 years. Scarlet passed away in 2006. He married Peggy Gorter in Luverne, Minnesota on November 11, 2011 and together they made their home

at Lake Benton. After retiring in July of 2014, John enjoyed riding his golf cart at the lake and was affectionately named "official tour guide."

John was a member of the United Methodist Church in Conde. He was an avid Green Bay Packers fan. John was also active in softball and had served as President and Commissioner of the SDASA. He was inducted into the Softball Hall of Fame in 1999.

Celebrating his life is his wife, Peggy of Lake Benton, his parents, Layle and Delores Evans of Mellette, his children, Kim (Gary) Langerock of Watertown, Teresa (Don) Rowland of Watertown, Cody Evans of Conde, Andrea Gorter of Sioux Falls and Keith (Anna) Gorter of Sioux Falls, five grandchildren: Jessica (Sheldon) Foster, Tyler Rowland, Jackson, McKenzie and Jacob Gorter, his siblings, Rod (Vicki) Evans of Aberdeen, Larry (Karen) Evans of Frankfort, Fran Hoeft of Aberdeen, Dianne (Jeff) Lee of Aberdeen and a half-sister, Anne Sohikian of California.

Preceding him in death was his mother, Marlyce, his wife, Scarlet and sister, Pat Schmidt.

Honorary Casketbearers will be Jessica Foster, Tyler Rowland, Andrea Gorter, Keith Gorter, Travis Pederson, Richard Halvorson, Jim Christman, Lannie Mielke, Joe Henjum, Bruce Herman, Johnny Toft, Doug Eeten.

Casketbearers will be Steve Harry, Gary Gorter, Joe Harry, Gary Harrington, Neil Vig, Dave Huber, Don Hearnen, Glen Eeten.

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GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

March 16, 2015 - 7pm, Groton City Hall

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Meetings
 - a) SDML District Meeting – Wed, Mar 18 – Ipswich
 - b) Rural Water Lagoon School – Tues, Mar 17 – Aberdeen – Dwight & Branden
 - c) Brown Co Predisaster Mitigation Plan Meeting – Wed, Mar 25-Aberdeen
- d) Heartland Power Annual Meeting – Apr 10 - Madison
- 4) Review Baseball and Swimming Pool Prices – Signs & Entrance
- 5) Electric Dept report
- 6) Exec Session – Personnel
- 7) Hire Summer Employees
- 8) 1st Reading on Ordinance # 702- 2015 Summer Salary Ordinance
- 9) Equalization

AND any other business that may come before the Council

Notice of Garbage Pickup!

Effective Immediately Your cooperation

Groton residents are asked to bring their garbage to the following locations

until further notice:

Railroad Avenue

Main Street

Sixth Street

Highway 37

Residents of Cottonwood Trailer Park need to take their garbage to

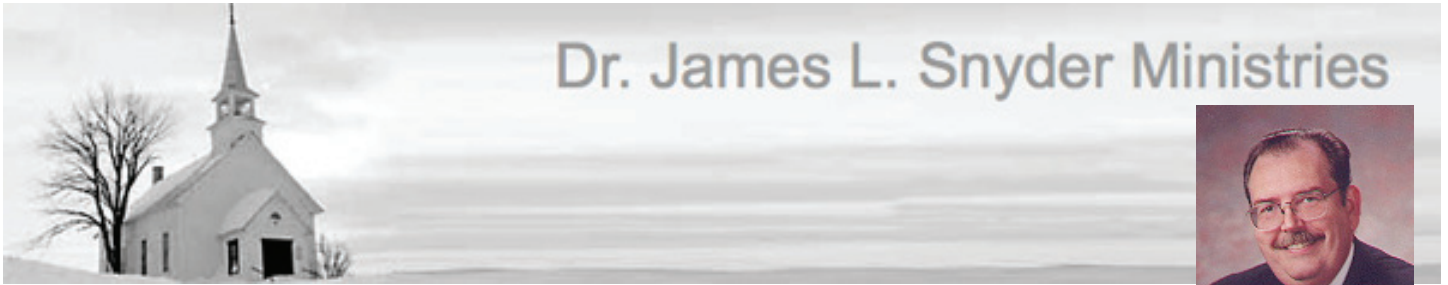
Highway 37

Residents north of 13th Avenue (Olson and Jacobson Development) need to bring their garbage to the

Bus Barns.

is greatly appreciated during the spring thaw.





Why Women Live Longer Than Men

There are all kinds of studies out there usually done by people who have nothing more important in the world to do. It is amazing how they come up with these various topics and studies. There must be somebody somewhere, being paid to come up with the most ridiculous studies they can think up.

Usually, I do not pay much attention to these surveys. I have more important things to do... like living! However, this one caught my attention right away. The title of the study was, "Women Live on Average Four Years Longer than Men."

I was afraid the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would see this study. My fears were allayed when she brought the subject up and drew my attention to it.

Rather smugly, she said, "Look at this article. It says that women live longer than men."

I was not quite sure what I was in for but I knew I was in for it. Throughout the decades of our relationship the word "it," has come to mean a variety of things. I never know the definition of "it" until after the incident, which puts me in a great disadvantage.

For example, I know I am in for "it," when I come back from the store without the main reason she sent me to the store. The "it" is a tongue lashing on the merits of getting everything on the list she puts there. According to her, the items on the list are not suggestions but are put there for a purpose and that purpose being me purchasing said items when I go to the store.

I know I am in for "it," when I lollygag (a word she uses often when speaking to me) in the backyard instead of getting to the business at hand of mowing the grass. In this occasion, the "it" is a tongue lashing on the merits of mowing the grass in a more timely manner.

I know I am in for "it," when I fail to do anything on her "honey-do-list" when she is away for several days. The "it" is a tongue lashing on the merits of doing at least one thing on that list before her return.

When I look at it from this light, it seems to me that more often than not, her definition of "it" is a tongue lashing.

Getting back to women living longer than men do, I was tempted to opine that the reason is they work men to death. However, I knew if I said that I would really be in for "it."

Being experienced in husband-lore, I smiled and simply asked, "Why do you think that is, Honey?"

I never really understood this matter of "the birds and the bees," until I got married. Wives have their "honey-do-lists" and husbands defer to his better half as "Honey." It does not take a birdbrain to figure that one out.

"I'll tell you why that is," my wife said with great feeling. "The reason women live longer than men is that men don't have enough work to do."

Then she threw an old quote that I have heard all my life, "Man works from sun up to sun down, but a woman's work is never done."

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I could have said that men do not lollygag around, but just get to the job at hand and gets it done. I knew if I responded like this I would really be in for "it."

"Another thing," she said with a smirk, "the reason women live an average of four years longer than men is it takes that long to clean up the mess men have made after they die."

There are arguments you cannot refute and then there are arguments you should not refute. I am not sure which category this one fell under but I knew I needed to have a "golden" moment.

Of course, it is hard to argue with statistics. The cold hard facts are that women do live on an average four years longer than men.

If the wife works outside the home, she still has to work inside the home. The man, on the other hand, works outside the home and "lollygags" inside the home. I'm not sure why this is but this is a point on her side of the chalkboard.

There was a time in our marriage when I was out of work and my wife was the primary breadwinner in the home. At that time, I took on the duties of the house and the care of the children. After one week of her coming home to my home-cooked dinners, she graciously assumed the responsibility of cooking supper for the family each night when she got home. It was not a matter of convenience but rather of survival. To say I was a bad cook is to denigrate the word cook.

I do not know if this longevity is different between a single woman and a married woman.

If anybody was an expert on wives, it has to be King Solomon in the Old Testament.

"House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD." (Proverbs 19:14 KJV)

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD." (Proverbs 18:22 KJV)

Perhaps the primary reason women live longer than a man is that women lie about their age. But you didn't hear it from me.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net or website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

Booking Days Specials on all Inventories



Oil, grease, filters and tires

March 18-19, 2015

Cash and Carry on certain items

Lunch will be provided

Farmers Union Co-op Assn.

605/395-6461 - Ferney

Shop at your locally owned Co-op where the patron still owns the company since 1943

We will build for your needs not ours

Today in Weather History

March 15, 1941: Beware the Ides of March. The most severe blizzard in modern history strikes North Dakota and Minnesota. The blizzard began on a Saturday night while many are traveling, and thus claims 71 lives. Winds gust to 75 mph at Duluth, Minnesota, and reach 85 mph at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Snow drifts twelve feet high are reported in north central Minnesota. A cold front traveling 30 mph crosses Minnesota in just seven hours.

March 15, 2010: Snowmelt runoff from an expansive snow cover flooded many creeks, roads, along with thousands of acres of pasture and cropland throughout northeast South Dakota. There were numerous road closures. The flooding lasted through the end of the month and for many locations into April. The counties mainly affected were Brown, Marshall, Day, Spink, and Roberts. Numerous communities were affected including Aberdeen, Claremont, Waubay, Amherst, Kidder, and the Richmond Lake area. The Claremont, Amherst, and Britton areas were the hardest hit with flooded land and roads. Several farms were surrounded by water with some people stranded. Between Aberdeen and Britton, sixty percent of the land was under water. Thousands of acres of cropland will not be planted due to too much water with estimates that 20 to 25 percent of Brown county cropland would not be planted. Many people in northeast South Dakota have had too much water for many years. The road damage was extensive and repairs will be in the millions of dollars. Many roads across the area will also have to be raised. Many people had extra-long commutes due to flooded roads with some people having to move out of their homes. Across Day and Marshall Counties, rising lakes threatened many homes and cabins with sandbagging taking place. Most lakes and rivers across northeast South Dakota were at or near record levels. [Click HERE](#) for pictures around northeastern South Dakota.

1941 - The most severe blizzard in modern history struck North Dakota and Minnesota. The blizzard hit on a Saturday night while many are traveling, and thus claimed 71 lives. Winds gusted to 75 mph at Duluth MN, and reached 85 mph at Grand Forks ND. Snow drifts twelve feet high were reported in north central Minnesota. A cold front traveling 30 mph crossed Minnesota in just seven hours. (15th-16th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1952 – On Reunion Island, some 400 miles east of Madagascar 127.56 inches of rain fell in a three-day period in the spring of 1952. This set a world record for the most rain in a 72 hour period. Also from the 15th to the 16th 73.62 inches of rain fell in this 24 hours period at Cilaos, La Reunion Island in the South Indian Ocean to set a world record.

1987 - A winter storm in the western U.S. produced heavy snow in central Nevada, with 23 inches reported at Austin. High winds raked the desert areas of southern California and southern Arizona. Winds gusted to 59 mph at Douglas AZ. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - More than one hundred hours of continuous snow finally came to an end at Marquette MI, during which time the city was buried under 43 inches of snow. Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S., with forty-one cities reporting record low temperatures for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from Alabama to the Middle Atlantic Coast. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 at Virginia Beach VA. Low pressure in southeastern Ontario produced high winds in the northeastern U.S. Winds gusted to 70 mph at Saint Albans VT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

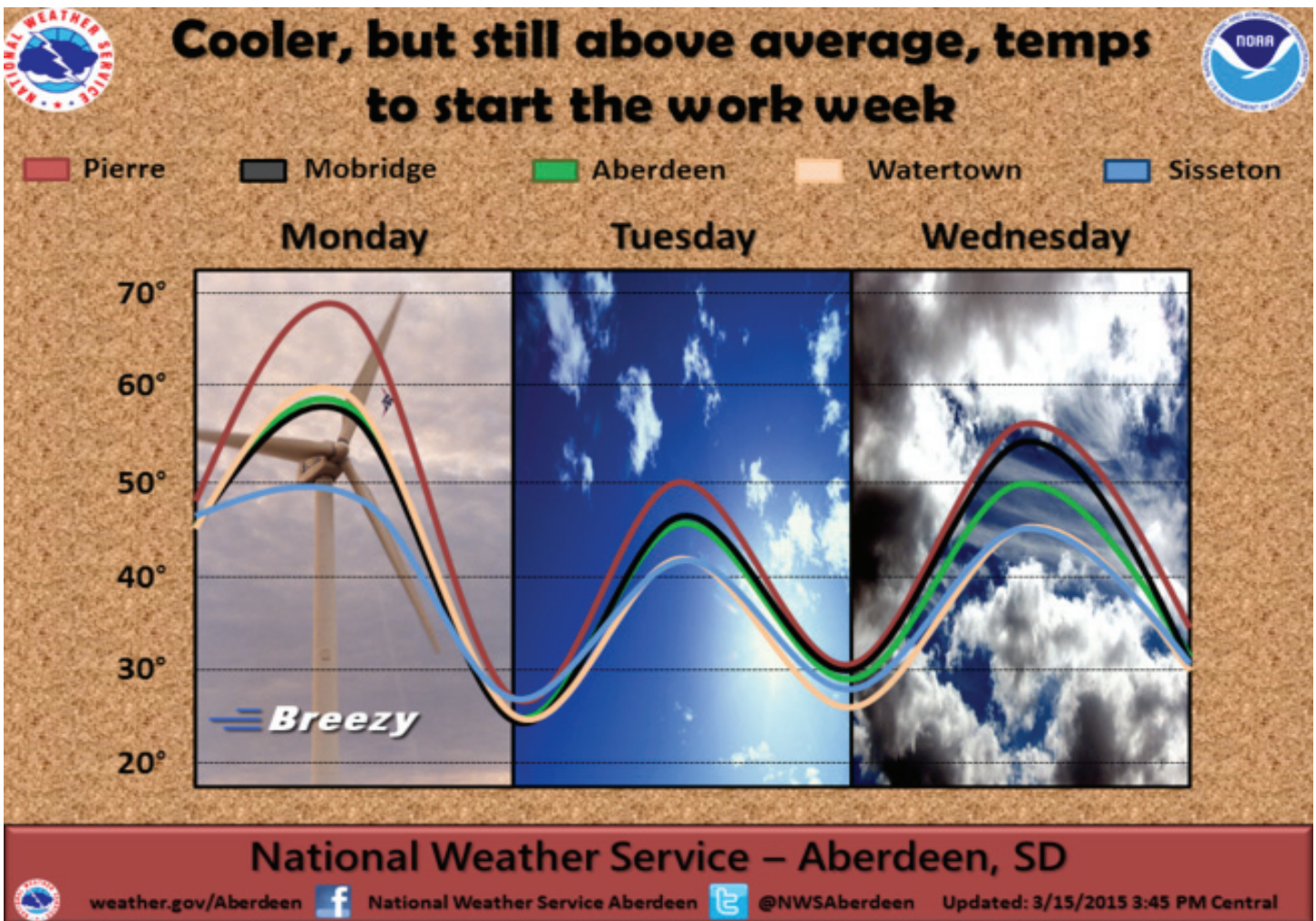
1990 - Low pressure crossing the Upper Mississippi Valley produced high winds from the Northern and Central Plains to the Great Lakes Region and Ohio Valley. Winds gusted to 73 mph at Iowa City IA, and wind gusts reached 79 mph at Waukesha WI. Winds of 75 mph were reported around Rapid City SD, with gusts to 100 mph. Up to a foot of snow was reported in western Iowa, western Minnesota, and extreme eastern North Dakota. Blizzard conditions were reported in northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004 – Brownsville, Texas breaks a century-old record for the greatest daily rainfall accumulation for March with 3.23 inches.

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Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night
Mostly Cloudy	Breezy	Blustery	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Low: 45 °F	High: 57 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 48 °F	Low: 30 °F



A cold front moves through tonight dropping highs for Monday nearly 20 degrees compared to Sunday. Cloud cover will be widespread, but any precipitation should stay north across the North Dakota boarder. Temperatures continue to descend Tuesday as sunshine returns, but the area will still be above average. A weak disturbance pushes into the region by the middle of the week, so clouds will be on the increase. A slight chance of showers also exists for Wednesday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 69.0 at 4:26 PM

Low: 26.3 at 6:49 AM

High Gust: 28 at 10:45 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 66° in 2012

Record Low: -17° in 1906

Average High: 40°F

Average Low: 20°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.47

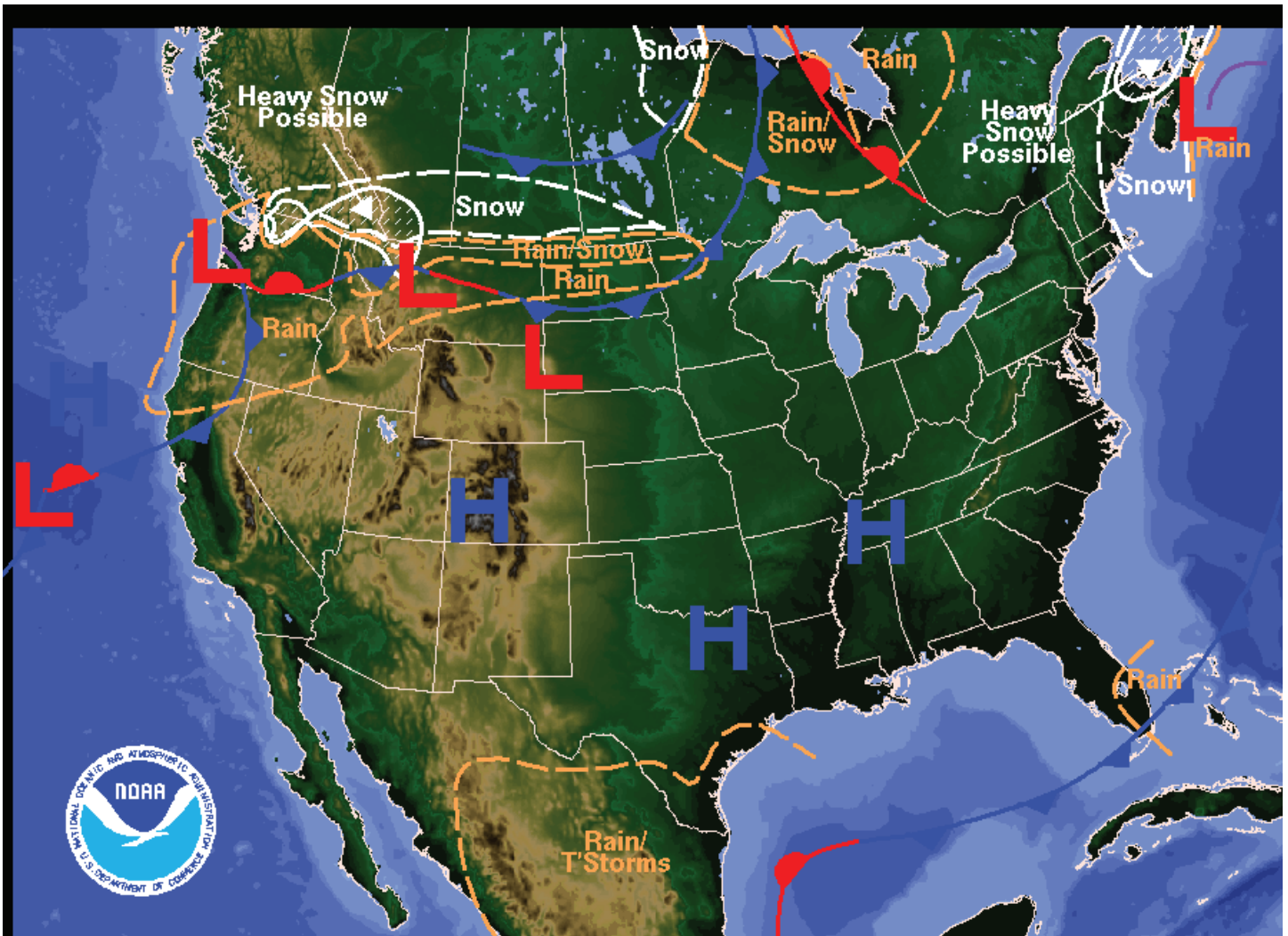
Precip to date in March.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.49

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 7:39 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:45 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Mar 15, 2015, issued 4:34 PM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



NO ONE'S PERFECT!

Paul echoed Solomon's words when he wrote, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." But Solomon forces us to address the same fact by asking a pointed question no one can escape: "Who can say, 'I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin'?"

Sometimes we look at sin as a big "lump of things we did not do." Sin, we believe, has its origin outside of us or something that happens "to us" and we simply have to deal with it the best we can by trying to "do better." But that is impossible.

Sin is a "heart" problem and something we cannot change on our own. No one has ever been able to free themselves from sin. And here we find the reason.

If I were able to talk with Solomon he might begin by asking, "Larry - have you kept your heart pure?" Heart, as you will recall, includes the sum total of "us" - our thoughts, feelings, attitudes, behaviors, values and goals - that forms the way I relate to everything in life. And if our hearts are not pure, whatever we do will be impure. Only God can purify our hearts through the work of Christ. Only God can free us from an impure heart and the consequences of sin.

When Solomon posed this question he framed it in such a way that anyone who answered it would be forced to respond by saying, "Not I." In his wisdom he forces us to look inside of ourselves, at our own heart, and answer for our own impurities. We each must answer for our own uncleanness. There is no way for us to escape our individual accountability or responsibility for what we have done that comes under this category because we have not kept our hearts pure.

Only God can create a heart that is clean and pure.

Prayer: Father, how very grateful we are to have the gift of a pure heart that is available through Christ, Your son, our Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 20:9 Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"?

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News from the  Associated Press

State Agriculture Department seeks ag ambassador nominations

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Department of Agriculture is taking nominations for the 2015 South Dakota Governor's Ag Ambassador Award.

The person chosen is expected to provide leadership to the state's agricultural industry to help it grow, supports responsible stewardship of livestock and land, highlights the significance of South Dakota agriculture to the global food system and influences decision makers on sound agricultural policies.

Nominations are due by April 17. The form can be found at <http://sdda.sd.gov> under the "Happening Now" section by clicking "Governor's Ag Ambassador Award Nomination Form."

The award will be presented in July at the Governor's Agricultural Summit in Deadwood.

The 2014 ambassador was Brad Greenway, of Mitchell, who runs a diversified farm with a swine operation, a beef cow/calf herd, and corn, soybean and wheat crops.

Fight over Keystone XL project doesn't stall pipeline boom

HENRY C. JACKSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a far corner of North Dakota, just a few hundred miles from the proposed path of the Keystone XL pipeline, 84,000 barrels of crude oil per day recently began flowing through a new line that connects the state's sprawling oilfields to an oil hub in Wyoming.

In West Texas, engineers activated a new pipeline that cuts diagonally across the state to deliver crude from the oil-rich Permian Basin to refineries near Houston. And in a string of towns in Kansas, Iowa and South Dakota, local government officials are scrutinizing the path of pipeline extensions that would pass nearby.

While the Keystone project awaits a final decision, scenes like these are unfolding almost every week in lesser-known developments that have quietly added more than 11,600 miles of pipeline to the nation's domestic oil network.

Overall, the network has increased by almost a quarter in the last decade. And the work dwarfs Keystone. About 3.3 million barrels per day of capacity have been added since 2012 alone — five times more oil than the Canada-to-Texas Keystone line could carry if it's ever built.

The pipeline build-out provides a little noticed counterpoint to the fierce political battle being waged over the 1,179-mile TransCanada project, which is still in limbo seven years after it was proposed. During the long wait for Keystone, the petroleum industry has pushed relentlessly everywhere else to get oil to market more efficiently, and its adversaries have been unable to stop other major pipelines.

"There's been a lot of growth — we're really positive on it in general," said Rob DeSai, an equity analyst with Edward Jones who focuses on the energy industry. "The oil that's being produced in the U.S., in many cases, it's basically in the middle of nowhere. You need new infrastructure to get that oil to market."

Environmental groups have fought Keystone by citing the risk of leaks and the climate-change consequences of fossil fuels. They hope to make cleaner energy options more appealing. Their success has inspired local protest groups to challenge more projects.

But those efforts, while slowing a few pipelines, have not stopped any because the regulatory path is smoother when a pipeline does not cross an international border, as Keystone would.

In Minnesota, local opponents succeeded last year in getting state regulators to consider rerouting a

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616-mile pipeline proposed by Toronto-based Enbridge around pristine lakes and forests, delaying it for at least a year.

More typical, though, was an Enbridge project to double the capacity of a 285-mile stretch of pipeline in Michigan. Groups like the Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands fought the proposal, citing a spill in 2010 that caused serious environmental damage. But the Michigan Public Service Commission ruled the project acceptable, and the expansion went ahead.

In Texas, Magellan's BridgeTex Pipeline, designed to take up to 300,000 barrels of crude per day from Colorado City to refineries in Houston, was recently completed over landowners' protests about its path. Local officials cleared the way for the company to use the state's eminent-domain law to condemn land for the pipeline. It came online last year.

Some environmentalists acknowledge that changing a pipeline's route often may be the best they can hope for.

"I'm telling people I don't think it's going to stop," said Paul Stolen, a retired state biologist who has been working with groups opposing the Enbridge project in Minnesota. "I think it's going to escalate and get bigger."

In most states, opponents have to prove a project does not serve the public interest or poses a clear environmental threat.

In states that depend on energy jobs, regulators tend to be receptive to the industry. Supporters also argue that transporting oil by pipeline is safer than by train, noting recent accidents and spills.

Since 2012, more than 50 pipeline projects have been approved, completed or are under development, including the just finished 600-mile Enbridge Flanagan South line, which runs through four states.

The recent surge in oil production, from roughly 5 million barrels a day in 2008 to 8.9 million barrels in 2014, has pushed new webs of pipe across regions that until recently had few. Dozens of new lines ranging up to 700 miles connect drill sites in the Upper Midwest to refineries in the region or to hubs in Oklahoma and along the Gulf Coast.

Even TransCanada has been busy. The company unveiled a 200-mile, \$600 million proposal late last month that would carry oil from North Dakota's Bakken field north to Canada and connect to other lines that can take it to the East Coast.

"When Keystone was first announced, I think that was something like a third of (TransCanada's) expected budget," said DeSai, the Edward Jones analyst. "TransCanada now has had so many projects that now Keystone's a much smaller percentage."

President Barack Obama has said his decision on Keystone, which would take Canadian tar sands oil to Gulf Coast refineries, would depend in part on its possible contribution to global warming. He is awaiting a State Department report on its environmental impact.

But the State Department does not review pipelines that are entirely inside the United States, which is the vast majority of them.

Pipeline companies also soften resistance by paying landowners for access and by assuming all liability for leaks. But some opponents say they believe that the new resistance inspired by Keystone will eventually raise more public concern about oil shipments.

In Iowa, a former state lawmaker, Ed Fallon, is walking the 400-mile route of a proposed pipeline and blogging about his trip to build support for environmentalists' protests.

"They want people to just roll over and take what's coming," he said of oil companies. "We know that's wrong. We know this pipeline can be stopped" because of the Keystone stalemate.

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Oahe Farm and Ranch show near Pierre canceled for the year

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — One of South Dakota's newest farm shows has been called off for this year.

The Tri-State Neighbor reports that organizers of the Oahe Farm and Rach Show near Pierre have decided to take a year off to reassess the show and figure out ways to make it better.

The show had been scheduled for late June, and vendors who had pre-paid for booth space are being refunded. This would have been the show's fourth year.

General manager Jessica Lammle says the decision wasn't based on finances.

Organizers have put together an online survey to get feedback on how the farm show could be improved. Lammle says the goal of the survey is to get some assurance from vendors, sponsors and nearby communities that they would be supportive of the show.

SD fire dept. once had waiting list, now looks for recruits

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A Brookings Fire Chief Darrell Hartmann remembers when the fire department had a long list of volunteer applicants who would wait up to two years to get an interview.

But "modern lifestyle," Hartmann says, has left him with low staffing levels and a recruiting challenge. He is now searching for one more volunteer as two firefighters have stepped down.

Hartmann says the department is "open to anyone who feels they can pass the background check and the physical." He says the most difficult portion of the physical is having to lift and carry 100 pounds.

Volunteer firefighter Tim Austin says the job isn't just about putting out fires. He says volunteers also get rescue calls and occasionally assist paramedics with patients.

Hartmann says newcomers must complete a 160-hour certification course.

Feds take South Dakota trucking company off the road

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Federal transportation regulators have ordered a South Dakota trucking company and its owner to stop all commercial operations.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has deemed commercial driver Lonnie Roth and his namesake company imminent public safety hazards. The agency says inspectors found the company repeatedly violated federal regulations.

Authorities say the violations of the Mitchell-based company include dispatching a driver known to have an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater, failing to implement random alcohol and drug testing programs for drivers, and failing to ensure that drivers complied with regulations designed to prevent fatigue.

The Daily Republic reports Roth was convicted of driving a commercial vehicle under the influence of alcohol in early December and his commercial driver's license was revoked.

Roth declined to comment to The Associated Press.

Saturday's Scores **The Associated Press**

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

State AA Tournament

Seventh Place: Pierre 62, Huron 47

Fifth Place: Sioux Falls Lincoln 58, Rapid City Stevens 44

Third Place: Aberdeen Central 58, Harrisburg 31

Championship: Sioux Falls Washington 45, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 42

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State A Tournament

Seventh Place: Red Cloud 65, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 51

Fifth Place: Clark/Willow Lake 73, Dell Rapids 34

Third Place: Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 58, Webster 48

Championship: St. Thomas More 54, Elk Point-Jefferson 24

State B Tournament

Seventh Place: McLaughlin 58, Kimball/White Lake 49

Fifth Place: Viborg-Hurley 50, Jones County 33

Third Place: DeSmet 51, Summit 41

Championship: Ethan 31, Sully Buttes 28

SF Washington rallies to beat SF O’Gorman 45-42 at state AA

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls Washington rallied to beat Sioux Falls O’Gorman 45-42 Saturday in the championship game at the South Dakota Class AA girls basketball tournament.

The Warriors (15-10) made several clutch free throws down the stretch and went 14-for-23 from the line. The Knights (23-2) were just 5-for-8 from the line.

Sydney Arrington had 18 points and eight rebounds for Washington, which outscored O’Gorman 22-13 in the fourth quarter. Anna Goodhope added 14 points and 10 rebounds.

O’Gorman got 15 points from Jessica Mieras and 12 from Kate Cartwright.

Washington put together a 21-11 run to go up 23-22 late in the third. But the Knights scored seven quick points to go up 29-23 at the end of quarter.

Aberdeen Central takes third at state AA

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Brianna Kusler had 20 points and Paiton Burckhard added 16 points and 12 rebounds as Aberdeen Central took third at the South Dakota Class AA girls’ basketball tournament with a 58-31 win over Harrisburg on Saturday.

Kusler was 8 for 12, and Burckhard was 7 for 11, from the field as the Golden Eagles (19-7) outscored the Tigers 36-12 from the paint and scored 24 points off 17 turnovers.

Rena Bragg added 10 points.

Harrisburg (13-12) shot just 31 percent from the field. Danni Honner had three 3-pointers and 17 points for the Tigers.

SF Lincoln takes fifth at state AA

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Ellie and Anna Brecht combined for 35 points to lead Sioux Falls Lincoln to a 58-44 win over Rapid City Stevens in the fifth-place game at the South Dakota Class AA girls basketball game on Saturday.

Ellie Brecht had 22 points and three assists and Anna Brecht added 13 points, five rebounds and two assists for the Patriots (18-8). Izzy VanVeldhuizen had 11 points and eight rebounds.

Lincoln shot 40 percent from the field to 32 percent for the Raiders (17-8).

Kaitlyn King led the Raiders with 15 points and Taylor Molstad added 12.

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Pierre TF Riggs takes seventh at state AA

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Sydney Palmer's 24 points helped Pierre TF Riggs beat Huron 62-47 Saturday in the seventh-place game at the South Dakota Class AA girls basketball tournament.

Palmer made seven of 11 shots from the field and was perfect on nine free throws for the Governors (19-6).

TF Riggs turned 26 Huron turnovers into 33 points.

Hallie Jerome had 10 points despite making just one of 10 3-pointers. As a team, the Governors were 3-for-25.

Sarah Carr had 15 points and 14 rebounds for Huron (7-19).

St. Thomas More defends state A championship

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — St. Thomas More took the excitement out of it early, racing out to a 32-7 halftime lead and beating Elk Point-Jefferson 54-24 Saturday for its second straight South Dakota Class A girls' basketball title.

Ciarra Duffy had 20 points for the Cavaliers (24-1), who won for the second consecutive year and third time in four seasons. Alexys Swedlund added 13 points and 11 rebounds as St. Thomas More outscored the Huskies 28-8 inside.

McKenzie Mennenga led Elk Point-Jefferson (21-4) with 15 points. No other player had more than four points as the Huskies shot 27 percent.

Mt. Vernon-Plankinton beats Webster Area 58-48 at state A 3rd

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — Makaela Karst's 21 points helped Mt. Vernon-Plankinton beat Webster Area 58-48 in the third-place game Saturday at the South Dakota Class A girls basketball tournament.

Karst was 7 for 11 from the field and grabbed eight rebounds for the Titans (22-3). Payleen O'Day hit three 3-pointers and finished with 18 points while Megan Bultsma scored 12 with seven rebounds.

The Titans led 30-13 at halftime.

Lindsey Vogl netted 21 points on 7-for-16 shooting, including three 3-pointers, for the Bearcats (18-6). Lindsey Schoenbeck tossed in 10 points and Haley Rithmiller had 10 rebounds.

Clark-Willow Lake beats Dell Rapids for fifth at state A

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — Clark-Willow Lake's Taylor Hartley had 21 points to lead her team to a 73-34 win over Dell Rapids Saturday in the fifth-place game at the South Dakota Class A girls basketball tournament.

Hartley was 8-for-10 from the field with five 3-pointers for Clark-Willow Lake (19-7), which shot 56 percent from the field.

Mikayla Proudly added 16 points and six rebounds and Mackenzie Huber had 14 points and 11 boards.

Mikaela Stofferahn led Dell Rapids (15-10) with 11 points and Emma Paul had 10 points and six rebounds.

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Red Cloud beats Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 65-51 at state A 7th

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — Trista Merrival scored 16 points and Leannah Vitalis added 15 as Red Cloud beat Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 65-51 Saturday for seventh place at the South Dakota Class A girls basketball tournament.

Merrival had three 3-pointers and sank seven of eight free throws for the Crusaders (18-8), whose bench outscored the Braves 38-4.

Vitalis also had three 3-pointers and Schaevon Brewer added 11 points and nine rebounds. Dawnee Keckler had 17 points and seven rebounds for Cheyenne-Eagle Butte (14-11).

Ethan beats Bully Buttes for state B title

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Ethan's first state tournament in 34 years ended with a 31-28 win over Sully Buttes on Saturday and a South Dakota Class B girls basketball tournament title.

The undefeated Rustlers (26-0) beat Sully Buttes (25-2) for the second time this season.

Ethan did not have a player in double figures. But it shot 52 percent from the field in a game that featured more turnovers (26) than field goals (20).

Karly Gustafson was 3-for-3 from the field and line for nine points. Ellie Hohn and Darbi Gustafson had eight points each.

Chloe Lamb had 14 points and Racquel Wientjes added 11 for the Chargers, who shot 29 percent.

De Smet beats Summit 51-41 in OT in state B 3rd

HURON, S.D. (AP) — De Smet outscored Summit 11-1 in overtime after rallying to tie the game late and beat the Eagles 51-41 for third place at the South Dakota Class A girls basketball tournament on Saturday.

De Smet (21-5) got 15 points from Andrea Pommer and 11 from Shannon Poppen. The Bulldogs scored 14 straight points, including the tying points with 23 seconds left in regulation. They trailed 40-35 with 48 seconds left in regulation.

Karissa Chamley had 16 points and Kalissa Pereboom added 11 for Summit (21-5).

Viborg-Hurley beats Jones County 50-33 at state B 5th

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Angie Lee's 14 points helped Viborg-Hurley beat Jones County 50-33 Saturday in the fifth-place game at the South Dakota Class B girls basketball tournament.

The Cougars (21-5) shot 42 percent from the field and outrebounded the Coyotes 30-23.

Lee had one of Viborg-Hurley's four 3-pointers, as did Abby Hora, who had 13 points and nine rebounds.

Madison Mathews was the only Jones County (22-4) player in double digits with 18 points. She had three of the four 3-pointers by the Coyotes, who shot 29 percent.

McLaughlin beats Kimball-White Lake 58-49 in OT at state B 7th

HURON, S.D. (AP) — McLaughlin outscored Kimball-White Lake 12-3 in overtime to beat the Wildcats 58-49 for seventh place on Saturday at the South Dakota Class B girls basketball tournament.

McKenna Vetter had a pair of free throws for McLaughlin (18-7) with 26 seconds left to send the game to overtime. She finished with 20 points, six rebounds and three assists. She was 7-for-9 from the line.

Tariq Brownotter had 13 points, Jayda Bad Horse 11 and Tiara Flying Horse 10.

Kelli Steffen had 17 points and Paige Munsen 12 points and 15 rebounds for Kimball-White Lake (15-8).

3 people hospitalized, 1 dog dead in Sioux Falls fire

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Three people are hospitalized and one dog is dead following a fire that broke out at a Sioux Falls duplex late Friday night.

Authorities say heavy smoke and flames were coming out of the duplex when firefighters arrived just before 11:30 p.m.

Three of the building's residents were treated and taken to the hospital by ambulance, but the injuries did not appear to be life-threatening.

Firefighters rescued two dogs from the fire, but they later found a third dog that had died.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. All of the residents are being assisted by the Red Cross.

Canton veteran receives corrected honor 44 years later

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A mistake on a certificate given to a Canton veteran for earning a prestigious medal for service has finally been rectified.

Dennis Lundstrom received his first Distinguished Flying Cross decades ago for his service in Vietnam with the 173rd Aviation Company. But he says the certificate that came with his medal misspelled his last name and had an incorrect Social Security number, so he was never registered in the archives.

U.S. Sen. John Thune presented Lundstrom, along with his family, a corrected certificate on Friday — 44 years after he received his medal.

"We wanted to give them an opportunity as a family to recognize their father's, their grandfather's service and for us to say thank you on behalf of a grateful nation," Thune said.

Lundstrom told his commanding officer about the error when he received his medal, but was told to wait until he got back to the United States.

When he returned home, Lundstrom said he didn't think about it again and didn't do anything about it for years, but his oldest daughter thought he deserved the proper recognition, so she contacted Thune.

Lundstrom served overseas for almost two years and later worked with the U.S. Postal Service for more than 30 years before retiring. He also served as the mayor of Canton for five years.

"I'm glad they got it right because I'm proud of that medal," he said. "I'm sure this will get on Facebook so my comrades on Facebook will really get a kick out of this, so we'll have fun with it," he said.

Martin man sentenced to 48 years for 2012 beating death

MARTIN, S.D. (AP) — A Martin man who pleaded no contest to charges that he bludgeoned a man to death as a teenager was sentenced to 48 years in prison on Friday.

Twenty-year-old Matthew Libby pleaded no contest in January to charges of second-degree murder in the death of 48-year-old Albert Apple. Sixth Circuit Judge Kathleen Trandahl suspended 21 years of Libby's term on Friday, reported the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/18osVG6>).

Authorities say Libby, who was 17 at the time, was drinking at a November 2012 party before he encountered Apple. They say the teen drove Apple out of town to where he hit and kicked him. Apple's body was found in a ditch and an autopsy showed that he died from severe blunt force trauma to his head. Evidence found at the scene connected Libby to the murder, according to court documents.

Bennett County State's Attorney Ken Orrock has said that Libby has no recollection of the events that led to the death of Apple. He was 17 when a grand jury indicted him on charges of first-degree murder, robbery and burglary. His attorneys sought to move the case to juvenile court, but Trandahl rejected the request.

The first-degree murder charge, along with robbery and burglary, were dismissed as part of a plea

agreement.

Libby will become eligible for parole in 13 ½ years.

Police arrest Rapid City man they subdued with bean bag gun

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man who police subdued with a bean bag shotgun after he allegedly threatened officers with a knife has been arrested.

Police say they arrested 26-year-old T.J. Looking Horse after he was released from Rapid City Regional Hospital on Friday.

Police say Looking Horse advanced on officers last weekend after he was ordered to drop a knife he was holding.

They say he told them to shoot him. An officer stopped the man with a round from a shotgun that shoots non-lethal bean bags rather than bullets.

Looking Horse was arrested on suspicion of aggravated assault on law enforcement after he left the hospital, where he underwent surgery for unspecified injuries.

It's unclear whether he has an attorney.

Young South Dakota artists urged to enter poster contest

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Young South Dakota artists can show off their talents and help raise awareness about wildfire dangers.

South Dakota Wildland Fire is sponsoring a poster coloring contest as part of Wildfire Awareness Month.

This year's entries have to reflect the theme "Tame the Flame" and must be postmarked by April 24.

The contest will have two age brackets with a Smokey Bear plush toy awarded to the winner of each group. The poster theme for ages 3-7 is "Campfire Dead Out" and for ages 8-12 is "Firefighter and Friends."

Only one entry per child is allowed and posters must be done by the child with no outside help. Paint, markers, crayons or colored pencils may be used.

Entry forms and rules are available at <http://bit.ly/1BATE7w> .

Cost to obtain public records varies widely across SD

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Before 2009, all government records in South Dakota were considered confidential except for documents that agencies were required to keep. With the Legislature's nearly six-year-old law that opened most records to public inspection, progress has come with a price — literally — that some consider reasonable and others think is excessive.

South Dakota law provides that "a reasonable fee may be charged" for the production and copying of requested records. But the law does not include guidance as to what may be considered reasonable.

"The issue is always affordable access," Attorney General Marty Jackley said, describing the current concept of reasonable charge as "almost too subjective." He added that "not having any law giving direction other than it has to be a reasonable cost" creates a challenge when addressing concerns from the media and the general public.

Nationwide, the public's right to see government records is coming at an increasing price, as authorities set fees and hourly charges that often prevent information from flowing. Such costs are a growing threat to expanding openness at all levels of government, a cornerstone of Sunshine Week, which

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celebrates its 10th anniversary beginning March 15.

A task force called by South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Jackley in 2012 studied the state's open records and open meetings laws. Some of the panel's recommendations were adopted, but the task force did not define the amount of a reasonable fee.

And since many kinds of documents — such as records of emails and telephone calls of public officials — are still confidential, part of those fees pay for research time that government attorneys have to spend in determining whether a record is public under state law, said South Dakota Newspaper Association general manager David Bordewyk.

Bordewyk said requesters in South Dakota in some instances have been asked to pay between \$25 and \$75 dollars an hour just so an attorney can decide if the record can be released. He added that high fees do end up discouraging some people from seeking government records.

"I wouldn't say that I've seen necessarily seen an increase in costs to get copies of records, but I've seen inconsistencies in terms of how government charges for copies or government records or access to government records," Bordewyk said.

AP News in Brief

Kerry says he'd be willing to negotiate with Syrian President Bashar Assad

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said he would be willing to talk with Syrian President Bashar Assad to help broker a political resolution to the country's civil war.

Kerry said in an interview with CBS News that the U.S. is pushing for Assad to seriously discuss a transition strategy to help end Syria's four-year conflict, which has killed more than 220,000 people, given rise to the Islamic State group and destabilized the wider Middle East.

"We have to negotiate in the end," Kerry said. "What we're pushing for is to get him to come and do that, and it may require that there be increased pressure on him of various kinds."

The Obama administration has long pushed for a political settlement to the Syrian crisis, and helped bring the Assad government and the Western-backed opposition to the negotiating table in early 2014.

Those talks collapsed without making any headway, however, and there has been no serious effort as of yet to revive them.

As Israelis prepare to vote, struggling Netanyahu puts legacy on the line in bid for 4th term

JERUSALEM (AP) — As Israelis prepare to vote in parliament elections on Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu finds himself at a fateful crossroads: Make history or become history.

If Netanyahu can lead his Likud Party to victory and secure a fourth term in office, he will move closer to overtaking the nation's iconic founding father, David Ben-Gurion, as the longest-ever serving premier — and cementing a status as the dominant Israeli politician of the past two decades.

But if Likud stumbles and finds itself in the opposition — a real possibility, according to recent polls — the Netanyahu era could end with a resounding thud, concluding a career that many would say brought few major accomplishments beyond longevity. Iran and the international community seem headed toward a nuclear deal that Netanyahu abhors, and a resolution to the Palestinian issue seems as distant as ever.

"If he leaves office, he won't leave any dramatic changes," said Yoaz Hendel, a former aide to Netan-

yahu. In a turbulent region, one could say “this is the best thing to do,” Hendel said.

The Israeli campaign is widely seen as a choice between two world views: Netanyahu’s focus on Israel’s many security challenges — he has long been a voice calling for zero tolerance of terrorism — or his opponents’ focus on Israel’s social problems and high cost of living. It also touches on his support for Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, which the opposition and the outside world detest.

Family of wealthy eccentric thanks authorities for arresting him on LA murder warrant

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Robert Durst, a wealthy eccentric linked to two killings and his wife’s disappearance, was arrested on a murder warrant just before Sunday’s finale in a serial documentary about his life.

FBI agents arrested Durst Saturday at a New Orleans hotel, on a warrant from Los Angeles for the murder of Susan Berman in Hollywood 15 years ago, FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said.

Durst ordered held without bond during a brief appearance Sunday pending another hearing set for Monday morning. His lawyer, Chip Lewis, said Durst will waive extradition and be transported to Los Angeles.

“He’s maintained his innocence for years,” Lewis said. “Nothing has changed.”

But Durst’s estranged family thanked authorities for tracking him down.

University of Oklahoma not alone in dealing with race-related incidents involving fraternities

WASHINGTON (AP) — Their reputations sullied by race-tainted incidents, many colleges are clamping down on campus fraternities. Despite some swift and tough actions by schools — and in some cases, public humiliation — episodes such as the racist chants by members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Oklahoma keep surfacing.

In recent years, numerous other fraternities have been suspended and students expelled from school for racially tinged parties or behavior, such as hanging nooses or shouting racial profanities.

“All too often the outcry has been, ‘Look at those bad apples we need to root out,’” said Nolan L. Cabrera, a professor in the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Arizona. “When in fact the conversation we need to have is, ‘Why is this occurring on such a widespread level throughout the country?’”

Many incidents come to light after the students themselves post pictures or videos online, drawing public attention; others are reported by onlookers or whistleblowers.

Either way, “it’s hard to ignore a current on many, many campuses of behaviors that are just offensive and disgusting at the far end and maybe just lack common sense at the other end,” said Kevin Kruger, president of NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, a professional organization.

Prosecutor: Man charged with shooting 2 St. Louis-area officers said they weren’t the target

CLAYTON, Mo. (AP) — A 20-year-old charged Sunday with shooting two police officers watching over a demonstration outside the Ferguson Police Department attended a protest there earlier that night but told investigators he wasn’t targeting the officers, officials said.

St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch said Jeffrey Williams told authorities he was firing at

someone with whom he was in a dispute, not at the police officers.

"We're not sure we completely buy that part of it," McCulloch said, adding that there might have been other people in the vehicle with Williams.

Williams is charged with two counts of first-degree assault, one count of firing a weapon from a vehicle and three counts of armed criminal action. McCulloch said the investigation is ongoing.

The officers were shot early Thursday as a crowd began to break up after a late-night demonstration that unfolded after Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson resigned in the wake of the scathing federal Justice Department report.

US, Iran scramble for nuclear pact; officials suggest they may settle for lesser announcement

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The United States and Iran plunged back into negotiation Sunday, hoping to end once and for all a decades-long standoff that has raised the specter of an Iranian nuclear arsenal, a new atomic arms race in the Middle East and even a U.S. or Israeli military intervention. Two weeks out from a deadline for a framework accord, some officials said the awesomeness of the diplomatic task meant negotiators would likely settle for an announcement that they've made enough progress to justify further talks.

Such a declaration would hardly satisfy American critics of the Obama administration's diplomatic outreach to Iran and hardliners in the Islamic Republic, whose rumblings have grown more vociferous and threatening as the parties have narrowed many of their differences. And, officially, the United States and its partners insist their eyes are on a much bigger prize: "A deal that would protect the world," Secretary of State John Kerry emphasized this weekend, "from the threat that a nuclear-armed Iran could pose."

Yet as Kerry arrived in Switzerland for several days of discussions with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, no one was promising the breakthrough. One diplomat said new differences surfaced only in the last negotiating round of what has been a 15-month process, including a sudden Iranian demand that a nuclear facility buried deep underground be allowed to keep hundreds of centrifuges that are used for enriching uranium — material that can be used in a nuclear warhead. Previously, the Iranians had accepted the plant would be transformed into one solely for scientific research, that diplomat and others have said.

The deal that had been taking shape would see Iran freeze its nuclear program for at least a decade, with restrictions then gradually lifted over a period of perhaps the following five years. Washington and other world powers would similarly scale back sanctions that have crippled the Iranian economy in several phases. Iran says it is only interested in peaceful energy generation and medical research, but much of the world has suspected it of maintaining covert nuclear weapons ambitions. And the U.S. and its ally Israel have at various times threatened military action if Iran's program advances too far.

Speaking Sunday on CBS News, Kerry said most of the differences between Iran and the negotiating group of the U.S., Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia were "political," not technical. He didn't elaborate, but political matters tend to include levels of inspections, Iran's past military work linked to its nuclear program and how quickly to scale back sanctions. Technical matters refer, for example, to how many centrifuges Iran can maintain, what types of those machines and how much plutonium it would be allowed to produce from a planned heavy water reactor.

Before the brackets come out on Selection Sunday, the real drama rests with UConn

Everyone knows where Kentucky will be when the brackets come out later Sunday. For some real drama, keep an eye on UConn.

The Huskies (20-13) almost certainly have to win the American Athletic Conference final against SMU to get into the NCAA Tournament and earn a chance to defend their national title. If they do, they'll steal a spot that will otherwise go to an at-large bubble team.

"It's a scenario where we lose and we don't get a bid," coach Kevin Ollie said. "We feel not the pressure, but we feel the opportunity."

Kentucky, meanwhile, had long ago set itself up as the team to beat when the tournament opens Tuesday. The Wildcats (34-0) stayed undefeated by beating Arkansas 78-63 in the final of the Southeastern Conference tournament. Not that it would've mattered. They were slotted for the top seed in the tournament, win or lose. Coach John Calipari knows the seed is only a number.

Saddam's tomb suffers extensive damage in fighting as Iraqi security forces battle for Tikrit

OUJA, Iraq (AP) — The tomb of Iraq's late dictator Saddam Hussein was virtually leveled in heavy clashes between militants from the Islamic State group and Iraqi security forces in a fight for control of the city of Tikrit.

Fighting intensified to the north and south of Saddam Hussein's hometown Sunday as Iraqi security forces vowed to reach the center of Tikrit within 48 hours. Associated Press video from the village of Ouja, just south of Tikrit, shows all that remains of Hussein's once-lavish tomb are the support columns that held up the roof.

Poster-sized pictures of the late Sunni dictator, which once covered the mausoleum, are now nowhere to be seen amid the mountains of concrete rubble. Instead, Shiite militia flags and photos of militia leaders mark the predominantly Sunni village, including that of Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the powerful Iranian general advising Iraqi Shiite militias on the battlefield.

"This is one of the areas where IS militants massed up the most because Saddam's grace is here," said Captain Yasser Nu'ma, an official with the Shiite militias, formerly known as the Popular Mobilization Forces. "The IS militants' set an ambush for us by planting bombs around the palace."

The extremist Islamic State group has controlled Tikrit since June, when it waged its lightning offensive that saw Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, come under their control. The group claimed in August that the tomb had been completely destroyed, but local officials said it was just ransacked and burned, but suffered only minor damage.

Peril and promise of Clinton candidacy both on display in run-up to 2016 campaign's launch

WASHINGTON (AP) — All the peril and promise of Hillary Rodham Clinton's expected presidential campaign played out in high relief this past week.

In one hour, really.

There she was, in her element, enjoying a hero's welcome at a U.N. conference on women. Cellphone cameras snapped away as she spoke with passion of women's rights as the "great unfinished business of the 21st century."

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And there she was, a half-hour later, in her own personal hell just down the hall, carefully fending off questions from reporters asking about secrecy, ethics and whether she had played by the rules as secretary of state in using a private email account and server.

"I fully complied with every rule that I was governed by," she insisted without apology, in a *deja vu* moment that revived memories of all too many Clinton dramas past.

Putin says Russia was prepared to raise nuclear readiness as Crimea crisis simmered

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia was ready to bring its nuclear weapons into a state of alert during last year's tensions over the Crimean Peninsula and the overthrow of Ukraine's president, President Vladimir Putin said in remarks aired on Sunday.

Putin also expanded on a previous admission that the well-armed forces in unmarked uniforms who took control of Ukrainian military facilities in Crimea were Russian soldiers.

Putin's comments, in a documentary being shown on state TV, highlight the extent to which alarm spread in Russia in the weeks following Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's ouster in February 2014 after months of street protests that turned increasingly violent.

The documentary comes as speculation swirls about Putin's 10-day absence from public view. On Monday, he will meet with the president of Kyrgyzstan in an event covered by the news media, which would be his first appearance before journalists since March 5.

After Yanukovich fled Kiev, eventually surfacing in Russia, separatist sentiment soared in Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula dominated by ethnic Russians.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, March 15, the 74th day of 2015. There are 291 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 15, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, addressing a joint session of Congress, called for new legislation to guarantee every American's right to vote - the result was passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

On this date:

In 44 B.C., Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of nobles that included Brutus and Cassius.

In 1493, Christopher Columbus returned to Spain, concluding his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere.

In 1767, the seventh president of the United States, Andrew Jackson, was born in Waxhaw, South Carolina.

In 1820, Maine became the 23rd state.

In 1913, President Woodrow Wilson met with about 100 reporters for the first formal presidential press conference.

In 1935, the Busby Berkeley movie musical "Gold Diggers of 1935" was released by Warner Bros.

In 1945, "Going My Way" won the Academy Award for best picture of 1944, and its star, Bing Crosby, was named best actor; Ingrid Bergman was named best actress for "Gaslight."

In 1956, the Lerner and Loewe musical play "My Fair Lady," based on Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion," opened on Broadway.

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In 1964, actress Elizabeth Taylor married actor Richard Burton in Montreal; it was her fifth marriage, his second.

In 1975, Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis died near Paris at age 69.

In 1985, the first Internet domain name, symbolics.com, was registered by the Symbolics Computer Corp. of Massachusetts.

In 1990, Iraq executed London-based journalist Farzad Bazoft, whom it had accused of spying.

Ten years ago: Former WorldCom chief Bernard Ebbers was convicted in New York of engineering the largest corporate fraud in U.S. history. (He was later sentenced to 25 years in prison.) In a symbolic but stunning rebuke, Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences passed a motion saying it lacked confidence in President Lawrence Summers - the first such action in the nearly 400-year history of the university.

Five years ago: Michael David Barrett, an insurance executive who'd shot surreptitious hotel videos of ESPN reporter Erin Andrews, was sentenced in federal court in Los Angeles to 2 1/2 years in prison. (He was released in July 2012.) The United States demanded that Israel call off a contentious building project in east Jerusalem.

One year ago: Malaysia's prime minister, Najib Razak, said a Malaysian jetliner missing for a week had deliberately diverted and continued flying for more than seven hours after severing contact with the ground, meaning it could have gone as far northwest as Kazakhstan or into the Indian Ocean's southern reaches. Comedian David Brenner, 78, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Musician DJ Fontana is 84. Former astronaut Alan L. Bean is 83. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 82. Actor Judd Hirsch is 80. Rock musician Phil Lesh is 75. Singer Mike Love (The Beach Boys) is 74. Rock singer-musician Sly Stone is 72. Rock singer-musician Howard Scott (War; Lowrider Band) is 69. Rock singer Ry Cooder is 68. Actor Craig Wasson is 61. Rock singer Dee Snider (Twisted Sister) is 60. Actor Joaquim de Almeida is 58. Actress Park Overall is 58. Movie director Renny Harlin is 56. Model Fabio is 54. Singer Terence Trent D'Arby (AKA Sananda Maitreya) is 53. Rock singer Bret Michaels (Poison) is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rockwell is 51. Actor Chris Bruno is 49. Rock singer Mark McGrath (Sugar Ray) is 47. Actress Kim Raver is 46. Rock musician Mark Hoppus is 43. Actress Eva Longoria is 40. Rapper-musician will.i.am (Black Eyed Peas) is 40. Rock DJ Joseph Hahn (Linkin Park) is 38. Rapper Young Buck is 34. Actor Sean Biggerstaff is 32. Rock musician Ethan Mentzer is 32. Actor Kellan Lutz is 30. Actress Caitlin Wachs is 26.

Thought for Today: "You can't copy anybody and end with anything. If you copy, it means you're working without any real feeling." - Billie Holiday, American singer (1915-1959).