

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

Friday, March 20

Birthdays: Kassidi Stumpf, Dale Busing, Shanda Sundstrom.

No School- Spring Break

Senir Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

Saturday, March 21

Birthdays: Cheyenne Leonhardt, Courtney Pray, Duane McDonald, Melissa Raap, Michelle Sunding, Rayce Harder, Taylor Leonhardt, Terri Kjellsen.

Anniversary: Tim and Peggy Fliehs.

Show Choir at Mitchell

Pastor at Rosewood Court

Sunday, March 22

Anniversaries: Bruce & Pam Merkel, Jennifer & Brett Grenier

Birthdays: Brett Grenier, Don Walter, James Mortenson.

9 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday School

9:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministires worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont

10:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

Monday, March 23

Birthdays: Fern Westby, Greg Peterson, Jacki Ferrell, Larry Fliehs, Linda Bahr, Todd Kokales.

Children's Theatre Try-outs

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

7:00 p.m.: School Board Meeting

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: BBQ, sweet potato tot, romaine

Mark Malmberg, DDS

19 North 6th St.

Oakes, N.D.

701-742-3401



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New PIO for Dept. of Public Safety

Tony Mangan is the new public information officer for the state Department of Public Safety. He started work Monday.

Mangan has more than 30 years in the journalism profession. He most recently was the news director at KCCR Radio in Pierre for 17 years.

Bald Eagle Live Stream, Hanover

Join us in celebrating a thriving bald eagle population in Pennsylvania. This brief peek into the lives of this bald eagle family is brought to you by the coordinated efforts of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, HDOnTap, Comcast Business, Friends of Codorus State Park and several other partners. Enjoy! And, be aware that, at times, nature can be difficult to watch.

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1592549&mode=2>

Classifieds

Apartments For Rent

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/397-8131.

Lineman wanted

Electric lineman who will assist with miscellaneous City maintenance duties. Certified Journeyman mandatory. EOE. Send resume to City Finance Office, PO Box 587, 209 N Main, Groton, SD 57445 by April 17.

Notice of Garbage Pickup!

Effective Immediately Your cooperation is greatly appreciated during the spring thaw.

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.



Omaha Steaks Daily Independent

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Home. Cooked.
GOODNESS.

The taste of togetherness.



The Happy Family Banquet

- 2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
- 4 (3 oz.) Polynesian Pork Chops
- 4 (4½ oz.) Chicken Fried Steaks
- 20 oz. pkg. All-Beef Meatballs
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 4 (3 oz.) Gourmet Jumbo Franks
- 16 oz. pkg. Omaha Steakhouse® Fries
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets

42449EZJ
Reg. \$232.00 | **Now Only \$49⁹⁹**

Plus get
4 more Burgers
FREE



ORDER
NOW &
**SAVE
78%**

1-800-795-0946 and ask for 42449EZJ | www.OmahaSteaks.com/sp49

Limit 2 pkgs. Your 4 free burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes The Happy Family Banquet 42449. Limit of 1 free box of 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers per in-store purchase and/or per shipment. Standard S&H will be added per address. Not valid with other offers. 2X points on first purchase not available in MA or CA. Expires 5/15/15. ©2014 OCG | 501B120 | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

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HOME SECURITY SPECIAL
monitoring starting around
\$999
per week
*with \$99 customer installation charge and purchase of alarm monitoring services.

Did You Know?

- A burglary occurs every **14.6 seconds**.¹
- **1 out of every 5 homes** will experience a break-in or home invasion.²
- A home without a security system is **3 times more likely to be burglarized**.³
- **85% of Police Officials surveyed** believe home alarms deter burglary attempts.⁴

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008 National Crime Report http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats060109 2. <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/press/vdhbpr.cfm>
3. FBI, 2008 National Crime Report http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats060109 4. <http://www.beyondidentitytheft.com/home-security-statistics.html>

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Expanding Drought Likely in Eastern South Dakota

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The outlook for drought conditions this spring is not very optimistic, according to a seasonal drought outlook released this week by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

"According to the March 19 outlook much of eastern South Dakota is shown to be in an area that will likely have an expansion of drought at some point between now and the end of June," said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

This seasonal drought outlook comes at the same time as the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor map, which already depicted some expansion of moderate drought in the northeastern Counties of Brown, Day, Clark, Codington and Deuel.

"The nine-county area has experienced more than just abnormally dry conditions since last fall, as deficits in precipitation have grown over the last few months to about 50 to 70 percent of average," said Dennis Todey, SDSU Extension Climate Specialist & South Dakota State Climatologist.

Todey said drought impacts are being noted in the region, such as drier than average soil moisture, due to a lack of fall rains, and reductions in surface water supplies, especially in stock ponds for cattle because of limited snowfall and spring run-off.

He added that this year's shallow snowpack has already melted with the recent temperatures in the 70s and higher.

"The climate forecast for April is one factor that is considered in the seasonal drought outlook," Edwards said. "There is an increased probability that precipitation will be below average for the month in the eastern part of the state, increasing the potential for continued dryness."

"This is not helpful for reducing our current drought area, as ideally near average to above average precipitation would provide some relief," Edwards said. As for the temperature forecast, Edwards and Todey said there are equal chances that April will end up near average, below average or above average.

Edwards added, "During the spring season, our climatological rainfall increases quickly from month to month, with a maximum around May or early June in most eastern and central counties," she said. "This means that deficits can accumulate quickly with each passing dry day, week, and month."

For the three-month period ahead, April through June, the NOAA Climate Prediction Center's outlook continues to trend towards drier than average for the eastern edge of South Dakota. "This is a change from earlier outlooks that projected equal chances of drier, wetter or near average rainfall for the later spring season," Todey said.

Additionally, he said the northern tier counties are slightly favored to be warmer than average through the late spring. "The combination of these factors in the northeastern part of the state could contribute to expansion of drought and/or an increase in severity, through the early growing season," Todey said.

Dry conditions in the next month are not necessarily bad news for everyone, Edwards explained. "Dry conditions allow for more rapid planting of row crops to occur because of drier and warmer soils," she said. "However, these same conditions increase the risk of stress as crops need to get some rainfall at the right time for germination and early growth this spring season."

Current forecast

The current forecast for the next eight to 14 days shows dry conditions are likely through the end of March into early April, while temperatures will move from cooler than average to near average.

To learn more and view climate updates throughout the growing season, visit iGrow.org.

Gov. Daugaard Signs More Bills Into Law

PIERRE, S.D. – In addition to the Opportunity Scholarship and budget bills, Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed the following bills into law:

SB 53 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the state aid to general education formula and to revise the property tax levies for the general fund of school districts.

SB 54 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the state aid to special education formula and to revise the property tax levies for special education.

SB 55 – An Act to revise the General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015.

SB 91 – An Act to make an appropriation to support the South Dakota need-based grant program and to declare an emergency.

SB 92 – An Act to make an appropriation to support the South Dakota critical teaching needs scholarship program and to declare an emergency.

SB 109 – An Act to establish a grant program for adult community residential services designed to reduce the risk of recidivism, to provide a report to the Legislature, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency.

SB 152 – An Act to make an appropriation for certain costs related to mountain pine beetle suppression and to declare an emergency.

SB 174 – An Act to make an appropriation for the Ross Shaft at the Sanford Underground Research Facility and to declare an emergency.

SB 179 – An Act to revise certain provisions relating to record search fees in the Unified Judicial System.

SB 190 – An Act to clarify health coverage for applied behavior analysis, and to establish the Applied Behavior Analysis Provider Workgroup.

HB 1110 – An Act to increase the number of judges in the Second and Seventh Judicial Circuits.

HB 1140 – An Act to increase the crimes and lookback period to enhance the penalty for violating a protection order.

HB 1190 – An Act to make an appropriation for community-based provider workforce improvement and to declare an emergency.

HB 1191 – An Act to make an appropriation for the Jobs for America's Graduates program and to declare an emergency.

HB 1192 – An Act to make an appropriation for the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat and to declare an emergency.

HB 1225 – An Act to prohibit the unauthorized commercial use of a personality's right of publicity and provide a civil remedy therefor.

HB 1228 – An Act to establish an obligation recovery center.

Governor Signs Opportunity Scholarship Bill

PIERRE, S.D. – Today Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed House Bill 1147 to increase the amount of the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship.

The bill increases the total amount of the four-year scholarship from \$5,000 to \$6,500. New scholarship recipients will receive \$1,300 annually for the first three years of attendance and \$2,000 for the fourth year.

The increased award amount will apply for new recipients starting this fall.

The scholarship is available to students who have a minimum ACT score of 24, take a rigorous curriculum and maintain good grades throughout high school. To receive the scholarship, students must attend college in South Dakota.

For information on how to qualify and apply for the Opportunity Scholarship, go to sdos.sdbor.edu.

Gov. Daugaard Signs Budget Bill

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard today signed the General Appropriations Act, which sets the budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

"I'm pleased with the budget the Legislature adopted. Under this budget bill, we don't spend money we don't have, we adopt conservative numbers and we fund ongoing expenses with ongoing revenues," said Gov. Daugaard. "Establishing a budget is some of the most important work of the legislative session. I want to thank legislators for their work to keep our state on a strong financial footing."

Including general, federal and other funds, the total budget for Fiscal Year 16 is set at \$4.3 billion dollars. The budget bill continues the Governor's policy of using one-time money to fund one-time expenses and ongoing dollars to fund ongoing expenses.

"Despite some soft revenue estimates, we were still able to invest more dollars in the areas that matter most. In the upcoming fiscal year, we'll be providing higher increases for education, providers and state employees than what is required under statute," the Governor said.

House Bill 1208 provides for the following ongoing increases in FY16:

- Two percent increase for education,
- Up to 2.5 percent for medical providers, and
- Two percent inflation and two percent market value increases for state employees.

Under the General Appropriations Act, education will account for the largest portion of general fund spending – 45 percent – in FY16.



KUMLA DINNER

or Baked Potato

Sunday, March 22, 2015

Serving 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pierpont

Grass Tetany: When to Prepare

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Although it is still mid-March, the temperatures in South Dakota have been relatively warm and a few of the cool season grasses are beginning to green-up sooner than we expected. With that green-up and cows lactating heavily comes the concern of grass tetany, said Adele Harty, SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist.

Grass tetany is a metabolic disorder associated with lush pastures due to low concentrations of blood magnesium, which results in nerve impulse failure in animals.

"With adequate moisture and warm temperatures, grasses begin to grow rapidly. The concern of grass tetany isn't normally seen until May, but taking steps to prevent it today will be more effective in the long run," Harty said.

How to prevent grass tetany

To ensure the proper management practices are in place to prevent grass tetany, Harty said livestock producers need first to understand the factors which play a role in it. These include:

- * Low magnesium (Mg) content of rapidly growing grasses and pastures;
- * High potassium (K) content of rapidly growing grasses and pastures;
- * High crude protein content of grasses and pastures;
- * Bad weather, storms, stress, etc., that cause cattle to be "off feed" for 24-48 hours;
- * Lactation: losses of Mg and calcium (Ca) in milk; and
- * Various combinations of the above factors resulting in low blood Mg or Ca.

"The key to prevention is to be proactive," Harty said. "Measures should be taken to minimize risks associated with cows grazing lush pastures."

One long term approach she suggested is to incorporate more legumes into pasture mixes. "Legumes have higher levels of magnesium and calcium than do immature grasses resulting in a better balance across the pasture," Harty said.

If possible, she recommended that livestock producers delay the turn-out date into lush pastures until plants are 4 to 6 inches tall. "This will reduce the occurrence of tetany, in addition to giving stressed pastures a little more time to rest," she said. "The reality is that many producers need to utilize pastures when grasses begin to green-up and the risk of tetany is most prevalent."

If delayed grazing is not an option, other management tools should be utilized.

First, Harty said to always provide a high magnesium (Mg) mineral supplement or mineral mix containing at least 8-12 percent Mg. "This needs to be provided two to three weeks prior to turn-out or before tetany is likely to occur," she said.

Palatability and adequate intake can be challenging, resulting in some of the animals consuming inadequate amounts of the mineral on a daily basis. "Make sure all animals have access to the mineral supplement prior to, and while grazing, tetany-prone pastures, as this will help decrease the occurrence," Harty said.

Another potential tool is to provide hay while cattle are on lush pastures; however, cattle are not likely to eat hay unless they are forced. "Dry forages can act as carriers to provide the animals additional Mg and Ca at critical times," Harty said.

If the drinking water source can be controlled (i.e., water tanks), soluble Mg salts may be added to the water. Some examples of soluble Mg salts are magnesium acetate, magnesium chloride, and magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts). The most common form of Mg, magnesium oxide, is not soluble in water and therefore cannot be used for this purpose.

Most susceptible animals

Older, lactating cows with calves younger than two months of age have the greatest susceptibility to tetany; while steers, heifers, dry cows, or cows with calves older than four months of age are less susceptible. "Mature cows are more susceptible because they are less able to mobilize Mg from bones to maintain the necessary level in their system. Also, cows within two months after calving have increased milk production and require additional Ca and Mg," Harty said.

Harty explained that cattle will exhibit symptoms of grass tetany, but they may not be observed as death may occur relatively quickly - within four to eight hours. "An affected animal will exhibit a series of progressive signs. These include grazing away from the herd, irritability, muscle twitching in the flank, wide-eyed and staring, muscular incoordination, staggering, collapse, thrashing, head thrown back, coma, and finally death," she said.

Affected animals should be handled calmly, since sudden death can occur if animals are stressed.

There are treatment options for animals, but effectiveness depends on the clinical stage when administered, Harty explained. "If treatment is started one or two hours after clinical signs develop, the result is usually a quick recovery," she said. "Treatment is not effective if delayed until the coma stage."

Grass tetany can be treated with an intravenous dextrose-based commercial preparation of Mg and Ca purchased from a local veterinarian.

"Remember cattle are more susceptible to grass tetany in the spring, and certain weather conditions increase susceptibility," Harty said. Consider and implement prevention practices, monitor cattle for signs of grass tetany, and treat as soon as possible according to a protocol developed with a veterinarian."

For more information, contact Harty at 605-394-1722 or adele.harty@sdstate.edu.

Today in Weather History

1924 - A late winter storm in Oklahoma produced nearly a foot of snow at Oklahoma City and at Tulsa. (David Ludlum)

1948 - The city of Juneau received 31 inches of snow in 24 hours, a record for the Alaska capitol. (20th-21st) (David Ludlum)

1984 - A severe three day winter storm came to an end over the Central Plains. The storm produced up to twenty inches of snow in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas, and left a thick coat of ice from eastern Kansas across northwestern Missouri into Iowa. (Storm Data)

1987 - A storm produced blizzard conditions in Wyoming and eastern Nebraska, and severe thunderstorms in central Nebraska. Snowfall totals ranged up to 12 inches at Glenrock WY and Chadron NE. Thunderstorms in central Nebraska produced wind gusts to 69 mph at Valentine, and wind gusts to 76 mph at Bartley. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Squalls in the Great Lakes Region left up to eight inches of new snow on the ground in time for the official start of spring. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the western U.S. Seven cities reported new record high temperatures for the date, including Tucson AZ with a reading of 89 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in western Kansas to usher in the official start of the spring season. Thunderstorms produced severe weather from east Texas to Alabama and northwest Florida, with nearly fifty reports of large hail and damaging winds during the afternoon and evening hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1990 - The northeastern U.S. was in the midst of a snowstorm as spring officially began at 4 19 PM. Snowfall totals in the Green Mountains of Vermont ranged up to thirty inches, and up to 15 inches of snow was reported in the Catskills and Adirondacks of eastern New York State. Totals in eastern Pennsylvania ranged up to 12 inches at Armenia Mountain. The storm resulted in one death, and forty-nine injuries. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


2005 - An F1 tornado hits South San Francisco. Trees are uprooted. At least twenty homes and twenty businesses are damaged, including the city's new fire station.

2006 - Grand Island, NE, receives 17.8 inches of snow in 24 hours, breaking the old local record for the most snowfall in a day by 4.8 inches. 29.7 inches in 48 hours also breaks a record.


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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Breezy	Blustery	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Rain/Snow	Chance Snow	Mostly Sunny
High: 59 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 41 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 37 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 48 °F



Dry, Mild, and Windy = Red Flag Warning!



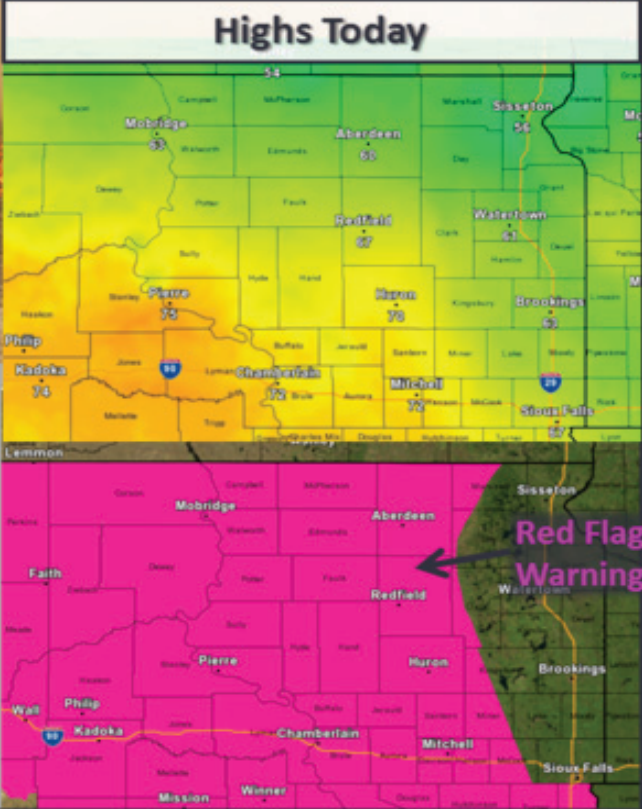


What does a Red Flag Warning mean?
Critical fire weather conditions including:




- Dry and susceptible fuels
- Winds gusting to 25 mph or greater
- Relative Humidity of 20-25% or lower
- Dangerous burning conditions and extreme fire behavior possible!

When is the Red Flag Warning valid?
From 1 to 8 PM CDT (Noon to 7 PM MDT)

Highs Today



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, South Dakota

 weather.gov/Aberdeen
 National Weather Service Aberdeen
  @NWSAberdeen
 Updated: 3/20/2015 4:47 AM Central

Published on: 03/20/2015 at 4:51AM

A very mild and dry airmass will move into the region today with high temperatures about 20 to 30 degree above average. Low afternoon humidity and gusty west to northwest winds will result in high fire danger, with Red Flag Warnings in effect for much of central and western South Dakota. Cooler air moves back in for the weekend with a few chances for precipitation next week.

Groton Daily Independent

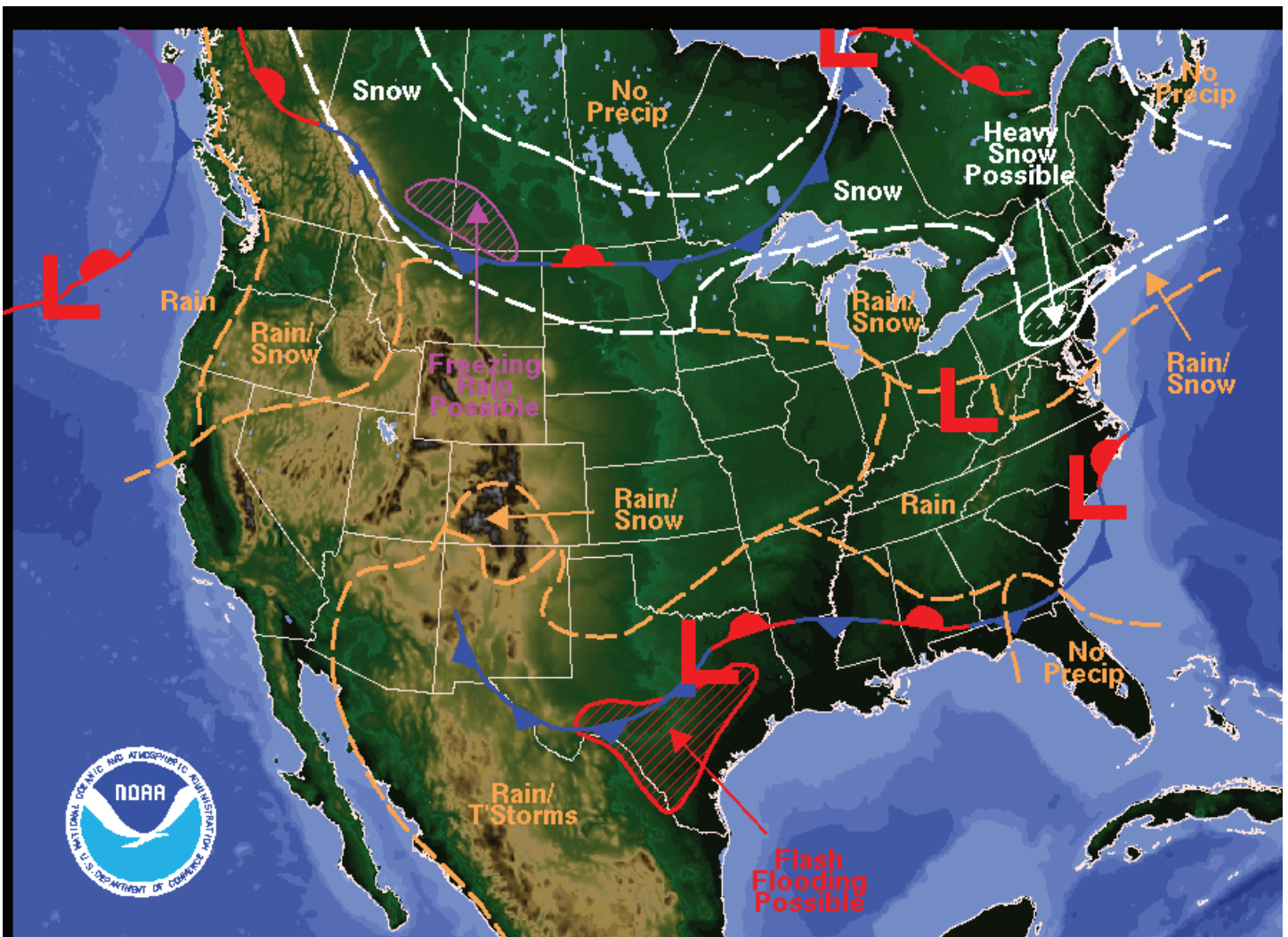
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 47.1 at 1:22 PM
Low: 26.2 at 11:26 PM
High Gust: 23 at 4:45 PM
Snow: 0.00
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 76° in 1910
Record Low: -6° in 1965, 1893
Average High: 42°F
Average Low: 22°F
Average Precip in March.: 0.63
Precip to date in March.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 1.65
Precip Year to Date: 0.40
Sunset Tonight: 7:46 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:35 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Mar 20, 2015, issued 3:37 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



HONESTY

In his book, "Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am?" John Powell gives a clear, easy to understand answer: "You may not like me." We might also add, "or what I do."

Most of us want to be "liked." And most of us will do whatever it takes to create an image - no matter what it takes - to get others to like us. Even if we have to be dishonest, or to be a little more blunt, lie.

Deceit comes from being human. We do our very best to hide who we really are for fear of being "found out." We cover ourselves with clothes that hide our real shape. We color our hair to hide the grey that comes with age. We "plaster" our faces with make-up to fill in the "lines." We use clever words to deceive others about our actions and feelings. We refuse to look into the eyes of someone if we are less than honest. Actually, the list could go on for pages.

Those of us who know God know that honesty is most important to Him. He knows who we are and that honesty is a problem that originates in our hearts. "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" is a question posed by the prophet Jeremiah. It was relevant then and continues to be relevant to this very moment.

And the answer then and now remains the same: Only God knows us perfectly and what can be found in the depths of our hearts. We may deceive ourselves and others, but not God. Self-righteousness comes from self-deception. So, "A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart."

As a child I often sang, "He sees all you do and He hears all you say...My God is writing all the time." God knows where the "seeing" and "hearing" comes from and He can make it clean!

Prayer: Please, Father, help us not to deceive ourselves. We know You love us and understand us. Come cleanse us now! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 21:2 A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart.

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News from the Associated Press

Outlook is for dry conditions in Northern Plains

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Forecasters say drought conditions are likely for much of the Northern Plains this spring.

The weekly U.S. Drought Monitor map shows 75 percent of North Dakota and 82 percent of South Dakota as either abnormally dry or in moderate drought conditions already.

All of eastern North Dakota and northeastern South Dakota are in moderate drought. A seasonal drought outlook by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center shows that the conditions in that region are expected to persist or intensify through June. Drought also is expected to develop in much of the rest of the eastern half of the Dakotas.

South Dakota State University Extension Climate Field Specialist Laura Edwards says the April climate forecast is one factor considered in the seasonal drought outlook, and the forecast suggests lower-than-average precipitation.

South Dakota women's basketball team advances in the WNIT

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota women's basketball team has advanced in the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

The Coyotes beat Creighton 68-58 in a first-round matchup Thursday night at the DakotaDome.

USD now hits the road to face Northern Colorado in the second round Sunday night. The winner of that game will play either UCLA or San Diego.

Dell Rapids beats Mt. Vernon-Plankinton 65-46 at state A

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Ty Hogleund flirted with a triple-double Thursday, leading Dell Rapids to a 65-46 win over Mt. Vernon-Plankinton at the South Dakota Class B boys basketball tournament.

Hogleund finished with 19 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Quarriers (21-2), whose bench outscored the Titans 22-0.

Sheldon Siemonsma added 16 points and Zane Schumaker 13 points and four assists.

Tate Deinert led the way for Mt. Vernon-Plankinton with 20 points. He was 7-for-18 from the field and 5-for-8 from the line.

Cody Renken chipped in 15 points and had three 3-pointers.

SF O'Gorman beats Pierre TF Riggs 56-49 at state AA

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Elliott Braxton's 26-point night led Sioux Falls O'Gorman into the semifinals of the South Dakota Class AA boys basketball tournament with a 56-49 win over Pierre T.F. Riggs on Thursday.

Braxton made nine of 16 shots from the field and went 8-for-11 from the line for the Knights (17-6). He also had nine of O'Gorman's 35 rebounds.

Davis Cowan chipped in nine points and nine rebounds. The Knights outscored the Governors (14-9) 35-22 in the second half.

Brevin Kaiser and Erin Severyn had 18 points each for Pierre. Kaiser also grabbed 10 rebounds.

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Langford Area ends Gregory title bid 49-36 at state B

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Langford Area followed Bo Fries' lead to a 49-36 win over Gregory on Thursday at the South Dakota Class B boys basketball tournament.

Fries had a team-high 22 points, 14 rebounds and four assists for the Lions (23-1), who spoiled the Gorillas' first state tournament game in 52 years.

Gregory (18-6) last qualified for a state tournament in 1963. The Lions outscored the Gorillas 27-14 in the second half.

Mason Larson added 12 points for Langford Area.

Gavin Thomas had 11 points and 13 rebounds and Robert Vomacka added 10 points for Gregory.

Thursday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

State AA Tournament

First Round

Rapid City Stevens 59, Aberdeen Central 38

Sioux Falls Lincoln 58, Watertown 38

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 56, Pierre 49

Sioux Falls Washington 60, Huron 40

State A Tournament

First Round

Aberdeen Roncalli 48, Lennox 33

Little Wound 60, Clark/Willow Lake 54

Winner 54, St. Thomas More 42

State B Tournament

First Round

Hanson 56, Wolsey-Wessington 55

Hitchcock-Tulare 54, Faith 40

Langford 49, Gregory 36

White River 61, Parker 57

Winner advances at state A with win over St. Thomas More

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Winner used a big third quarter to pull away from St. Thomas More and beat the Cavaliers 54-42 at the South Dakota Class A boys basketball tournament.

The Warriors (22-1) outscored the Cavaliers 20-9 in the third quarter on Thursday and kept a comfortable lead the rest of the way.

Brendan Harter had 17 points and nine rebounds for Winner, which shot 41 percent and held St. Thomas More (13-10) to 26 percent. Nathan Galbraith added 14 points and Sam Naasz 12.

Jake Satter had 14 points and PJ Freidel 13 for St. Thomas More.

White River beats Parker 61-57 at state B

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Justin Folkers scored 24 points and Justin Prue added 22 as White River downed Parker 61-57 at the South Dakota Class B boys basketball tournament.

Folkers made eight of 15 shots from the field Thursday and eight of 10 free throws for the Tigers (22-2). Prue was 6-for-13 from the field with three 3-points and nine rebounds.

Parker (17-7) got 20 points and three assists from Zach O'Keefe. He was the only Parker player in double figures.

SF Lincoln rolls over Watertown 58-38 at state AA

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Addison Park's double-double lead Sioux Falls Lincoln past Watertown 58-38 Thursday at the South Dakota Class AA boys basketball tournament.

Park had 15 points and 13 rebounds in a dominating win by the Patriots (19-5), who outscored Watertown 32-8 inside.

Lincoln shot 46 percent while holding the Arrows (12-12) to 28 percent.

Malik Dunn had 13 points. Kaleb Johnson 11.

Watertown got three 3-pointers and 16 points from Nate Davis. He was the only Arrow in double figures.

Judge: Sanctions possible in Obama immigration court case

JUAN A. LOZANO, Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A federal judge who has blocked President Barack Obama's immigration executive action suggested on Thursday that he could order sanctions against the Justice Department if he rules it misled him about when exactly the administration began implementing one of the measures.

During a sometimes testy court hearing, U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen went back and forth with the Justice Department over whether it had misled him into believing that a key part of Obama's program would not be implemented before he made a ruling on a request for a preliminary injunction. In fact, federal officials had given more than 108,000 people three-year reprieves from deportation before that date and granted them work permits under a program that protects young immigrants from deportation if they were brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

Obama's executive actions would spare from deportation as many as 5 million people who are in the U.S. illegally. Many Republicans oppose the actions, saying only Congress has the right to take such sweeping action. Twenty-six states led by Texas joined together to challenge them as unconstitutional. Hanen on Feb. 16 sided with the states, issuing a preliminary injunction blocking Obama's actions.

Hanen chided Justice Department attorney Kathleen Hartnett on Thursday for telling him at a January hearing before the injunction was issued that nothing would be happening with regard to one key part of Obama's actions, an expansion of the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, until Feb. 18.

"Like an idiot I believed that," Hanen said.

A flustered Hartnett repeatedly apologized to Hanen for any confusion related to how the reprieves and work permits were granted.

"We strive to be as candid as possible. It truly became clear to us there was confusion on this point," she said.

Hartnett continued to insist that the 108,081 reprieves had been granted under 2012 guidelines, which were not stopped by the injunction, and that government attorneys hadn't properly explained

this because they had been focused on other parts of the proposed action.

But Hanen pointed out that the 2012 guidelines only granted two-year reprieves and that three-year reprieves are being proposed under the program now on hold.

"Can I trust what the president says? That's a yes or no question," Hanen asked.

"Yes your honor," Hartnett replied.

The states asked that Hanen consider issuing sanctions because Justice Department attorneys had made "representations (that) proved not to be true or at a minimum less than forthcoming," said Angela Colmenero, a lawyer with the Texas Attorney General's Office, the lead attorney for the states.

Colmenero said the three-year reprieves that were granted might have caused the states economic harm as the states may have already issued various benefits, including driver's licenses, to immigrants who received a reprieve.

"There is absolutely no basis for sanctions here," Hartnett said. "The government is absolutely trying to do the right thing."

Hanen said he would issue a ruling "promptly" on what action, if any, he will take against the Justice Department.

The federal government has asked the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans to lift Hanen's injunction while the case is appealed.

The other states seeking to block Obama's orders are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Daugaard signs House bills, still reviewing Senate proposals

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has eight bills left for his consideration from the 2015 legislative session's main run.

Daugaard signed a flurry of bills on Thursday, including the state budget for the year beginning on July 1. He has approved every bill that originated in the House and is now reviewing Senate bills.

Daugaard signed a measure Tuesday that increases funding for transportation projects, while also hiking the state's fuel taxes by 6 cents per gallon and bringing maximum speed limit on South Dakota's interstates to 80 mph.

The measure that Daugaard is likely mulling over the most is a controversial proposal to exempt South Dakota's youngest workers from the \$8.50 minimum wage voters approved in November.

Lawmakers would return at the end of the month to consider any gubernatorial vetoes.

Hitchcock-Tulare stuns top-seeded Faith at SD boys state B

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Landon Gatzke had 21 points and six rebounds to lead Hitchcock-Tulare to a 54-40 upset of top-seeded Faith Thursday in the opening round of the South Dakota Class B boys basketball tournament.

Gatzke made three of six 3-pointers and went 8-for-10 from the line for the Patriots (17-7), who came in as the No. 8 seed. Tyler Oechsle added 16 points.

The Patriots shot 52 percent from the field to just 35 percent by the Longhorns (22-2), who fell behind 29-17 at half. They rallied to get within six late in the fourth quarter.

Tyler Hohenberger led the Longhorns with 16 points and six rebounds.

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RC Stevens rolls over Aberdeen Central 59-38 at boys AA

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City Stevens pulled away in the second half to beat Aberdeen Central 59-38 Thursday at the South Dakota Class AA boys basketball tournament.

Sam McCloud had 18 points and eight rebounds for the Raiders (11-12), who outscored the Golden Eagles 38-19 in the second half.

Mason Archambault had three 3-pointers and 16 points and Brad Drake had 11 points on 5-for-5 shooting for Stevens.

Jacob Goehring Aberdeen Central (19-5) with 13 points, including three 3-pointers. The Eagles shot just 28 percent from the field, 24 percent in the second half.

Hanson hands Wolsey-Wessington first loss 56-55 at state B

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Taylor Nichols' layup with eight seconds left lifted Hanson over previously unbeaten Wolsey-Wessington 56-55 Thursday at the South Dakota Class B boys basketball tournament.

Leading by one, Wolsey-Wessington missed a free throw with 17 seconds left. After a timeout, Hanson (20-4) went inside to Nichols, who finished with 28 points and 18 rebounds.

Wolsey-Wessington's Bennett White missed a long shot as time ran out.

Nichols was 10-for-14 from the field and 8-for-10 from the line. Sam Vander Stouwe added 12 points for the Beavers.

Wolsey-Wessington (23-1) got 18 points and 10 rebounds from Darian Ogunjemilusi. White chipped in 15 points and Lorenzo Williams 14 for the Warbirds.

Vikings sign former Packers RB DuJuan Harris

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings have added another running back to the mix while trying to sort through Adrian Peterson's future with the team.

The Vikings signed former Packers running back DuJuan Harris on Thursday.

Harris missed all of the 2013 season with a knee injury and appeared in 15 games for the Packers last season. He carried the ball 16 times for 64 yards and could give the Vikings depth at the position if they part with Peterson.

The Vikings and their star running back have met several times after Peterson missed the last 15 games of last season while addressing child abuse charges in Texas. It remains unclear whether Peterson will return to play for the Vikings next season.

Little Wound holds off Clark-Willow Lake 60-54 at state A

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Shilo Tallman had 13 points as Little Wound held off Clark-Willow Lake for a 60-54 win Thursday at the South Dakota Class A boys basketball tournament.

The Mustangs (20-3) took the lead in the third quarter and kept it the remainder of the game, although the Cyclones (19-4) cut it to one on a number of occasions.

Jeremiah Hopkins had two clutch 3-pointers in the second half and finished with 11 points and Robert Shangreaux added 10.

Little Wound shot 43 percent from the floor.

Tyson Jenkins led Clark-Willow Lake with 15 points. Noah Huber had 10 points.

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Man tells police that up to 30 teens attacked him in his car

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls say a 45-year-old man has reported that up to 30 teens severely damaged his car while trying to attack him.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the man reported that the incident happened after he caught his son and two friends smoking pot in his basement. The man asked the two teenagers to leave the house, but a fight among the man and his son's friends ensued.

The two teens left the area after police were called in. Clemens says the man went to move a vehicle out of the driveway after the officers left, and that's when the mob of 20 to 30 teenagers showed up.

Clemens says the teenagers used bats, clubs and bars to beat the car and smash its windows. The mob eventually dispersed.

Clemens says no arrests have been made, but police have identified suspects in the case.

Aberdeen Roncalli beats Lennox 48-37 at state A

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Aberdeen Roncalli rode a 12-1 run to start the fourth quarter to a 48-37 win over Lennox Thursday at the South Dakota Class A boys basketball tournament.

The top-seeded Cavaliers (21-2) trailed 32-31 after three quarters but put together a long streak to move into the semifinals.

Daniel Holmstrom had three 3-pointers and 13 points for Roncalli. He also had seven rebounds and five steals. Zach Hammerich added 10 points.

Jacob Hinker led the Orioles with 17 points. He had three 3-pointers and 15 rebounds.

Oregon St women look to rebound against South Dakota St

ANNE M. PETERSON, AP Sports Writer

Oregon State went from the high of winning the Pac-12 regular-season title for the first time ever to the low of getting ousted quickly from the conference tournament.

With an impressive resume overall, the Beavers (26-4) will still host an NCAA Tournament sub-regional starting Friday in Corvallis. Third-seeded Oregon State will open with No. 14 South Dakota State, followed by No. 11 Gonzaga against No. 6 George Washington.

Oregon State hopes to learn from the stumbles of the recent past. The Beavers had their perfect home record broken in the final week of the regular season with a loss to Stanford. The team was forced to put off its celebration of the season title until a victory over Cal in the finale.

Then, after an opening-round bye for the conference tournament, Oregon State was defeated 68-65 by Colorado.

Coach Scott Rueck said he hoped his team would learn from the roller coaster.

"Anytime you lose, you certainly need to look at things, no question," he said "You have a choice of making it a positive or a negative. This group has always turned those into a positive. That's just obvious life lessons. So we've got to look at this and understand, hey, postseason basketball. These guys are fighting for their lives."

South Dakota State (24-8) finished the season with an eight-game winning streak to capture the Summit League Tournament title and earn the conference's automatic NCAA berth.

Gonzaga (24-7) won an at-large bid after winning the West Coast Conference regular-season title, but, like Oregon, stumbled in the conference tournament, losing in the semifinals to BYU.

George Washington (29-3) set a school record for most wins in a season and claimed the Atlantic 10's automatic berth for the team's first appearance in the tournament since 2008.

Some other things to know about this weekend's games in Corvallis:

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JONES JAMS: George Washington forward Jonquel Jones hails from the Bahamas, before she became something of a basketball prodigy at Riverdale Baptist High School in Maryland. Jones was named the Atlantic 10's Player and Defensive Player of the year, averaging 15.5 points and 12.4 rebounds per game. She averaged 17 points, 12 rebounds and 2.7 blocks in the conference tournament, earning MVP honors.

According to the Bahamas Tribune, Jones is just the third Bahamian woman to earn a Division I scholarship out of high school, joining Yolett McPhee-McCuin (Florida Atlantic/Rhode Island) and Waltiea Rolle (North Carolina).

OREGON STATE HONORS: In addition to winning the Pac-12's regular-season title, Rueck earned conference Coach of the Year honors and Ruth Hamblin was named the league's Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year. Hamblin averaged 12.8 points and 8.9 rebounds per game, and ranked eighth in the nation with 111 blocks.

STREAKING ZAGS: Gonzaga is riding a bunch of streaks into the NCAA Tournament. The Zags are making their seventh straight trip to the Big Dance after clinching their ninth straight 20-win season and their 11th straight West Coast Conference regular-season title.

FAMILY TIES: Gonzaga junior guard Ellie Tinkle is the daughter of Oregon State men's basketball coach Wayne Tinkle, who took over the Beavers this season and led the team to a surprising 17-14 record after having to hold open tryouts in the fall to fill out his roster. The family came to Corvallis from Missoula, Montana, where Tinkle was coach of the Grizzlies for eight seasons.

UNDAUNTED JACKS: South Dakota State has faced Oregon State once before, back in 2004 at the Paradise Jam in the Virgin Islands. The Beavers won 85-68. But the Jacks aren't letting that prior win, or the Beavers' dramatic rise over the last two seasons, concern them. "It's not who we play, it's how we play," said senior forward Mariah Clarin, who is averaging 11.6 points and 6.7 rebounds.

Peerless Pierre: South Dakota city new Monopoly 'Boardwalk'

BY KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The plastic red hotel will still ruin you, but instead of advancing to Boardwalk to face your demise, you'll take a long walk off a short Pierre.

Pierre, the tiny South Dakota capital pronounced "pier" by its roughly 14,000 residents, will hold the top spot in a new version of Monopoly featuring U.S. cities that is due out this fall. The names of Pierre and 21 other cities will replace those of the Atlantic City, New Jersey, sites that appear in the game's original, 1935 version.

Hasbro Inc. left it to voters to choose which cities would appear in the two new versions it is putting out, including one that will feature world cities, and Pierre's citizens responded in force. More than 4 million votes were cast, and Pierre, the second-smallest state capital, came out first. It will pair with Minneapolis — the new Park Place — to bankrupt opponents unlucky to spend a night at one of their swanky hotels. Penny-pinchers — or those hoarding white \$1 bills — can spend a turn in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

The new versions celebrate the 80 years of hoarding fake cash and bankrupting family members during summer vacations. But it's the third consecutive year that Hasbro has turned to social media to decide on tweaks to its popular game. Previously, fans decided to add a cat token and retired the iron, and they were also invited to incorporate their favorite "house" rules into the wider game.

"What's so important these days is to have your fans help tell you where the brand should go," said Jonathan Berkowitz, Hasbro's vice president of marketing.

There will be other changes to the new versions, including a faster style of play in which players collect different properties in their passport to win. The company incorporated suggestions from players who wanted to see a quicker pace, Berkowitz said.

The idea of adorning the world-famous monopoly board with Pierre, an old government town whose Capitol building still has saloon-style doors on the bathroom stalls, captivated local officials, media and residents. The city's part-time mayor took to the local radio stations, teachers developed class activities around the contest and the state tourism department sent out social media blasts encouraging South Dakotans to help land Pierre on the board.

"We got the community engaged, and it became for us, in our smaller community, an exciting thing to be able to promote what we have going on here," said Laurie Gill, who serves as mayor outside of her day job. "And I don't know that it was picked up that way in some larger the communities."

South Dakotans believe polygamist group wants to expand

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The brother of an imprisoned leader of a polygamous sect wants to double the amount of water available to the group's compound in South Dakota, prompting concern by neighbors and law enforcement about a possible influx of members being displaced from an enclave on the Utah-Arizona border.

Seth Jeffs, the brother of imprisoned sect leader Warren Jeffs, told state authorities that members of the United Order of South Dakota, a trust run by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or FLDS, need more water for gardens, orchards and animal herds at its 140-acre spread about 30 miles from Mount Rushmore.

With few concrete details available, coupled with the group's troubled history — Warren Jeffs and other church leaders have been convicted of sexually assaulting underage girls — some landowners and law enforcement officers worry that the exodus from other areas make the remote corner of the Black Hills a likely and attractive home.

"As locals, we know what is going on in there and we don't want to see it expand," wrote Linda Van Dyke Kilcoin, one of several neighbors who filed petitions to intervene in the group's water request. "We value our 12-year-old girls in South Dakota."

While Seth Jeffs pleaded guilty in 2006 to harboring his then-fugitive brother, he did not face any sex abuse charges. And South Dakota officials note that the local members of the FLDS, a radical offshoot of mainstream Mormonism, have never been in trouble with the law here. Seth Jeffs declined to comment to The Associated Press but told a local newspaper in January the compound is "not growing right now" and members "just need more water."

The group has said about 75 people live at the South Dakota ranch, according to a 2014 drinking water report filed with the state. The fenced-in compound, complete with a guard tower, sits on hilly, rugged land the group bought about a decade ago. Valued for tax purposes at \$5.3 million, it's secluded by tall pine trees along a public gravel road that cuts through it. Several buildings dot the complex, including seven large residences totaling nearly 50,000 square feet, a chapel and school, greenhouse, and several farm buildings.

Attorney General Marty Jackley, who said he's "generally aware" of the activity at the compound, said the permit request and ongoing construction at the site "are all indications that there is some level of expansion going on." While they've never faced legal trouble here, Jackley said the group is on his radar for two reasons: What has gone on at FLDS sites in other states, and the additional law enforcement

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resources any expansion might require.

Warren Jeffs is serving a life sentence after being convicted in 2011 of abusing underage girls he considered brides. For decades, members of his church have controlled the twin cities of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Arizona — but some of them are now being squeezed out by Utah authorities ordering evictions because people haven't paid millions in overdue occupancy fees. And last year, the Texas government seized the group's Eldorado compound on the basis that the FLDS leaders financed a \$1.1 million land purchase in 2003 through money laundering.

Custer County Sheriff Rick Wheeler, whose jurisdiction includes the Black Hills compound, said when the group was evicted from its Texas property there was no indication they had moved to the compound near Pringle, citing a low level of traffic and activity. But now, he said that's changed and the group is hauling in more gravel and lumber.

"It's churning right now," he said.

Both Sam Brower, a private investigator who has spent years researching the FLDS, and Willie Jesop, Warren Jeffs' former bodyguard, agreed that leaders could be preparing to move people to South Dakota from the shrinking Utah-Arizona enclave.

"I think they are looking for places to move the elite," Brower said, noting that Seth Jeffs, like his brother, is considered royalty among devout members.

Seth Jeffs, who originally sought to triple the amount of water the South Dakota ranch could draw, recently told the state he was scaling back his request to relieve the "fears and concerns" of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service.

William Hansen, chief of the Water Rights Branch of the NPS, said its main concern is the effect an additional well, without stricter limitations on usage, could have on Wind Cave National Park, since the FLDS draws from the same aquifer that has been forming the cave for millennia.

The group's request for more water will likely be acted on in May. But Kilcoin, one of the concerned neighbors, doubts it's for crop production.

"They're not going to irrigate. You ever been to Pringle? It's bedrock. You can't grow anything down there. They're bringing in a whole pile of people," she said.

Daugaard signs autism therapy coverage compromise measure

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard has signed a bill that would mandate that certain insurance plans cover a costly but effective treatment for children with autism.

Daugaard signed the measure on Thursday. The Legislature last week passed the compromise measure that would require certain insurance plans to pay for applied behavior analysis therapy.

It has not been required of insurers in South Dakota but is in 38 other states.

The bill requires coverage of ABA therapy only by providers who have a master's or doctoral degree. Some parents say that severely restricts the number of providers they can use and had pushed for a broader version of the proposal lawmakers eventually passed.

But the bill establishes a workgroup that will determine how the state should expand coverage moving forward.

Weakening economy seen ahead for rural parts of 10 states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly survey of bankers suggests a weakening economy lies ahead for rural parts of 10 Midwestern and Western states.

The Creighton University Rural Mainstreet Index for March sank to 43.6, its lowest level since February

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2010. Last month's figure was 46.4.

Creighton University economics Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says "the stronger U.S. dollar is undermining the farm and energy sectors by weakening agricultural exports, crop prices, livestock prices and energy prices."

The index ranges from 0 to 100. Any score above 50 suggests growth while a score below 50 suggests decline. Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. WHERE TUNIS GUNMEN GOT THEIR TRAINING

A top Tunisian security official says two extremist gunmen who killed 21 people at a museum trained in neighboring Libya.

2. EMAILS: U.N. AGENCY DECISION COST LIVES

The World Health Organization resisted calling the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a public health emergency until late last summer, two months after staff raised the possibility.

3. BILLS WOULD LIMIT ACCESS TO OFFICER BODY CAM VIDEOS

Open government and civil rights activists say the cameras will have less of an effect on police behavior if they know their actions will never be shown outside their department.

4. WHAT MAY HINDER COSMIC SPECTACLE

Thousands of tourists and cosmic fans travel to the Faeroe Islands and the Norwegian Arctic archipelago of Svalbard to see a total solar eclipse, but clouds may get in the way.

5. A YEAR LATER, SCARS OF DEADLIEST U.S. LANDSLIDE REMAIN

The rural town of Oso, Washington, tries to make sense of one of the deadliest natural disasters in recent American history, one that claimed 43 lives.

6. WHY THERE'S A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER SHORTAGE

Lower unemployment makes temporary work less attractive, at times forcing schools to combine classrooms of varying ages and forego lesson plans.

7. WHAT IS MAKING AN UNWELCOME RETURN

The Northeast and mid-Atlantic are bracing for another snowfall, and on the first day of spring no less.

8. WHICH MAGAZINE HAS THRIVED THROUGH IT ALL

Better Homes and Gardens survived depression, recession, the Internet and competition to become the nation's top publisher focused on women.

9. KENTUCKY'S 'NO. 1 FAN' SPEAKS OUT

Ashley Judd fires back about threats, hate-filled comments online after her Wildcats basketball tweet.

10. DISPUTED CALL HIGHLIGHTS WILD DAY AT NAAs

UCLA's Bryce Alford was credited with a 3-pointer after SMU's Yanick Moreira was called for goaltending and the Bruins edged the Mustangs 60-59.

AP News in Brief

Emails show UN health agency resisted declaring Ebola emergency on economic, political grounds

GENEVA (AP) — By early June of last year, the Ebola epidemic centered on Guinea was the deadliest ever recorded. Foreign workers were being evacuated. Top disease-fighters warned that the virus could soon spread across West Africa.

But the World Health Organization resisted sounding the alarm until August, partly for political reasons, despite the fact that senior staff in Africa proposed doing so in June, The Associated Press has found. The two-month delay, some argue, may have cost lives. More than 10,000 are believed to have been killed by the virus since WHO first announced the outbreak a year ago.

WHO has acknowledged acting too slowly to control the Ebola epidemic. In its defense, the agency says the virus's spread was unprecedented and blames several factors, including lack of resources and intelligence from the field. Internal documents obtained by AP, however, show WHO's top leaders were informed of how dire the situation was. But they held off on declaring an emergency in part because it could have angered the countries involved, interfered with their mining interests or restricted the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca in October.

Declaring an emergency was "a last resort," Dr. Sylvie Briand, who runs WHO's pandemic and epidemic diseases department, said in a June 5 email to a colleague who floated the idea. "It may be more efficient to use other diplomatic means for now."

Five days after Briand's email, WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan was sent a memo that warned cases might soon appear in Mali, Ivory Coast and Guinea Bissau. But it went on to say that declaring an international emergency or even convening a committee to discuss it "could be seen as a hostile act."

Accounts paint picture of lunchtime leisure turning to terror as attackers kill 21 in Tunisia

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Around lunchtime, the crackle of gunfire broke the leisurely calm of a visit to one of Tunisia's best-known museums: Two attackers went on a rampage targeting tourists. By the end, after police traded fire with the gunmen and special forces barreled in, the duo and 21 others were dead.

Tunisia's deadliest terror attack in more than a decade jolted locals out of their daily routines and took the cherished lives of visitors who make up a major breadwinner for the democracy-minded North African country of 11 million, according to accounts from witnesses, victims and a police official.

Wednesday's attack at Tunis' National Bardo Museum, claimed by the Islamic State group that has sought to spread its bloodthirsty influence beyond its base in Syria and Iraq, drew immediate condemnation from many world leaders and promises from Tunisian officials and citizens that they won't bow to terror.

For Mohamed Ali, an unemployed 42-year-old father of four who lives in the Bardo district, the episode upended a family stroll to the zoo. Looking in through a high fence around the museum grounds next to parliament, he saw men pull automatic weapons out of bags and calmly walk inside, opening fire on tourists either inside a bus or emerging from it.

"There were police on one side of the bus that they set upon, and the terrorists were hiding on the other side," he told The Associated Press in an interview in the popular La Gazelle cafe across the street a day after the attack. "There was an exchange of fire, and the gunmen took refuge in the museum."

Faeroe Islands and Svalbard get ready for total solar eclipse

TORSHAVN, Faeroe Islands (AP) — Thousands of sky-gazers on the Faeroe Islands are hoping for the clouds to part so that they can get a clear view of a total solar eclipse.

The tiny island group in the North Atlantic and the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard are the only places on land where the sun will be completely obscured by the moon during Friday's eclipse.

Clouds are covering the sky over the capital, Torshavn, but with the sun occasionally breaking through, as the big moment nears.

More than 11,000 tourists, eclipse chasers and scientists with telescopes, cameras and glasses for safe direct solar viewing have invaded the Faeroes for the almost three-minute-long astronomical sensation.

The phenomenon will later be seen in Svalbard, more than 2,000 kilometers (1,270 miles) to the northeast.

GOP struggles to turn House majority into governing power, as rebels thwart leaders on budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — Whether the issue is immigration or federal budgets, Republicans keep learning a bitter lesson: Their sizable and near-historic congressional majority doesn't necessarily mean they can govern.

House Republican leaders confronted that truth again this week when fiscal conservatives unexpectedly blocked a leadership plan for the new federal budget.

The struggle, which pits Republicans who want a more robust military against those bent on cutting spending, will have to be resolved later in the full House.

Even if that happens, however, lawmakers say GOP leaders will still confront deep ideological divisions that could wreak chaos later this year when it's time to raise the debt ceiling, fund the government and address other big issues that fire up conservative talk shows.

GOP leaders lack some of the disciplinary tools their predecessors had, colleagues say. And a significant number of House Republicans have little incentive to bend because they are elected by fiercely conservative voters who detest political compromise.

A year later, signs of loss, recovery at Washington state site of nation's deadliest landslide

DARRINGTON, Wash. (AP) — The new sign for Steelhead Drive is fresh green with white lettering. But the road it announces is a mere stub of pavement, ending in a massive gray-and-brown scab of mud, clay and broken timber where a rural Washington state neighborhood once sat.

A rain-soaked hillside collapsed suddenly on March 22, 2014, sending 18 million tons of sand and soil thundering across a river valley north of Seattle, destroying dozens of homes and entombing 43 people in the deadliest landslide in U.S. history.

A year later, as a bill moves through the state legislature to improve mapping of landslide-prone areas and give local planners a better idea of risky development areas, the mangled cars and homes have been cleaned up, but reminders of loss are everywhere.

"Those thoughts and memories are out there every time you head down the valley," said Dan Rankin, the mayor in nearby Darrington.

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Yet living with the scarred landscape also reminds them of how they tirelessly searched for victims, of their gratitude for the well-wishes they received and of the millions of dollars in contributions that poured in for housing, counseling and mortgage payments on destroyed properties.

Thousands wait for relief in cyclone-ravaged Vanuatu as death toll climbs to 13

TANNA ISLAND, Vanuatu (AP) — Thousands of people left homeless by a fierce cyclone remained stuck in shelters across Vanuatu on Friday, waiting for relief and longing for a return to normalcy as the death toll from the disaster rose by two to 13.

Australian and French troops arrived on the South Pacific nation's hard-hit island of Tanna, where shaken residents were still waiting for help after their villages were flattened by Cyclone Pam's 270 kilometer (168 mile) per hour winds last Saturday.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, citing figures from Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office, upgraded the number of confirmed deaths to 13 from 11. Among the dead were seven people from Tafea Province, which includes Tanna, and six from Shefa Province, which includes the main island of Efate.

Still, given the immense power of the storm, the relatively low death toll is a testament to the residents' experience in dealing with cyclones. In many villages, people found shelter in special structures built with sturdy walls that can withstand heavy winds.

Vanuatu's government authorized the distribution of emergency food and water supplies to affected areas, but was still waiting to finish its damage assessment report before beginning a wider distribution of relief items.

Northeastern US gets another blast of winter weather just as spring officially arrives

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Just when flowering bulbs were poking out their heads and snow shovels were getting a well-deserved rest, winter weather has come back. And on the first day of spring no less.

Forecasters say a storm will dump up to 6 inches of snow on the Northeast and mid-Atlantic on Friday. New England will be on the lower end of the snow totals but even Boston, which has seen a record 108.6 inches of snow, could get an inch or 2 more.

A few locations, particularly in the higher elevations, could see much more of the white stuff, said meteorologist Bruce Terry of the National Weather Service. South central Pennsylvania will be in the bulls-eye of the storm and receive up to 10 inches of snow, he said on Thursday. Western Maryland could get slammed with up to 8 inches.

Terry said that of all the cities, New York will get hit the hardest. The Big Apple is expected to get 4 to 6 inches of wet snow.

Some areas also will see rain.

Ashley Judd fires back about threats, hate-filled comments online after her Wildcats tweet

Actress and Kentucky Wildcats fan Ashley Judd is firing back at those who posted threats and hateful comments online after she tweeted that she thought Arkansas was playing dirty in its SEC basketball matchup with her alma mater.

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In an online essay posted Thursday on mic.com, Judd says she routinely copes with tweets that "sexualize, objectify, insult, degrade and even physically threaten me."

But she writes, "this particular tsunami of gender-based violence and misogyny flooding my Twitter feed was overwhelming."

Judd said this week in an interview on MSNBC that she planned to press charges if she could.

She wrote in the essay, "I must, as a woman who was once a girl, as someone who uses the Internet, as a citizen of the world, address personally, spiritually, publicly and even legally, the ripe dangers that invariably accompany being a woman and having an opinion about sports or, frankly, anything else."

14 seeds are the stars of the show as NCAA Tournament kicks into high gear

Fourteen is the new 12 this year at the NCAA Tournament.

The heart-pounding first full day of the tournament was headlined by two No. 14 seeds taking down two No. 3 seeds before the day was even half over. Trendy Final Four pick Iowa State lost to UAB, 60-59, and Georgia State edged Baylor, 57-56. Northeastern nearly made it a clean sweep for the three 14s in action on Thursday when it put a scare into Notre Dame before falling 69-65.

Northeastern and UAB had two of the five one-point victories on the day, the most ever for a single day in the tournament and as many as the previous two tournaments combined. Now at least one 14-seed has beaten a 3 in each of the last three tournaments. It was the first time since 1995 that two No. 14s have advanced.

Conventional wisdom when filling out brackets includes always picking a 12 seed to beat a No. 5. It happens practically every year. But this time around, Utah beat Stephen F. Austin and Arkansas beat underdog Wofford to make the No. 5s 2-0 on the day.

There is one more 14 seed waiting to play. Albany will play No. 3 Oklahoma on Friday.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 20, the 79th day of 2015. There are 286 days left in the year. Spring arrives at 6:45 p.m. EDT.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 20, 1995, in Tokyo, 12 people were killed, more than 5,500 others sickened when packages containing the deadly chemical sarin were leaked on five separate subway trains by Aum Shinrikyo (ohm shin-ree-kyoh) cult members.

On this date:

In 1727, physicist, mathematician and astronomer Sir Isaac Newton died in London.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte returned to Paris after escaping his exile on Elba, beginning his "Hundred Days" rule.

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential novel about slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was first published in book form after being serialized.

In 1899, Martha M. Place of Brooklyn, New York, became the first woman to be executed in the electric chair as she was put to death at Sing Sing for the murder of her stepdaughter.

In 1922, the decommissioned USS Jupiter, converted into the first U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, was re-commissioned as the USS Langley.

In 1933, the state of Florida electrocuted Giuseppe Zangara for shooting to death Chicago Mayor An-

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ton J. Cermak at a Miami event attended by President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt, the presumed target, the previous February.

In 1952, the U.S. Senate ratified, 66-10, the Treaty of Peace with Japan.

In 1969, John Lennon married Yoko Ono in Gibraltar.

In 1974, Britain's Princess Anne was the target of a kidnapping attempt near Buckingham Palace; the would-be abductor, Ian Ball, was captured. Former NBC News anchorman Chet Huntley, 62, died at his Montana home.

In 1985, Libby Riddles of Teller, Alaska, became the first woman to win the Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race.

In 1990, singer Gloria Estefan suffered a broken back when a truck rear-ended her tour bus on a snow-covered highway in Pennsylvania. (Surgeons implanted titanium rods to stabilize her spine, and Estefan was able to make a comeback after months of intensive physical therapy.)

In 1999, Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland and Brian Jones of Britain became the first aviators to fly a hot-air balloon around the world nonstop as they floated over Mauritania past longitude 9 degrees west. (They landed safely in Egypt the next day.)

Ten years ago: A visibly frustrated Pope John Paul II made a brief but silent appearance at his Vatican apartment window after missing his first Palm Sunday Mass in 26 years as pontiff. Liz Johnson became the first woman to advance to the championship match of a Professional Bowlers Association tour event, but lost by 27 pins to Tommy Jones in the final of the PBA Banquet Open in Wyoming, Michigan.

Five years ago: Pope Benedict XVI sent an unprecedented letter to Ireland apologizing for chronic child abuse within the Roman Catholic church, but failed to calm anger of many victims. Thousands of protesters - many directing their anger squarely at President Barack Obama - marched through the nation's capital to urge immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. Former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall died in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at 90. Lady Bird Johnson's former press secretary, Liz Carpenter, died in Austin, Texas, at 89.

One year ago: President Barack Obama ordered economic sanctions against nearly two dozen members of Russian President Vladimir Putin's inner circle and a major bank that provided them support, raising the stakes in an East-West showdown over Ukraine. Four gunmen opened fire in a crowded restaurant frequented by foreigners at the Serena Hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan, killing nine people.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Dame Vera Lynn is 98. Producer-director-comedian Carl Reiner is 93. Actor Hal Linden is 84. Former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney (muhl-ROO'-nee) is 76. Country singer Don Edwards is 76. TV producer Paul Junger Witt is 74. Country singer-musician Ranger Doug (Riders in the Sky) is 69. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Bobby Orr is 67. Blues singer-musician Marcia Ball is 66. Actor William Hurt is 65. Rock musician Carl Palmer (Emerson, Lake and Palmer) is 65. Rock musician Jimmie Vaughan is 64. Country musician Jimmy Seales (Shenandoah) is 61. Actress Amy Aquino (ah-KEE'-noh) is 58. Movie director Spike Lee is 58. Actress Theresa Russell is 58. Actress Vanessa Bell Calloway is 58. Actress Holly Hunter is 57. Rock musician Slim Jim Phantom (The Stray Cats) is 54. Actress-model-designer Kathy Ireland is 52. Actor David Thewlis is 52. Rock musician Adrian Oxaal (James) is 50. Actress Jessica Lundy is 49. Actress Liza Snyder is 47. Actor Michael Rapaport is 45. Actor Alexander Chaplin is 44. Rock singer Chester Bennington (Linkin Park) is 39. Actor Michael Genady is 37. Actress Bianca Lawson is 36. Rock musician Nick Wheeler (The All-American Rejects) is 33. Actor Michael Cassidy is 32. Actress-singer Christy Carlson Romano is 31.

Thought for Today: "Every spring is the only spring, a perpetual astonishment." - Ellis Peters (Edith Pageater), British author (1913-1995)