

Groton Daily Independent

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Mark Your Calendars

Groton Will be hosting the Region DI Tournament on March 5, 2016

Sunday, March 29

Birthdays: Alexander Kern, Darcy Albrecht, Sharon Wheeting, Tyrel Telkamp

Monday, March 30

Birthdays: Bonnie Cooper, Gordon Nelson, Jessica Osterman, Lori Seelye, Melenie Sombke, Sandy Tullis, Taylor Schmidt, Vickie Sippel

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

10:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study leaders meet

Student Congress at Milbank High School

Senior Menu: Chicken Alfredo, Lemon buttered broccoli, fruit dessert, French bread.

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

School Lunch: Chicken wings, sweet potato tot, veggie cups, fruit.

Tuesday, March 31

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.

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

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

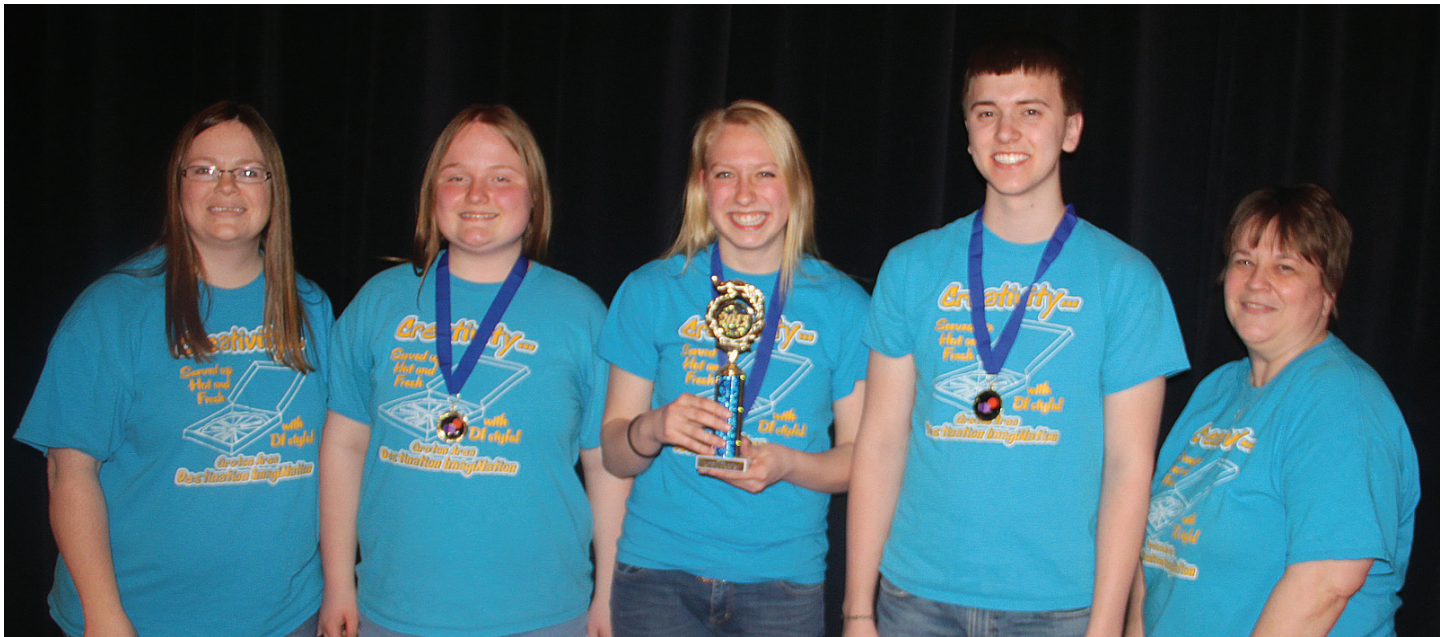
\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118



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Five Confused People heading to Global Finals

Now there are Five Confused People, if you include the coaches! This group placed first at the State DI Tournament held Saturday in Huron and will advance to the Global Finals in Knoxville, Tenn. Pictured left to right are Coach Joni Groeblinghoff, Katie Groeblinghoff, Breanna Marzahn, Luke Smith and Coach Julie Milbrandt.



The Out of the Boxers team earned the Renaissance Award for their creativity with their sound machine. Pictured in back are Lily Cutler, Trey Wright and Nathan Fjelstad; in front are Erin Smith, Jenifer Fjelstad and Kari Pappas.

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The Out of the Boxers team placed first at the State DI Tournament and will advance to the Global Finals in Knoxville, Tenn., in May. Pictured in back, left to right, are Coach Clint Fjelstad, Trey Wright, Lily Cutler, Nathan Fjelstad and Coach Tara Fjelstad; in front are Erin Smith, Jenifer Fjelstad and Kari Pappas.



Some of you may notice a familiar face in this group. Megan Weldner is in the green shirt. She was an appraiser at the State DI Tournament. The Elk Point native was also a director in the Children Theater's production of Space School Musical held last week in Groton.

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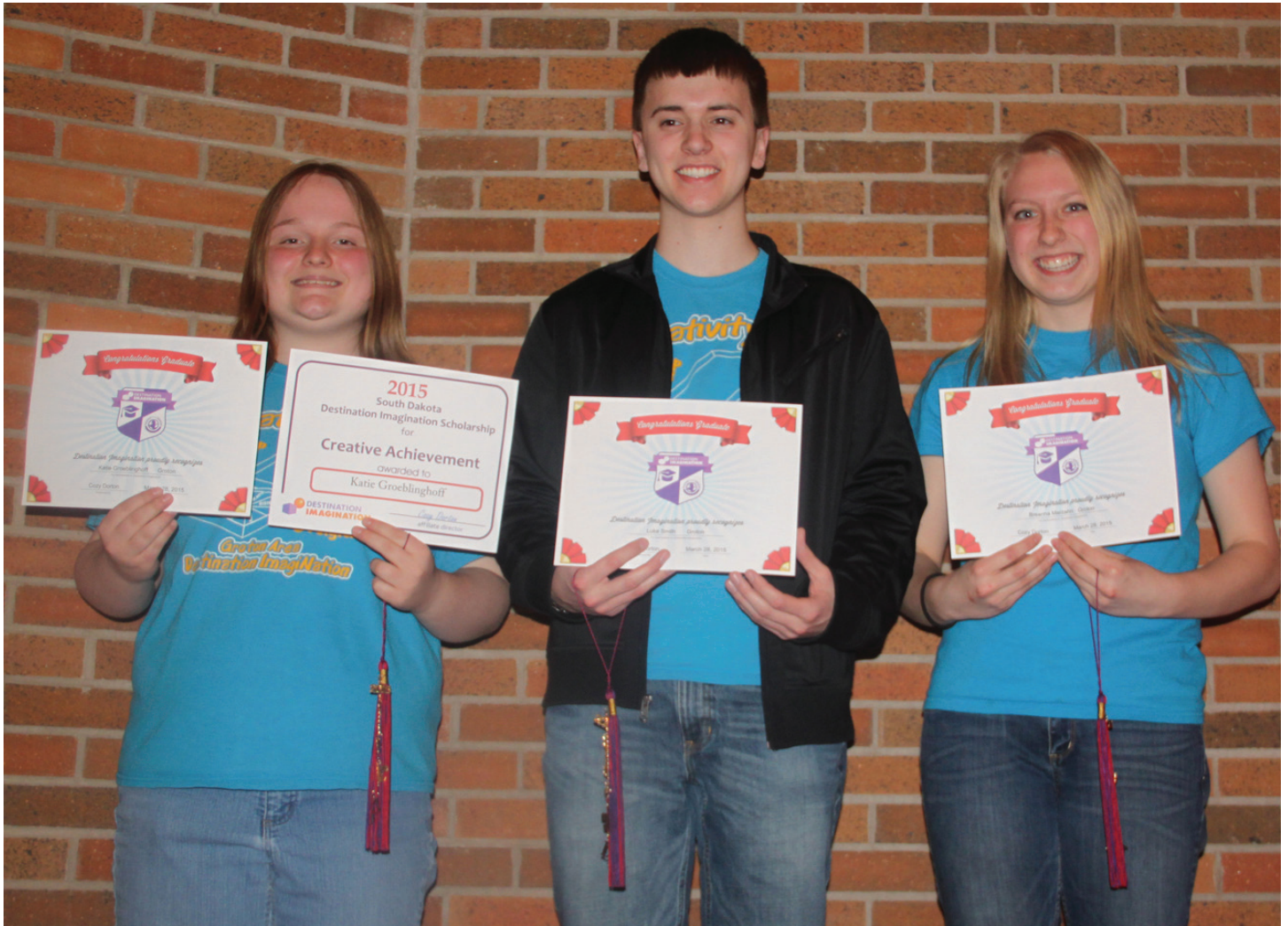
The Eye of the Monkey team tied for third place at the State Destination Imagination Tournament held Saturday in Huron. They are coached by Joann Donley. Pictured left to right are AnneMarie Smith, Emma Donley, Erika Herr and Hattie Weismantel.



The team of Ben-henyolo took third at the State DI Tournament. Pictured are Hannah Monson, Jillian Hughes and Abby Jensen. Julie Milbrandt and Angela Gleason are the coaches. Not pictured is team member Jace Gleason.

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The seniors were recognized at the State DI event held Saturday in Huron. The team of Five Confused People are all seniors. Pictured are Katie Groeblichhoff, Luke Smith and Breanna Marzahn. In addition, Katie Groeblichhoff won the South Dakota Di Scholarship. Groeblichhoff has been involved in Groton DI ever since kindergarten. The scholarship is sponsored by the Watertown Optimist Club and South Dakota Creativity Association.

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South Dakota DI Affiliate Director, Cozy Dorton, received a standing ovation at the awards ceremony. She was recognized for her 34 years of service to the South Dakota Creativity Association. She is retiring this year.



This will be the last year that Cozy Dorton will be South Dakota's Affiliate Director for Destination Imagination. She was awarded a tiara and a rocking chair, which she probably will not use much as she is always on the go. You will also notice that her walker has been decorated with duct tape. Some of the DI-ers thought her gray walker was too dull and that it needed to be dressed up.

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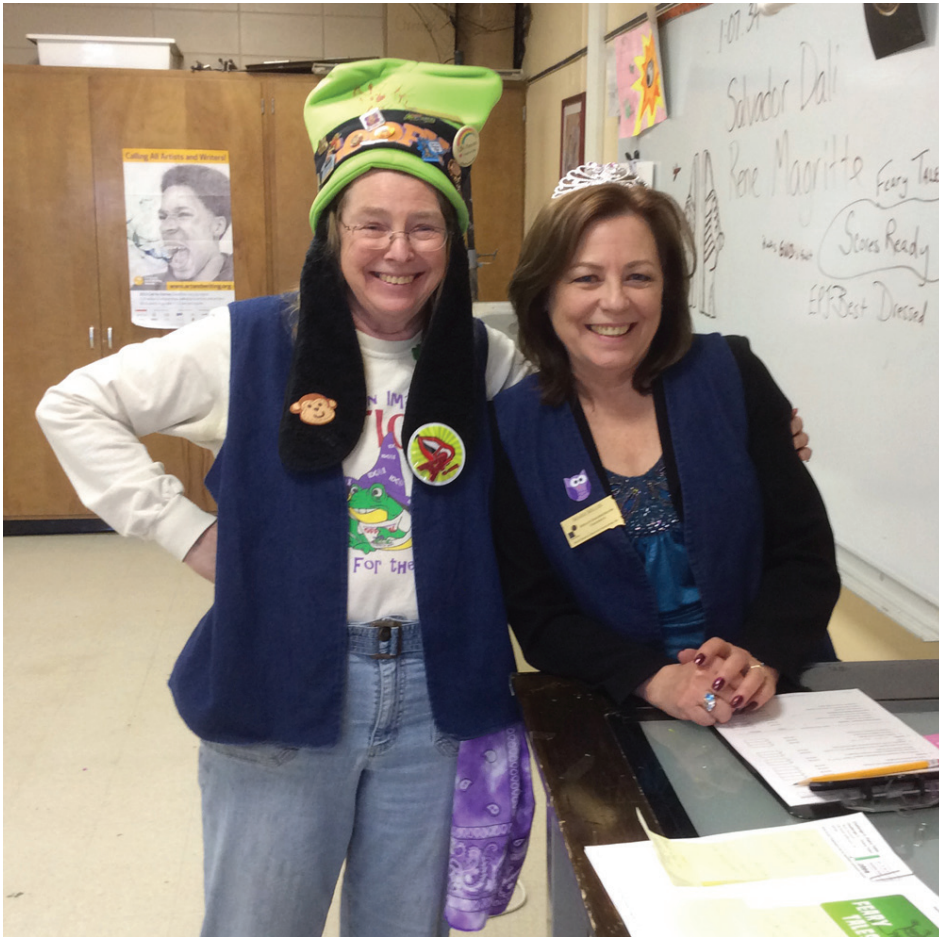


These photos were posted on Joni Groeblichhoff's Facebook page. The above photo features the seniors from across South Dakota involved in DI who were recognized. The right photo features Katie Groeblichhoff with her DI Scholarship Certificate alongside State Affiliate Director Cozy Dorton.



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Laurel McNickle and Marie Miller are Affiliate Challenge Masters. McNickle is the ACM for Challenge C and Miller is the ACM for Challenge A. McNickle said of the 100 teams at the state tournament, 32 chose Challenge C which was the Feary Tales challenge.



Janet Wright, left, and JoAnn Donley, right, were responsible for getting this quilt done for Cozy Dorton.

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Today in Weather History

March 29, 1982: An early season Tornado briefly touched down at Swett, South Dakota (11 miles west of Martin). The tornado overturned and heavily damaged a mobile home. One person was slightly injured and another barely escaped injury, as he left the trailer just seconds before the storm struck.

1848 – Niagara Falls blockage started and eased to a trickle during the late afternoon and then was “silent” for 30 hours and most noted this silence on the morning of the 30th. This is the only time in recorded history that both falls stopped flowing. An ice jam at the neck of Lake Erie and the Niagara River entrance between Fort Erie, Ontario Canada, and Buffalo, NY, was caused by wind, waves, and lake currents. Most noticeably absent was the roaring sound of the absent falls. People even ventured into the gorge, discovering relics like weapons from War of 1812.

1996 – 2.9 inches of snow fell on this day at Newark, New Jersey bringing their seasonal snowfall to 77.7 inches. This broke the old seasonal snowfall record of 75.2 inches that had stood for 128 years.

2007 – If thunder is heard, one should go to a lightning safe area. A high school athlete was struck and killed by lightning at a track meet in Carbondale, Illinois. A bolt or 2 had been seen miles away, and a distant rumble of thunder was heard before the fatal strike.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NEW!
5K

WALK OR RUN
RELAYS!



3rd Annual * 5K WALK/RUN, BIKE, or RELAYS

GROTON AREA SCHOOL

Destination Imagination's

Race To Globals

* SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH *

Fund raising event for Groton Area School

Destination Imagination

SCLARK@NVC.NET for information

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* SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH *








Fund raising event for Groton Area School

Destination Imagination

SCLARK@NVC.NET for information

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Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night
						
Partly Cloudy	Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Breezy	Mostly Clear
Low: 31 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 66 °F	Low: 38 °F



Warm Temperatures on the Way

Follow us on *Social Media*

Issued: March 29, 2015

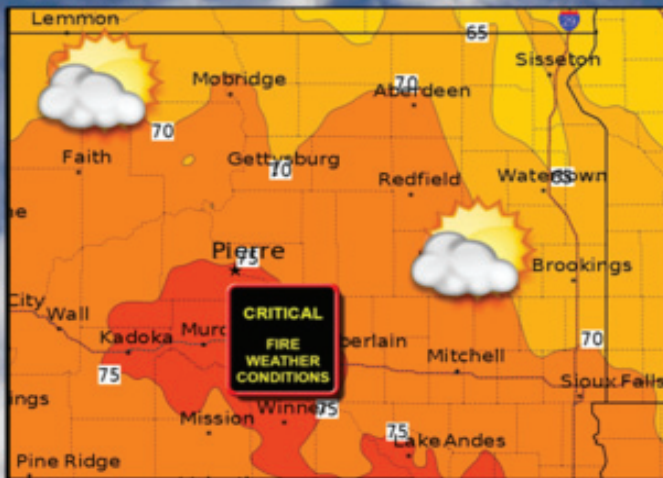
weather.gov/Aberdeen



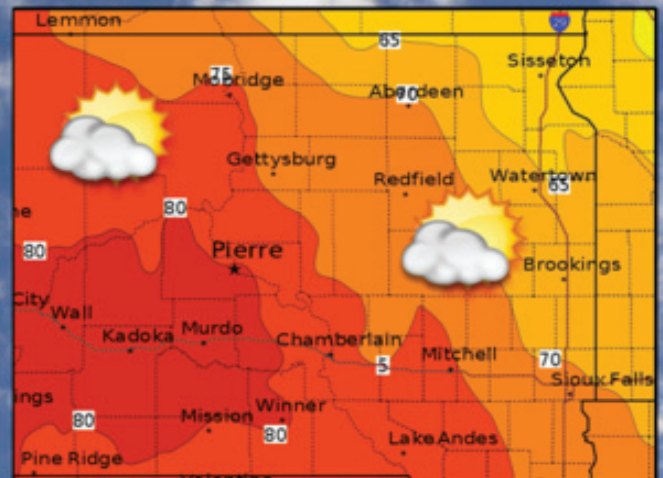
National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Highs on Monday



Highs on Tuesday

Published on: 03/29/2015 at 3:32PM

Warm and dry southerly winds are expected across the region this afternoon, ahead of an approaching low pressure system. Fire danger will be high. Tonight, the low pressure system and cold front track across the region. Light rain is possible. Of most concern is the strong and gusty northwest winds that will develop behind the cold front overnight. Gusts in excess of 50 mph are possible across the western Dakotas. Gusty winds will persist into Sunday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 56.3 at 5:20 PM

Low: 30.8 at 4:08 AM

High Gust: 43 at 10:44 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 78° in 1986

Record Low: -9° in 1969

Average High: 47°F

Average Low: 25°F

Average Precip in March.: 1.01

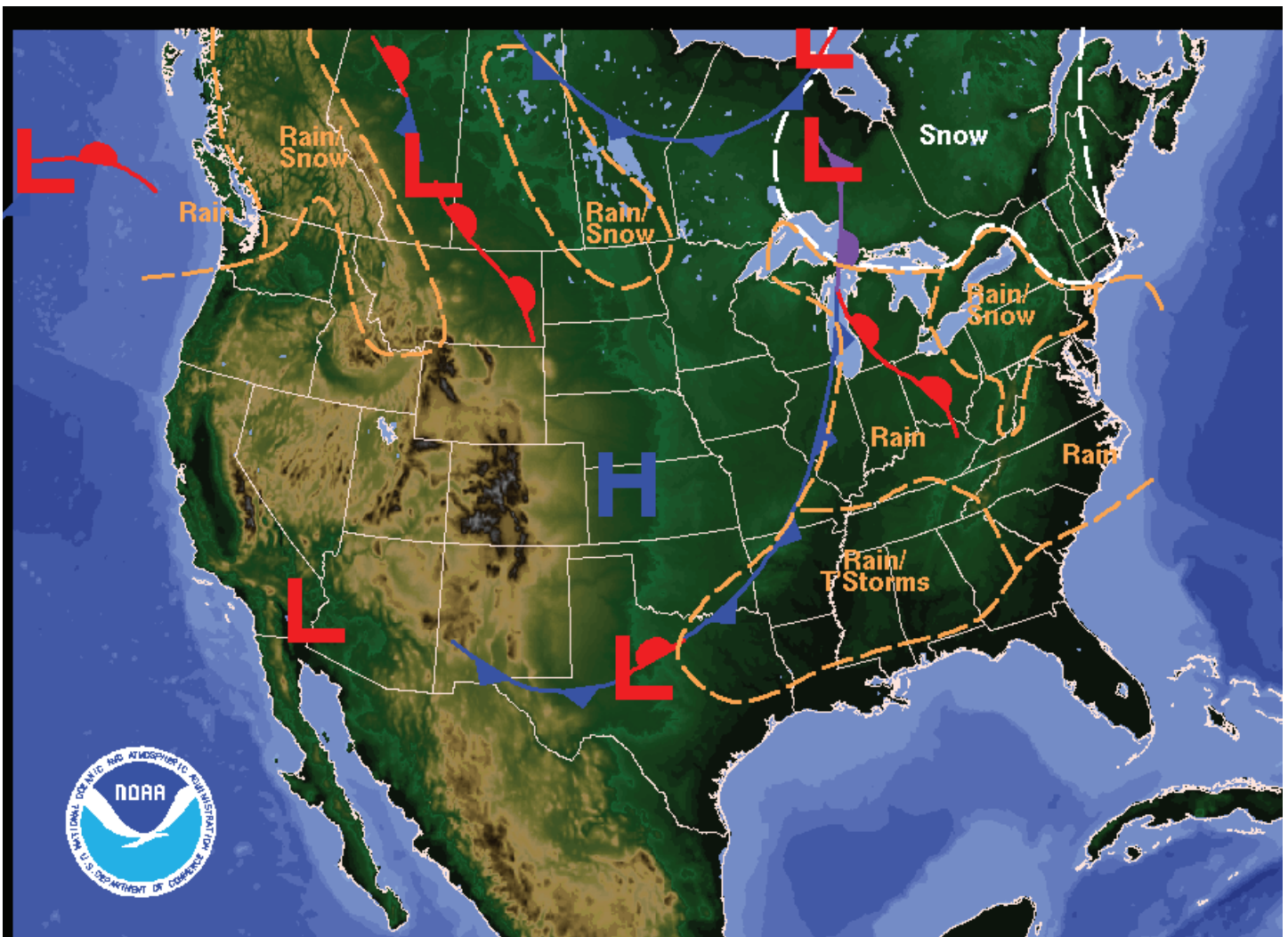
Precip to date in March.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 2.03

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 7:58 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:18 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Mar 29, 2015, issued 4:08 PM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Sad to say, some Christians take great pleasure in doing the work of God. They establish themselves as judge, jury and executioner. Finding a verse of Scripture that supports their need to condemn others, they often take it out of context, violate the meaning God instilled in its correct interpretation, and use their interpretation of it to embarrass and harass others.

Perhaps no other verse has been more misaligned than Solomon's admonishment to parents: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Is this verse a guarantee or a guide?

Some scholars believe that to "train a child" begins with the parents dedicating the child to God. This may have its roots in a formal or informal ceremony in the life of the family when a child and the parenting of the child were absolutely consecrated to the Lord. The "training" of the child was to be God-centered and God-honoring that would develop the skills and talents that God gave the child to love, worship, honor and serve the Lord. The child was to be trained not only intellectually but by the words and behavior of the parents. They were to be examples of who the child was to become and what the child could do with their lives by encouraging the child to find God's will and way for their life! Children are taught that "humility and fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" and will lead to a life that pleases God.

But what if parents follow this plan and the child turns from God? We come back to the fact that parents are responsible to do as God commands. Parents must be obedient and faithful to God and live consistent Christ-filled lives. If children see that "it" works for their parents, they know it will work for them.

Prayer: Enable us who are parents, Lord, to be loving, understanding, worshipping, consistent, obedient and humble examples. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 22:6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

ATTENTION

Parents and Grandparents:

Help give your child a head start for just pennies a day with individual whole life insurance from the

Gerber Life Grow-Up[®] Plan

A Plan that Grows

Affordable premiums that never increase, guaranteed cash value* and coverage that doubles over time.

A Gift that Doubles

The Grow-Up[®] Plan provides up to \$50,000 of whole life insurance that automatically doubles during age 18 at no extra cost!

Applying is simple!

Call 800-299-6202

**NOW for FREE information
or to apply!**



**Gerber Life
Insurance Company**

Home Office: White Plains, NY 10605

**As long as premiums are paid*

Form# PA-02 (0814)
Policy Form# ICC12-GPP
Policy Form Series GPP-12

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News from the  Associated Press

South Dakota's up-and-down snowmobile season ends Tuesday

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Snowmobilers have a couple of days left to hit any South Dakota trails that still have snow.

The Game, Fish and Parks Department says the snowmobiling season ends Tuesday, capping off a season with snow conditions that fluctuated every couple of weeks.

Black Hills trails manager Shannon Percy says it started out well until the end of January when there was a two-week warmup. It snowed again on Presidents' Day weekend, but that was the end of it.

Most of South Dakota's 1,585 miles of trails have been empty for weeks due to the warm weather and lack of new snow.

GFP says the season was slow both in the Black Hills and East River as well as North Dakota, Wyoming and Minnesota.

South Dakota's snowmobile trails reopen Dec. 15.

State regulators determine EB-5 loan firm must pay bank tax

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota company set up to recruit wealthy foreign investors in an investment-for-visa program that became entangled in scandal and eventually swept up into in last year's U.S. Senate race must pay a state banking tax.

The state Department of Revenue also said it will examine whether it can retroactively collect taxes from SDRC Inc., the private firm founded by Joop Bollen.

The Department of Labor and Regulation Division of Banking earlier this month issued a license to SDRC, the Aberdeen-based firm managing loans to projects in the EB-5 program, that allows it to be a nonresidential mortgage lender. That means the firm must pay the state's bank franchise tax, said Banking Division director Bret Afdahl.

"It was my opinion that they needed to be licensed and in the end they obviously agreed because they applied for the license," Afdahl said.

The Revenue Department received notice of the license last week and will collect the tax moving forward. It will also determine whether it can assess and collect taxes from before the license was issued, Jason Evans, property and special taxes deputy director, told The Associated Press.

"From a department perspective, we're interested in collecting all those taxes that are duly owed to the state and the department," Evans said, noting that no taxes have been collected yet.

It's unclear what the firm's tax burden is moving forward. It's also not certain how much money is at stake if the department decides to collect potential back taxes, but it will begin examining the issue very soon, he said.

"It's not something that happens very often," Evans said. "We don't very regularly have to collect taxes from prior years."

The license is a reminder that many of the loose ends from the EB-5 scandal, which eventually got swept up in the state's 2014 Senate campaign, still remain unresolved.

South Dakota was one of the pioneers in EB-5 financing under Bollen, a former state administrator who oversaw the program as a public employee and then with SDRC, and the late Richard Benda, a former Governor's Office of Economic Development secretary. The program recruits wealthy immigrant

investors for projects in exchange for green cards.

Benda's October 2013 death was ruled a suicide. At the time, Attorney General Marty Jackley was preparing to file felony theft charges against Benda amid allegations of financial misconduct at GOED surrounding EB-5.

Bollen initially ran the EB-5 program for the state when he was in charge of the South Dakota International Business Institute at Northern State University. He privatized it in 2009 and turned it over to SDRC, a company he founded. The state ended its contract with SDRC in September 2013 amid state and federal investigations.

Bollen, reached Saturday at his home, declined to comment.

It came out last fall that the Division of Banking was examining whether SDRC should be considered a financial institution because it administers loans. Afdahl said the process to make the determination took slightly longer than usual.

Tony Venhuizen, chief of staff to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said the Division of Banking notified the governor's office about the license, though it's not directly involved. Venhuizen said the case is being treated the same as any other one like it.

Farmer tries to find balance with genetically modified crops

TOLSTOY, S.D. (AP) — A farmer in South Dakota's northern half is taking a middle road as to whether he should grow genetically modified crops.

Tolstoy farmer Corey Johannsen tells the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/1a06J6O>) he grows crops that are genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, as well as those that aren't. He says the subject is a touchy one among farmers.

Johannsen says he believes those who favor non-GMO crops have some legitimate concerns but "well over 90 percent" of South Dakota farmers make their money from GMO crops.

Johannsen got interested in non-GMO crops because of consumer demand but also over concerns about using a herbicide called glyphosate for weeds.

About a third of his farm was planted with non-GMO crops last year. He plans to make it about half this year.

SD extends comment period for Black Hills fisheries plans

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota wildlife officials have extended the public comment period on two proposed management plans for fisheries in the Black Hills.

Officials with the state's Game, Fish and Parks Department say people can now comment on the two five-year plans through April 26. One plan is for streams and the other for reservoirs.

The current streams plan in the Black Hills is more than 20 years old.

John Lott is the department's chief of aquatic resources. Lott says public input is "essential" in the planning and implementation process.

The Game, Fish and Parks Commission is expected to take final action on the plans during its May meeting in Custer.

Construction on Sioux Falls indoor aquatic center to begin

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — City officials say construction will begin this week on Sioux Falls' first indoor aquatic center, which will replace the outdoor pool at Spellerberg Park.

The construction will begin this week on the project that's expected to open in fall 2016.

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City Council members voted in February to approve spending more money on the aquatic center. The project was expected to cost \$19.8 million, but the estimate increased due to rising construction costs and several changes to the plan.

Council members voted to push the project cost to \$23.7 million. Most of the additional money likely will come from money leftover in last year's city budget.

The City Council approved the initial price tag after voters last April said they wanted to replace the outdoor pool at the park.

Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson to speak in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Neil deGrasse Tyson, the world-renowned astrophysicist and host of the TV show *Cosmos*, is coming to speak in Rapid City this fall.

The John T. Vucurevich Foundation is hosting "An Evening with Neil deGrasse Tyson" at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Theatre on Oct. 1.

Tyson is an astrophysicist, cosmologist, author and the director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York. He also hosts *Cosmos: A Space-Time Odyssey*, which was inspired by a similarly named program that cosmologist Carl Sagan hosted in the 1980s.

Tickets will go on sale Monday, Aug. 24, and are \$7 for adults and \$3 for students.

Lawmakers to gather in Pierre to consider governor's vetoes

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — State lawmakers return to Pierre Monday to consider reviving the three tax-related proposals that Gov. Dennis Daugaard struck down with a veto after the 2015 legislative session's main run.

The relatively obscure measures passed through the Legislature with mostly strong support, but it's unclear if their legislative sponsors will be able to muster the required two-thirds margin in both chambers necessary to override a gubernatorial veto. The occasion marks the final day of the 2015 legislative session, which largely wrapped up earlier this month.

"I've been there 13 times, and the dynamics are different every time," Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave, R-Baltic, said of his experiences on "Veto Day."

Daugaard vetoed the measures on March 20, and the bills' sponsors said at the time that they would attempt to whip support to overcome the governor's objections.

One felled bill would help determine whether South Dakota's property tax burden is a barrier to entry for businesses looking to offer affordable housing rentals by creating a new property classification for leased residential property.

Hartford Republican Sen. Deb Peters has said she sponsored the proposal to help examine what she described as the state's affordable housing "crisis." Daugaard wrote in his veto message that the measure would have been a step toward a lower property tax levy for leased residential property, which would shift the burden onto other property types. The bill passed the Senate with enough votes to overcome a veto, but it failed to meet that threshold in the House.

Daugaard also vetoed a measure that would have slightly reduced the amount of tax burden on rural electric companies. He explained in a letter that the exemption would have given special preference to a specific type of business, eroding the foundation of South Dakota's broad sales tax base.

Republican Sen. Corey Brown, of Gettysburg, sponsored the proposal, which passed nearly unanimously. It would have rolled back a recent administrative decision on how state tax for electric coop-

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eratives is determined by excluding municipal taxes from calculations of state tax liability. That would have lowered the burden on the rural electric companies.

A measure that would have exempted the earnings of American Legion and VFW baseball coaches from the state sales tax also died an administrative death. Daugaard explained in a letter that the state relies heavily on a broad-based sales tax for revenue that shouldn't be eroded.

Daugaard wrote that exempting the amateur baseball coaches would benefit a specific group of people and could lead to more requests for other exemptions.

Republican Sen. Brock Greenfield, of Clark, who sponsored the proposal, has said the earnings weren't taxed until an administrative decision a few years ago. The measure passed overwhelmingly in the House but just shy of the two-thirds margin in the Senate.

House Majority Leader Brian Gosch said the rural electric company proposal likely has the best chance of overcoming the veto and anticipated a harder time for the other two measures.

"I'd say it's kind of an average veto day," Gosch said. "Nothing too weighty."

US Forest Service: Use caution shooting in Black Hills

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Forest Service is urging recreational shooters in the Black Hills to use extra caution to avoid starting grass fires.

The federal agency says several recent grass fires have been started by recreational shooters. Officials say that hot projectiles and sparks from ricochets can ignite fires in dry, grassy areas and in other dry, brushy fuels in the forest.

Dry conditions have created extreme fire danger conditions throughout the Black Hills.

The agency is also reminding shooters that using exploding targets on National Forest System Land is prohibited. Anyone using them can be liable for damages or the cost of fire suppression.

Police say Sioux Falls woman stole \$59,000 over 2 years

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman has been indicted for allegedly stealing almost \$59,000 from a local dry cleaning business over two years.

Cynthia Ahlers was charged this week with one count of felony embezzlement.

Sioux Falls police spokesman Sam Clemens tells the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/199KES1>) that police were called to one RJ Ries location in July after an employee noticed money was missing.

Clemens says Ahlers was the general manager for all Sioux Falls locations and was responsible for verifying funds and depositing them.

Ahlers was eventually arrested and charged.

AP News in Brief

Arab leaders unveil joint force, vow strikes in Yemen will continue until rebels withdraw

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — A two-day Arab summit ended Sunday with a vow to defeat Iranian-backed Shiite rebels in Yemen and the formal unveiling of plans to form a joint Arab intervention force, setting the stage for a potentially dangerous clash between U.S.-allied Arab states and Tehran over influence in the region.

Arab leaders taking turns to address the gathering spoke repeatedly of the threat posed to the region's Arab identity by what they called moves by "foreign" or "outside parties" to stoke sectarian, eth-

nic or religious rivalries in Arab states — all thinly-veiled references to Iran, which has in recent years consolidated its hold in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and now Yemen.

The summit's final communique made similarly vague references, but the Arab League chief, Nabil Elaraby, was unequivocal during a news conference later, singling out Iran for what he said was its intervention "in many nations."

A summit resolution said the newly unveiled joint Arab defense force would be deployed at the request of any Arab nation facing a national security threat and that it would also be used to combat terrorist groups.

The agreement came as U.S. and other Western diplomats were pushing to meet a Tuesday deadline to reach a deal with Iran that would restrict its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Pastor in co-pilot's German hometown says co-pilot, family 'belong to our community'

MONTABAUER, Germany (AP) — The pastor of the Lutheran church in Andreas Lubitz's hometown said Sunday that the community stands by him and his family, despite the fact that prosecutors blame the 27-year-old co-pilot for causing the plane crash that killed 150 people in southern France.

The town of Montabaur has been rattled by the revelation that Lubitz, who first learned to fly at a nearby glider club, may have intentionally caused Tuesday's crash of Germanwings Flight 9525.

"For us, it makes it particularly difficult that the only victim from Montabaur is suspected to have caused this tragedy, this crash — although this has not been finally confirmed, but a lot is indicating that — and we have to face this," pastor Michael Dietrich said.

He spoke to The Associated Press after holding a church service Sunday to commemorate the crash victims and support their families.

"The co-pilot, the family belong to our community, and we stand by this, and we embrace them and will not hide this, and want to support the family in particular," Dietrich said.

AP Exclusive: Some at NSA thought costs of collecting US calling records exceeded the benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Security Agency considered abandoning its secret program to collect and store American calling records in the months before leaker Edward Snowden revealed the practice, current and former intelligence officials say, because some officials believed the costs outweighed the meager counterterrorism benefits.

After the leak and the collective surprise around the world, NSA leaders strongly defended the phone records program to Congress and the public, but without disclosing the internal debate.

The proposal to kill the program was circulating among top managers but had not yet reached the desk of Gen. Keith Alexander, then the NSA director, according to current and former intelligence officials who would not be quoted because the details are sensitive. Two former senior NSA officials say they doubt Alexander would have approved it.

Still, the behind-the-scenes NSA concerns, which have not been reported previously, could be relevant as Congress decides whether to renew or modify the phone records collection when the law authorizing it expires in June.

The internal critics pointed out that the already high costs of vacuuming up and storing the "to and from" information from nearly every domestic landline call were rising, the system was not capturing

most cellphone calls, and program was not central to unraveling terrorist plots, the officials said. They worried about public outrage if the program ever was revealed.

Officials: Iran nuclear talks progress on enrichment, other issues remain as deadline nears

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Iran is considering demands for further cuts to its uranium enrichment program but is pushing back on how long it must limit technology it could use to make atomic arms, Western officials involved in the nuclear talks said Sunday.

Iran's potential movement on enrichment reflected the intense pressure to close a deal. But substantial differences between the sides may prove too difficult to bridge before Tuesday's deadline for a preliminary agreement, which is meant to set the stage for a further round of negotiations toward a comprehensive deal in June.

The goal is a long-term curb on Iran's nuclear activities. In return, Tehran would gain relief from the burden of global economic penalties.

Foreign ministers and other representatives of Iran and the six powers in the talks have said there is a chance of succeeding by the deadline despite significant obstacles.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said it was up to Iran to make that happen.

Indiana governor: Religious objections law not a mistake; critics say it allows discrimination

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana Gov. Mike Pence defended the new state law that's garnered widespread criticism over concerns it could foster discrimination against gays and lesbians and said Sunday it wasn't a mistake to have enacted it.

Pence appeared on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" to discuss the measure he signed last week prohibiting state laws that "substantially burden" a person's ability to follow his or her religious beliefs. The definition of "person" includes religious institutions, businesses and associations.

Since the Republican governor signed the bill into law Thursday, Indiana has been widely criticized by businesses and organizations around the nation, as well as on social media with the hashtag (hash) boycottindiana. Already, consumer review service Angie's List has said it will suspend a planned expansion in Indianapolis because of the new law.

Pence did not answer directly when asked at least six times whether under the law it would be legal for a merchant to refuse to serve gay customers. "This is not about discrimination, this is about empowering people to confront government overreach," he said. Asked again, he said, "Look, the issue here is still is tolerance a two-way street or not."

Sexual orientation is not covered under Indiana's civil rights law. Pence has said he "won't be pursuing that."

Nigerians vote Sunday, after technical hitches and despite extremist violence, protests

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Boko Haram fighters attacked poll stations in northeast Nigeria and a governor demanded elections be canceled in an oil-rich southern state Sunday as the count started for a presidential election too close to call.

Two electoral workers were killed Saturday in Boko Haram's campaign to disrupt the elections, chair-

man Attahiru Jega of the Independent National Electoral Commission told reporters.

Voting continued in certain areas on Sunday after technical glitches with new biometric card readers prevented some people from casting ballots on Saturday.

The high-stakes contest to govern Africa's richest and most populous nation has come down to a critically close contest between President Goodluck Jonathan, a 57-year-old Christian from the south, and former military dictator Muhammadu Buhari, 72, from the predominantly Muslim north.

Results are expected by late Monday. If there is no clear winner, a runoff must be held.

Harsh Saudi response to Swedish criticism tests Europe's willingness to promote rights

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Sweden's foreign minister is hardly the first diplomat to raise concerns about Saudi Arabia's human rights record, but when she used the word "dictatorship" in a speech last month she crossed a red line for the kingdom at a time of intense regional turmoil, igniting a diplomatic crisis.

The harsh response from Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies jolted Stockholm's standing in the Arab world, threatened its Gulf business interests and may have imperiled its bid for a rotating seat at the U.N. Security Council. The crisis also underscored the perils of promoting reform four years after the Arab Spring, particularly in Gulf monarchies that rode out the ensuing unrest by clamping down on dissent.

The dispute began when Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom stood in Sweden's parliament Feb. 11 and said the Al Saud family, for which the Gulf nation is named, held "absolute power" and presided over a "dictatorship." Days earlier she had described the court-ordered flogging of a Saudi blogger as "medieval."

Wallstrom's comments came four years to the day that Egypt's longtime autocratic ruler Hosni Mubarak was overthrown by a popular uprising. As similar revolts have engulfed much of the Arab world, the Gulf monarchies have grown even more averse to any talk of democratic reform.

Germany, the U.S. and other close Saudi allies had also spoken out against the flogging of Raif Badawi, who was found guilty of insulting Islam. But only Wallstrom criticized the royal family.

Authorities: 2nd body found in rubble 3 days after apparent gas explosion in Manhattan

NEW YORK (AP) — Emergency workers found a second body Sunday in the mass of rubble left behind by an apparent gas explosion three days earlier in Manhattan's East Village, police said.

The names of the two dead were not immediately released; a medical examiner was to determine the identifications.

Authorities had been looking for signs of two missing men, both believed to have been inside a ground floor sushi restaurant at the time of the explosion: 26-year-old Moises Lucon, who worked at the restaurant, and 23-year-old Nicholas Figueroa, a bowling alley worker who had been there on a date.

During the day, workers raked through piles of loose brick and wood; rescue workers sent search dogs over debris where three apartment buildings once stood.

Several members of Figueroa's family visited the blast site Sunday, holding flowers and crying.

Air Canada plane skids off runway after hard landing in Halifax; 25 taken to hospitals

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) — An Air Canada plane made a hard landing in bad weather at the Halifax airport, skidding off a runway, shearing off its nose and crumpling an engine. The airline said Sunday that 25 people were taken to hospitals for observation and treatment of minor injuries.

The airline said Flight AC624, an Airbus 320 that left Toronto late Saturday, had 133 passengers and five crew members. Air Canada said the aircraft landed in stormy conditions at 12:43 a.m. Sunday.

"It came down pretty hard and then skidded off the runway," airport spokesman Peter Spurway said. He said he didn't know whether runway conditions at Halifax Stanfield International Airport played a role.

Air Canada Chief Operating Officer Klaus Goersch said 25 people were taken to local hospitals and all but one of them were released.

"All of us at Air Canada are greatly relieved that there have been no critical injuries as a result of this incident," he said.

Pipelines pinched: Despite highest costs in US, Northeast resists natural gas expansion

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — There is near universal agreement that the Northeast has to expand its energy supply to rein in the nation's highest costs and that cheap, abundant, relatively clean natural gas could be at least a short-term answer. But heels dig deep when it comes to those thorniest of questions: how and where?

Proposals to build or expand natural gas pipelines are met with an upswell of citizen discontent. At the end of last year, a Massachusetts route selected by Texas-based Kinder Morgan generated so much venom that the company nudged it north into New Hampshire — where the venom is also flowing freely. During this winter's town meetings, a centuries-old staple of local governance in New England, people in the nine towns touched by the route voted to oppose the project.

That Northeast Direct line is one of about 20 pipeline projects being proposed throughout the Northeast, where savvy environmental and political forces combine with population density to provide a formidable bulwark. There's another reason the loudest protests are all coming from the region: They're where the gas is, waiting just east of the gas-rich Marcellus Shale region.

"Everyone seems to know the Northeast has a pipeline capacity problem, but not many seem to be willing to make many concessions to fix that problem," said Andrew Pusateri, senior utilities analyst for Edward Jones.

And these are folks who pay a lot to stay warm in the winter and keep the lights on in summer. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, New Englanders paid \$14.52 per thousand cubic feet of gas in 2014, compared to \$10.94 for the rest of the nation. ISO-New England, which operates the region's power grid, said in its 2015 Regional Electricity Outlook that natural gas availability is "one of the most serious challenges" the region faces as more coal and oil units go offline.

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, March 29, the 88th day of 2015. There are 277 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 29, 1912, British explorer Robert Falcon Scott, his doomed expedition stranded in an Antarctic blizzard after failing to be the first to reach the South Pole, wrote the last words of his journal: "For Gods sake look after our people."

On this date:

In 1638, Swedish colonists settled in present-day Delaware.

In 1790, the tenth president of the United States, John Tyler, was born in Charles City County, Virginia.

In 1812, the first White House wedding took place as Lucy Payne Washington, the sister of first lady Dolley Madison, married Supreme Court Justice Thomas Todd.

In 1882, the Knights of Columbus was chartered in Connecticut.

In 1936, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler claimed overwhelming victory in a plebiscite on his policies.

In 1943, World War II rationing of meat, fats and cheese began.

In 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted in New York of conspiracy to commit espionage. (They were executed in June 1953.) The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The King and I" opened on Broadway.

In 1962, Jack Paar hosted NBC's "Tonight" show for the final time, although the network aired a repeat the following night. (Johnny Carson debuted as host the following October.)

In 1971, Army Lt. William L. Calley Jr. was convicted of murdering 22 Vietnamese civilians in the My Lai (mee ly) massacre. (Calley ended up serving three years under house arrest.) A jury in Los Angeles recommended the death penalty for Charles Manson and three female followers for the 1969 Tate-La Bianca murders. (The sentences were later commuted.)

In 1973, the last United States combat troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1974, eight Ohio National Guardsmen were indicted on federal charges stemming from the shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University. (The charges were later dismissed.) Chinese farmers digging a well discovered the Terracota Warriors, an "army" of sculpted soldiers dating from the third century B.C.

In 1992, Democratic presidential front-runner Bill Clinton acknowledged experimenting with marijuana "a time or two" while attending Oxford University, adding, "I didn't inhale and I didn't try it again."

Ten years ago: As Terri Schiavo entered her 12th full day without food or water, the Rev. Jesse Jackson prayed with her parents and joined conservatives in calling for Florida lawmakers to order her feeding tube reinserted. Attorney Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. died in Los Angeles at age 67. Former U.S. Senator Howell Heflin died in Sheffield, Alabama, at age 83.

Five years ago: Two female suicide bombers blew themselves up in twin attacks on Moscow subway stations jam-packed with rush-hour passengers, killing at least 40 people and wounding more than 100. Pop star Ricky Martin confirmed he was gay in bilingual online posts.

One year ago: Two Spanish journalists, Javier Espinosa and Ricardo Garcia Vilanova, were freed after being held captive for six months in Syria by a rogue al-Qaida group. Mao Asada of Japan topped the free skate to capture her third world figure skating title. African Story won the \$10 million Dubai World Cup by 2 3/4 lengths in the world's richest horse race.

Today's Birthdays: Political commentator John McLaughlin is 88. Author Judith Guest is 79. Former

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British Prime Minister Sir John Major is 72. Comedian Eric Idle is 72. Composer Vangelis is 72. Basketball Hall of Famer Walt Frazier is 70. Singer Bobby Kimball (Toto) is 68. Actor Bud Cort is 67. Actor Brendan Gleeson is 60. Actor Christopher Lawford is 60. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Earl Campbell is 60. Actress Marina Sirtis is 60. International Gymnastics Hall of Famer Kurt Thomas is 59. Actor Christopher Lambert is 58. Rock singer Perry Farrell (Porno for Pyros; Jane's Addiction) is 56. Comedian-actress Amy Sedaris is 54. Model Elle Macpherson is 52. Movie director Michel Hazanavicius (mee-SHEHL' ah-zah-nah-VEE'-see-oos) is 48. Rock singer-musician John Popper (Blues Traveler) is 48. Actress Lucy Lawless is 47. Country singer Regina Leigh (Regina Regina) is 47. Country singer Brady Seals is 46. Former White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs is 44. CBS News correspondent Lara Logan is 44. Actor Sam Hazeldine (TV: "Resurrection"; Film: "The Monuments Men") is 43. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jennifer Capriati is 39. Actor Chris D'Elia is 35. Pop singer Kelly Sweet is 27.

Thought for Today: "If men could foresee the future, they would still behave as they do now." - Russian proverb.