

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Mark Your Calendars

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

### Tuesday, March 31

**Birthdays:** Abby Cutler, Aiden Strom, Barb Waage, Brett Sombke, Caralee Heitmann, Megan Cutler, Rick Carlson, Renee Hanlon

**Senior Menu:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, Pineapple Strawberry Ambrosia, Whole Wheat bread.

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

**School Lunch:** Taco salad, bread sticks, carrots and dip, fruit.

1:00 pm: NSU Indoor track meet for throwers and jumpers only

### Wednesday, April 1

**Birthdays:** Cody Hanson, Jake McKiver, Melanie Rossow

5:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle

7:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation & Leagues both meet at SEAS for Stations of the

## 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**

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

**605-725-WOOD**

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



## Friends . . . Near and Far

*Editor's Note: This is the fifth in a series featuring your friends, near and far.*

**Name:** Taylor Sumption

**Job** **Wise what are you doing today?** I operate a family farm in partnership with my four brothers and our parents. I manage the agronomy side of the farm along with the accounting and financial.

**How long have you been working at the current job?** I've been involved in agriculture since an early age and have been here full time since 1996.

**How did you get your current job?** My brothers and I started farming together in the late 80's and have worked together since.

**If you have previous employments list them and how long you were there.** I worked part time during college for a farmer east of Brookings, SD.

**What high school did you attend and what year did you graduate?** I attended Frederick High School and graduated in 1994.

**Where did you attend college and what was your degree?** I went to South Dakota State University and have a degree in Agriculture.

**What advice would you give the high school students today?** Stay focused on your education. In today's world, if you are self motivated and willing to work hard, you have a big advantage.

**List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life.** The accomplishment I am most proud of is my family. Watching my children grow as the years go by is a wonderful experience. After years of wanting to become a pilot, I finally realized that dream and enjoy it so much that I've continued on to get my Instrument Rating. As a farmer in a small community I think success is measured more by your family and the friends you've made than accomplishments in your career.

**Are you married? If so what is your spouses name and where was she from?** I'm married to Cassandra Sumption. She is from Hecla, South Dakota.

**How did the two of you meet?** We met at a homecoming dance in Frederick in 1992.

**Do you have any children? If so what's their names and ages and if they are no longer staying at home where are they at and what are they doing today.** Cassandra and I have five children together. They are Miranda age 16, Trevor age 14, Marissa age 11, Tristan age 9, and Preston age 6.

**Do you feel that your high school and college education prepared you adequately for post education life?** I think my high school education did an excellent job of preparing me for college. My education at SDSU helped me a lot. I think college education is what you make of it. Much like life if you don't apply yourself and get involved you will have disappointing results.



Pictured left to right are Trevor, Taylor, Preston is in front left, Cassandra, Trevor in front right, Miranda and Marissa.

## Sen. Lederman Resigns; Governor Invites Public Input



**Dan  
Lederman**

PIERRE, S.D. – State Sen. Dan Lederman has resigned his seat in the South Dakota State Senate. Lederman, a Dakota Dunes Republican, also serves as assistant majority leader.

“Dan Lederman has been a vigorous advocate for his constituents and for South Dakota,” said Gov. Daugaard. “He will certainly be missed, and I wish the best to him and his family.”

Lederman has served in the state Senate since 2011, after serving one term in the state House. He was elected assistant majority leader in 2013.

Lederman represents District 16, which includes all of the Union County, and southern and eastern portions of Lincoln County, including the cities of Worthing, Canton, Beresford and Hudson.

His resignation was effective after the adjournment of the legislative session today.

Lederman’s resignation creates a vacancy that will be filled by gubernatorial appointment. The Governor is asking the public to nominate candidates to fill the position.

Those wishing to be considered for the appointment, or to offer nominations, should contact Grace Kessler in the Office of the Governor at 605-773-3661. Nominations should include the candidate’s name, current address, telephone number and relevant background information.

Gov. Daugaard expects to name an appointee by late spring or early summer.

## Rounds Announces South Dakota Photo Contest

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) announced his office is hosting a photo contest. He is seeking photos from across the state that highlight the unique scenery and landscape South Dakota has to offer. The top photo submissions will be featured on Rounds’ social media pages and website.

“From rolling hills and canyons to fertile river beds and prairies, our state has some of the most unique and diverse landscape in the country,” said Rounds. “I look forward to showcasing some of South Dakota’s natural beauty and sharing your work with others.”

Photo submissions, along with the photographers name, hometown and a brief description of the picture can be sent to [Rounds\\_Press@rounds.senate.gov](mailto:Rounds_Press@rounds.senate.gov). By submitting a photo, the photographer grants permission to use the photo online.

### 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.

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## Groton Tropics are Team Champions

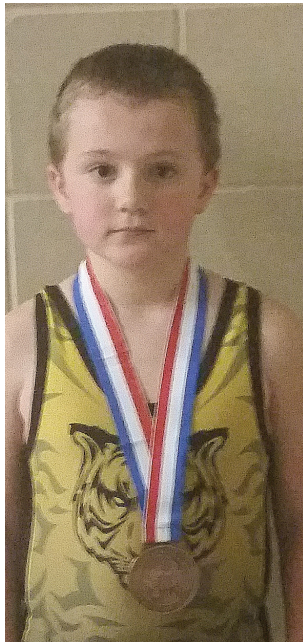
The Groton Tropics won the annual Willie-Mac Division 2 Basketball tournament this past Saturday in Brookings.

Team members (L-R):

Back: Hunter Lerew, Truitt Rogers, Brady Keith, Sean Schuring, Adam Herman

Front: Bennett Shabazz, Seric Shabazz, Brandon Keith.

Team coaches were Barry Keith and Mark Herman. (Courtesy Photo)



**Karter Moody** placed 5th in his division (Bantam 91) at the State AAU Wrestling Tourney.



**Jeremy and Amy Krueger** are pictured in back and Lane is on the left. Front right is the Tots 43 lb. State Champion Liza Krueger.

## Safe and Enjoyable Easter Eggs

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Easter eggs are a traditional part of the Easter season, but they can also be a way to cause foodborne illness if not handled correctly. To keep your Easter celebrations safe and enjoyable make sure you practice proper food handling when it comes to eggs, explained Lavonne Meyer, SDSU Extension Food Safety Field Specialist.

"Eggs are sometimes contaminated with the bacteria Salmonella. The bacteria can be found on the outside and inside of normal, fresh eggs," Meyer said. "Even those with clean, uncracked shells can sometimes contain the bacterium."

When this bacterium is consumed, Meyer said it can cause illness within 12 to 72 hours of consumption.

Symptoms include diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramps, and vomiting. In some cases hospitalization and even death can result. "Certain people are more susceptible to more severe illness - they are pregnant women, young children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems," she said.

### Safe steps to follow

Natasha Bordeaux, SDSU Dietetic Student who works with Meyer, offers the following steps to prevent foodborne illness:

**Buying Eggs:** To be safe, one should know the proper way to buy, store and handle eggs to prevent foodborne illness. Be sure the eggs are stored in a refrigerated case and the eggs are not cracked or dirty.

**Storing Eggs:** When storing the eggs be sure to promptly refrigerate at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or less. Store the eggs in the original carton. Eggs should not be stored in the refrigerator door. They should be used within three weeks.

**Handling Eggs:** FDA requires all cartons of shell eggs that have not been treated to destroy Salmonella (as in pasteurization) to carry Safe Handling Instructions. These instructions are as follows: Keep eggs refrigerated, cook eggs until yolks are firm, and cook foods containing eggs thoroughly.

**Wash:** When handling eggs, to avoid cross contamination, wash hands, utensils and preparation surfaces thoroughly before and after preparation using hot soapy water.

**Cooking Instructions:** Cook eggs thoroughly. Both whites and yolks should be cooked firm and not runny. Casseroles and egg-containing dishes should be cooked to 160 degrees Fahrenheit. Refrigerate egg dishes promptly and eat within three to four days. Boiled eggs should not sit out for more than two hours. They can be stored in the refrigerator for up to one week.

For the Easter Egg Hunt, Bordeaux recommends the following food safety tips:

- \* Refrigerate hard-boiled eggs immediately after cooking and prior to decorating.
- \* Color eggs with food-grade dyes only. Food coloring, commercial coloring kits or fruit-drink powders can be safely used. Do not crack the shells as bacteria can enter through the cracked shells.
- \* Store the hard-boiled eggs in a container on a shelf in the refrigerator. The refrigerator door is not ideal as the temperature on the door is too varied and may fall below the recommended 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
- \* Keep in mind the two-hour rule when decorating and hiding the eggs. The eggs should not be left out longer than two hours total. Be sure the "found" eggs are eaten or stored before two hours.
- \* Hide eggs in places where there is no opportunity for the eggs to come in contact with dirt, moisture, pet feces, or other sources of bacteria.

For more information, visit [iGrow.org](http://iGrow.org).

## Army Cutworms Spotted in South Dakota Winter Wheat

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Army cutworms have been spotted feeding on winter wheat seedlings in fields located southwest of Wall.

"The early spring and warm temperatures helped the greening of winter wheat fields all over South Dakota also favoring the insect's development," said, Anitha Chirumamilla, SDSU Extension Entomology Field Specialist.

Chirumamilla explained that fields planted early last fall could have higher chances of army cutworm infestation as lots of growth before dormancy attracts adult moths that lay their eggs in the soil.

"Army cutworm, *Euxoa auxiliaris* is a very common species of cutworms attacking wheat in South Dakota," she said.

The larvae are greyish in color with pale markings and a light stripe on their backs. Adult moths lay eggs in the soil during fall season and overwinter as larvae.

With the onset of spring, the larvae resume their development by feeding on the seedlings. Full grown larvae can be 2-inches long. "Damage is caused by larvae feeding on the leaves. Most of the damage occurs during evening hours as the larvae are sensitive to light and hide in the soil near the plants during the day," Chirumamilla said.

Larvae can be seen during daytime on cloudy days.

### Scout wheat & alfalfa fields for army cutworm

Larvae can move in masses resembling an army to nearby vegetation in search of food. "First-year alfalfa is also highly vulnerable to damage by army cutworms," she said.

Chirumamilla encouraged growers to scout their fields for army cutworm larvae by digging the soil around the plants.

In healthy plant stands, an insecticide treatment is recommended at four or more larvae per square foot, but when the stand is thin, and plants are stressed, the threshold is much lower at two or more larvae per square foot.

"Areas where cutworms have been spotted were well over the action threshold and spraying is critical to avoid serious damage," Chirumamilla said.

Several organophosphate and pyrethroid insecticides are registered for cutworms control in wheat. Information about insecticides labelled for army cutworm management and recommended dosages are available in the 2015 South Dakota Wheat Pest Management Guide found at [iGrow.org/up/resources/03-3033-2014.pdf](http://iGrow.org/up/resources/03-3033-2014.pdf).



Photo courtesy of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln Army cutworm larvae.



## Children's Theater

The Dakota Players put on the Children's Theater production last week in Groton. These students put in many hours, often going as late as 8 p.m. each night, Monday through Thursday, with the two productions on Friday.



## James Farms wins League

James Farms of Groton won the 2015 F League Aberdeen City Basketball League. Players on the team are:

In back are Luke Sternhagen, Craig Sternhagen, Bryce Smid and Joe Schwan

In front are Tony Waage, Tom Sternhagen and Zach Herron

Missing are Reid Johnson, Caleb Bowman, Danny McPartland

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## Today in Weather History

1890 - Saint Louis, MO, received 20 inches of snow in 24 hours. It was the worst snowstorm of record for the St Louis. (David Ludlum)

1954 - The temperature at Rio Grande City, TX, hit 108 degrees, which for thirty years was a U.S. record for the month of March. (The Weather Channel)

1962 - A tornado struck the town of Milton, FL, killing 17 persons and injuring 100 others. It was the worst tornado disaster in Florida history. (David Ludlum)

1973 - A devastating tornado took a nearly continuous 75 mile path through north central Georgia causing more than 113 million dollars damage, the highest total of record for a natural disaster in the state. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - March went out like a lion in the northeastern U.S. A slow moving storm produced heavy snow in the Lower Great Lakes Region, and heavy rain in New England. Heavy rain and melting snow caused catastrophic flooding along rivers and streams in Maine and New Hampshire. Strong southerly winds ahead of the storm gusted to 62 mph at New York City, and reached 87 mph at Milton MA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - March went out like a lion in eastern Colorado. A winter-like storm produced 42 inches of snow at Lake Isabel, including 20 inches in six hours. Fort Collins reported 15 inches of snow in 24 hours. Winds gusted to 80 mph at Centerville UT. Albuquerque NM received 14 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced severe weather from North Carolina to Pennsylvania. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 76 mph at Cape Henry VA. While squalls blanketed northwest Pennsylvania with up to 9 inches of snow, thunderstorms in eastern Pennsylvania produced golf ball size hail at Avondale. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - The month of March went out just as it came in, like a lamb. Marquette MI, which started the month with a record high of 52 degrees, equalled their record for the date with a reading of 62 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2010 - Jacksonville, Florida's, record streak of days with high temperatures below 80 degrees comes to an end at 105 days. It was also Jacksonville's first 80 degree reading of the year. The previous latest first 80 degree day was on March 14, 1978.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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

GROTON AREA SCHOOL

Destination Imagination's

NEW!  
5K  
WALK OR RUN  
RELAYS!



Race To Globals

\* SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH \*

Fund raising event for Groton Area School

Destination Imagination

SCLARK@NVC.NET for information

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Breezy	Breezy	Breezy	Blustery	Mostly Sunny
High: 72 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 53 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 49 °F



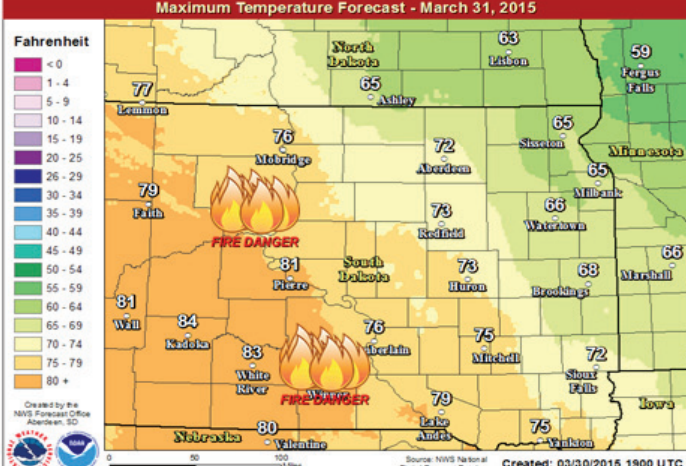
## Unseasonably Warm, Fire Threat Continues



- Warm temperatures and low relative humidity remains Tuesday
- Winds lessen Tuesday
  - **Fire danger to become even more widespread Wednesday as winds return**

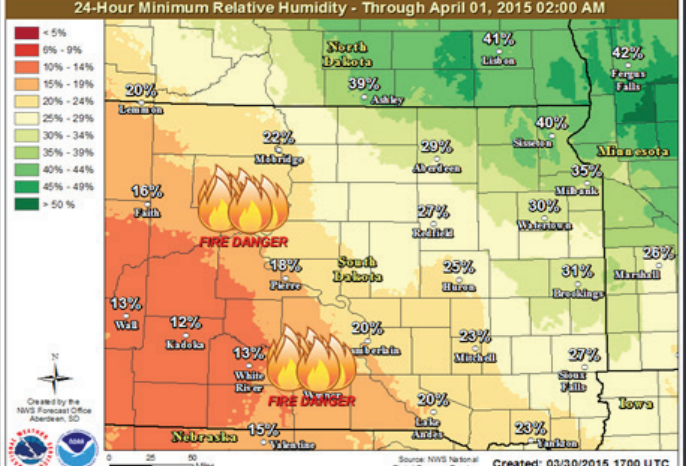


Maximum Temperature Forecast - March 31, 2015





Created by the NWS Forecast Office Aberdeen, SD. Source: NWS National Digital Forecast Database. Created: 03/30/2015 1900 UTC

24-Hour Minimum Relative Humidity - Through April 01, 2015 02:00 AM



Created by the NWS Forecast Office Aberdeen, SD. Source: NWS National Digital Forecast Database. Created: 03/30/2015 1700 UTC

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, South Dakota

[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)
 National Weather Service Aberdeen
 @NWSAberdeen
Updated: 3/30/2015 4:01 PM Central

Published on: 03/30/2015 at 4:03PM

If you enjoyed today's warm temperatures, you're in luck as we're expecting similar values for Tuesday AND Wednesday. However, there is another side to the coin and that's the accompanied fire danger. Several fires have already started across South Dakota over the past couple of days, and more may ignite due to continued dry, warm, and windy conditions. There will be a bit of a lull in the winds Tuesday, but they will return Wednesday before another system pushes through.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 69.9 at 2:16 PM

**Low:** 31.1 at 1:18 AM

**High Gust:** 37 at 4:59 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 86° in 1946

**Record Low:** 0° in 1899

**Average High:** 48°F

**Average Low:** 26°F

**Average Precip in March.:** 1.11

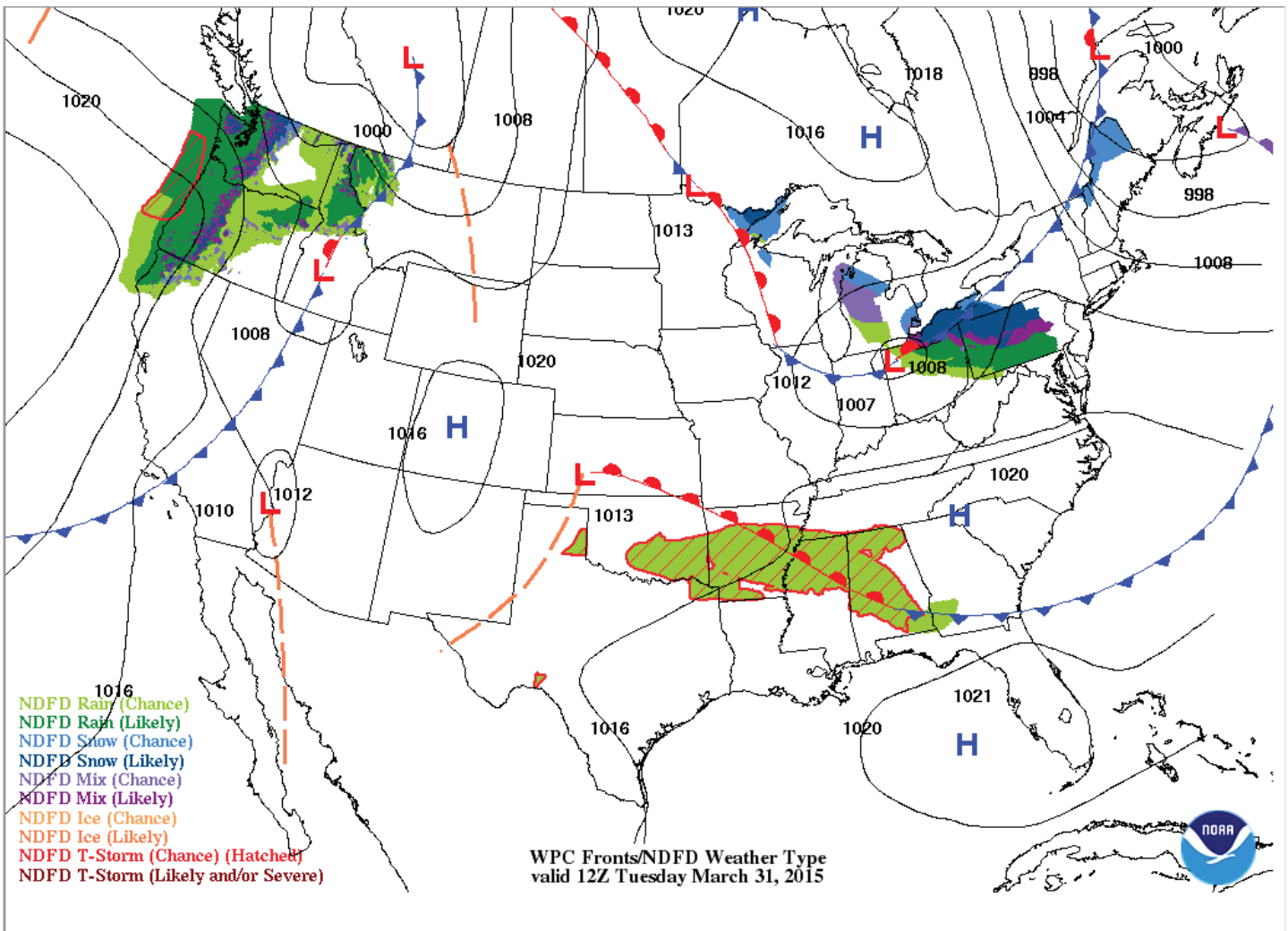
**Precip to date in March.:** 0.07

**Average Precip to date:** 2.13

**Precip Year to Date:** 0.47

**Sunset Tonight:** 8:00 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:15 a.m.



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## WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS: HAVE HOPE

Years ago I was reading a book that contained a most interesting, disturbing and thought provoking statement. "There is a dramatic difference between 'giving up' and 'given up,'" she wrote. "Giving up may take a long time. It begins when we start to evaluate what is going on in our lives and attempt to come to a conclusion as to whether or not the struggle or struggles we are having is worth the effort. Given up is when we come to the conclusion that the struggle or struggles we face are no longer worth the effort it takes to breathe and resign ourselves to fate or death and life loses its meaning." What was once "the future" is over and ends with a sign of resignation.

Again, we find sound advice and great encouragement from a proverb: "There is surely a future hope for you and your hope will not be cut off." In other words, what is may not be what we would like it to be. But remember - it is not the end. We are to look beyond the present and accept the wisdom that comes from God and rest in His hope - not our circumstances.

The word translated "a future" describes something that comes after something else. It is what is last or behind or beyond what we can see - but not what we can believe.

We can take "hope" from the words of Jeremiah: "This is what the Lord says...For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and will bring you back from captivity."

Whatever captivates is as temporary as a passing cloud. How we view it is up to us. Do we give up or give "it" to God.

**Prayer:** Thank You, Father, for giving us the hope that what is will pass and that our future rests with You and is in Your hands! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Proverbs 23:18 There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

## 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> Plan provides up to \$50,000 of whole life insurance that automatically doubles during age 18 at no extra cost!

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



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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

### **Northwestern South Dakota wildfire grows to 16 square miles**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A wildfire burning in northwestern South Dakota's Harding County has grown to about 16 square miles.

The Great Plains Fire Information office estimates that the Sheep Draw Fire has burned more than 10,000 acres since Saturday afternoon. The cause is still being investigated.

Fire officials have said it could take several days to fully contain the blaze. More than 100 firefighters with federal, state and volunteer agencies have been attacking the fire, along with area ranchers and two South Dakota National Guard helicopters.

No one has been hurt. Some homes, other buildings and natural gas wells have been threatened, but firefighters have been able to protect the structures.

### **Conservative Michelle Malkin speaking to SD college GOP**

**BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) Distillers: Stiff whiskey law stifles town's boozy revival**

**ERIK SCHELZIG, Associated Press**

TRIMBLE, Tenn. (AP) — Booze, bikes and rock 'n' roll.

That's the plan for economic development in this otherwise sleepy town of Trimble, tucked away among the corn and soybean fields of northwestern Tennessee.

The only thing standing in the way, say distillers Michael Ballard and Jesse James Dupree, is the state's stuffy law restricting how spirits must be made so they can be marketed as "Tennessee Whiskey." They've found an unexpected ally in the conservative Koch brothers, whose political muscle they hope can help persuade lawmakers to vote for repeal.

"We're trying to get this town back on the map," said Ballard, the grandson of a Trimble sharecropper who has built his Full Throttle distillery on the former site of the town's shuttered cotton gin. "This law is just hindering us."

Ballard, the proprietor of the Full Throttle Saloon in Sturgis, South Dakota, wants to bring the biker party vibe back to his Tennessee home town by catering to hot rods, custom motorcycles and live concerts on the main drag outside his distillery and visitors center.

Business partner Dupree is the lead singer of the hard rock band Jackyl, famous for his raucous chain saw solos to close out sets. Last summer, he broke ground on his latest venture, a nearby distillery where he plans to make Jesse James Tennessee Whiskey.

But those designs were put on ice when state lawmakers didn't repeal the Tennessee whiskey statute they had enacted in 2013 at the behest of Jack Daniel's, which is by far the dominant player in the category.

"It's been over a year now that we've sat dormant because of this whiskey law," Dupree said. "That's another 30 people in this town who would be working."

The elements of the state law most under dispute are that spirits must be filtered through charcoal and stored in unused oak barrels in order to be called Tennessee whiskey. Jack Daniel's argues that the law establishes basic quality requirements. Ballard and Dupree disagree.

"You could run the worst whiskey in the world through charcoal and virgin oak barrels, and it will still be the worst whiskey in the world," Dupree said.

Ballard is building his barrel storage warehouse next to the railroad tracks, where freight trains thun-

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dering by five times a day will shake up the spirits aging in their casks. That "locomotive agitation" will be a bigger selling point than any charcoal mellowing, he said.

A similar repeal effort last year pitched global liquor giants Diageo PLC, the owner of George Dickel Tennessee Whisky, against Jack Daniel's and its corporate parent Brown-Forman Corp. of Louisville, Kentucky.

Diageo has taken a back seat in this year's legislative fight, but the Full Throttle crew has gained an unexpected ally in the form of the conservative lobbying group Americans for Prosperity, the organization backed by billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch.

"The original intent of the law was to say thank you to a great Tennessee tradition, but the unintended consequence is that small distilleries are being shut out within their own state," said Andrew Ogles, the state director of the group, which carries heavy sway in the Legislature.

The state's attorney general recently found that an exemption for another small whiskey maker, Prichard's Distillery, that was carved out of the original statute could be unconstitutional. That legal opinion is also giving hope to opponents that the whole law could be thrown out.

Jack Daniel's master distiller Jeff Arnett said he expects the law to withstand any legal challenges and said he stands by the state law.

"When you've been around for 150 years as we have, you understand that these things that are on your label do matter," said Arnett, who noted that despite the vocal opposition of Full Throttle and Prichard's, the law has the support of the majority of the 34 distilleries licensed in the state.

Back in Trimble, Ballard is burying unsightly power lines, putting up art deco street lamps and laying out brick-paved roads. He and Dupree are pitching a reality TV show about their efforts in the town along the lines of the show they star in about the Full Throttle Saloon in Sturgis.

Within five years, the plan is for vodka, gin, and bourbon distilleries to stand alongside ones making un-aged moonshine — and Tennessee whiskey.

"We want to call it Trimble Tennessee Whiskey, but we can't under this law," Ballard said. "The whole goal is to get tourism and getting people to come here."

Conservative blogger, columnist and bestselling author Michelle Malkin will speak at this year's College Republican Convention at South Dakota State University.

Her Saturday, May 2 appearance at the SDSU Performing Arts Center in Brookings will be free and open to the public. Tickets can be reserved at <https://eventbrite.com/event/16170985854>.

Malkin began her career in newspaper journalism with the Los Angeles Daily News in 1992. She joined the editorial board of the Seattle Times in 1996. She's been a nationally syndicated columnist for Creators Syndicate since 1999.

Her books include "Invasion: How America Still Welcomes Terrorists Criminals & Other Foreign Menaces to Our Shores" and "Culture of Corruption: Obama and His Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks, and Cronies."

## **AP Exclusive: Big rigs often go faster than tires can handle**

**TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer**

DETROIT (AP) — Many tractor-trailers on the nation's roads are driven faster than the 75 mph their tires are designed to handle, a practice that has been linked to wrecks and blowouts but has largely escaped the attention of highway officials.

Nearly all truck tires have been built for a maximum sustained speed of 75 mph since the middle of

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last decade, when drivers across the vast majority of the U.S. were allowed to go no faster than 65 or 70 mph.

But 14 states, mainly west of the Mississippi River, now have speed limits of 75, 80, even 85 mph in part of Texas. Some of those states acted without consulting the tire industry.

Safety advocates and tire experts say that habitually driving faster than a tire's rated speed can generate excessive heat that damages the rubber, with potentially catastrophic results.

"It's a recipe for disaster," said James Perham, president of Extreme Transportation Corp., an automobile-hauling company near San Diego that filed a complaint with regulators about Michelin tires after seven blowouts caused an estimated \$20,000 to \$30,000 in damage to its rigs.

The disconnect between highway speed limits and safety standards was discovered by The Associated Press in a government document that detailed an investigation into truck tire failures.

Last month, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration closed the investigation into blowouts involving certain Michelin tires after determining that truck operators, not the tires, were at fault. An investigator wrote that exceeding the 75 mph rating was the most likely cause in all 16 complaints examined. The blowouts resulted in three crashes but no injuries.

State officials and the tire and trucking industries point the finger at each other for causing the problem. Highway officials in three states that allow trucks to go 80 mph or more either disregarded tire safety ratings, wouldn't answer questions about them or told the AP they were unaware of them.

From 2009 through 2013, there were just over 14,000 fatal crashes in the U.S. involving heavy trucks and buses, killing almost 16,000 people, according to NHTSA. Tires were a factor in 198 of those crashes and 223 deaths.

Forty people died in truck tire-related crashes in 2009, and that rose to 52 in 2013, the latest year for which statistics are available.

It's hard to pinpoint the cause of most blowouts. Road debris can be a factor. Underinflation, heavy loads and high speeds can also damage tires over time.

States set their own speed limits, having been given sole authority to do so by Congress in the mid-1990s, while the federal government, through NHTSA, has authority to raise tire standards.

For now, NHTSA contends the most effective way to attack the problem is a regulation to require devices that would prevent trucks from going over 75 mph. But the proposed measure has been stalled for years in a morass of cost analyses and government reviews.

Another possible solution would be for manufacturers to make tires that can handle higher speeds. Some companies already produce a small number safety-rated at 81 mph that cost about the same as those built for 75 mph.

But manufacturers are hesitant to make more, fearing sales won't be big enough to justify the cost of redesigning and retooling, said Dan Zielinski, spokesman for the Rubber Manufacturers Association.

He said many trucking companies would not be interested in higher-rated tires because they already equip their 18-wheelers with speed governors that prevent them from going over 75 mph.

Michelin sells more truck tires than any other manufacturer, followed by Bridgestone, Goodyear, Yokohama and Firestone, according to Modern Tire Dealer magazine.

The problem does not extend to ordinary car tires. Ever since Firestone tires started failing on Ford Explorers in the 1990s, the government has required car and light truck tires to be designed for well above highway speed limits. Even the most basic car tires can safely go up to 112 mph.

The American Trucking Associations, an industry group, says it opposes speed limits over 65 mph, and it has petitioned the government to require speed-limiting devices on trucks.

ATA spokesman Sean McNally provided a 2007 survey done by the group showing that 69 percent of

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trucking companies already had such devices on at least some of their rigs, with an average limit of 69 mph.

Still, it took federal regulators five years to propose a regulation, and it is still being reviewed by government agencies. It could take months, if not years, to go into effect.

For now, truck drivers keep driving at high speeds — legally and illegally.

NHTSA began investigating the Michelin tires last October after getting complaints about tire failures, mainly from auto-hauling companies. In one case, a truck going more than the 75 mph speed limit on Interstate 10 in Deming, New Mexico, blew a tire and rolled onto its side.

Of the states that now let trucks travel 75 mph or more, three allow 80 or higher — Texas, Utah and Wyoming. South Dakota is about to raise its truck speed limit to 80, and three more states — Missouri, Nevada and Washington — may go to 75 or higher.

In Utah, the Transportation Department said it didn't know about the truck tire speed ratings until told by a reporter. In Texas, a spokeswoman refused to answer repeated questions about whether the state knew about the tire standards before raising speed limits. The sponsor of the law that allowed the Transportation Department to set an 85 mph limit along a new toll road was also unaware of the tire limitations.

"We don't have any knowledge of this," said Chris Steinbach, chief of staff for then-Rep. Lois Kolhorst, now a state senator.

In Wyoming, which raised speeds on some rural highways to 80 mph last July, "it doesn't look like necessarily there was any consideration of truck tire speed ratings," said Bruce Burrows, a spokesman for the state Transportation Department. Wyoming hasn't seen a spike in tire failures, he said.

Burrows also noted that the speed limit doesn't require truckers to go 80 mph, and said they should be aware of how fast their equipment can safely travel — a common refrain among state officials.

Tire and trucking industry groups blame the states for allowing unsafe speeds, though they say drivers should be aware of tire limitations.

Along Texas Highway 130, which has an 85 mph speed limit for big rigs, driver David Ortiz said he didn't know about the 75 mph rating for most truck tires, or how fast his tires were designed to go. He said his company has limited the top speed of his truck to 65 mph, and he normally goes 63.

But Ortiz conceded that a speed limit higher than the tires can handle is a safety problem for truckers who drive faster. "Somebody needs to think about it," he said.

Although many truck operators maintain their vehicles well, NHTSA found a number with problems.

As part of the Michelin investigation, the agency tested trucks and surveyed over a dozen drivers in Pennsylvania, finding that more than half had overburdened tires because of heavy loads or low air pressure. Sixty percent of drivers didn't know the proper inflation pressure for the trucks they were driving.

To make sure drivers know their tires' limits, NHTSA is considering a requirement that maximum speeds be listed on the sidewalls of all truck tires.

Truck tires are generally reliable and are responsible for a relatively low number of accidents, said the rubber association's Zielinski. But he added: "An 18-wheeler is not a Porsche, and shouldn't be driven like one."



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## SD lawmakers override veto, end 2015 legislative session

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A measure to slightly reduce the tax burden on rural electric companies will become South Dakota law despite Gov. Dennis Daugaard's objection after state lawmakers voted to override his veto on Monday.

Legislators gathered in Pierre for the final day of the 2015 legislative session to consider Daugaard's three gubernatorial vetoes. Two of the relatively obscure tax-related measures failed to receive the necessary two-thirds majority to pass.

Lawmakers had completed most major business, including setting the state budget, earlier this month before convening for "Veto day."

The House and Senate overrode Daugaard's veto of a plan that rolls back a recent administrative decision on how state tax for electric cooperatives is determined. The bill excludes municipal taxes from calculations of state tax liability.

That lowers the burden on the rural electric companies.

Daugaard said in his veto letter that the exemption would give special preference to a specific type of business, eroding the foundation of South Dakota's sales tax base.

Sen. Corey Brown, R-Gettysburg, successfully urged his colleagues to override the veto and end a "tax on a tax."

Daugaard originally vetoed the measures on March 20, and a spokeswoman said in an email that the governor is pleased that lawmakers' sustained two of them.

One measure that failed to get the required two-thirds vote would have helped determine whether South Dakota's property tax burden is a barrier to entry for businesses looking to offer affordable housing rentals. The measure would have created a new property classification for leased residential property.

Sen. Deb Peters, R-Hartford, said she sponsored the proposal to help examine the lack of rental housing in South Dakota.

Daugaard said in his veto message that the measure would have been a step toward a lower property tax levy for leased residential property, which would have shifted the burden onto other property types.

"I really look at this as a baby step to creating this other class and possibly lowering the taxes," said Republican Sen. Bob Ewing, who opposed the measure.

The other proposal that failed to overcome Daugaard's opposition was a plan to exempt the earnings of American Legion and VFW baseball coaches from the state sales tax.

Daugaard explained in a letter that the state relies heavily on a broad-based sales tax for revenue that shouldn't be tampered with.

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

Sen. Brock Greenfield, R-Clark, said that the earnings weren't taxed until an administrative decision a few years ago. He unsuccessfully urged lawmakers to push back against "bureaucratic overreach."

Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave, R-Baltic, said this year's veto day was "fairly uneventful" compared to the legislative session. Lawmakers passed a road and bridge funding proposal that raises roughly \$85 million in its first year, put together a \$4.3 billion budget, overhauled the state's juvenile justice system and mandated certain insurance plans cover a costly but effective treatment for children with autism.

"I think it was a good session. If you think about it, with the highway funding bill, we did some really big things and some necessary things, and probably a little painful," Rave said. "I mean, nobody wants

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to pay more at the pump, obviously, but people also expect and want and deserve good roads.”  
Next year’s 38-day session begins Jan. 12, 2016, and runs until March 29.

## **Report: South Dakota winter wheat crop continues to slide**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The condition of South Dakota’s winter wheat crop continues to decline.

The Agriculture Department says in its latest crop report that 35 percent of the winter wheat is rated in good condition, with no producers reporting an excellent rating. A report earlier this month showed that 49 percent was graded in good condition, with zero excellent.

The report says 22 percent of the winter wheat is poor or very poor.

The opposite was true for cattle and calf conditions, which were rated 89 percent good or excellent. Calving progress was 34 percent complete.

Sheep and lamb conditions were 85 percent good or excellent. Lambing progress was at 70 percent.

## **Obama to visit Utah base in first trip to state as president**

**MICHELLE L. PRICE, Associated Press**

**KELLY CATALFAMO, Associated Press**

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — President Barack Obama is scheduled to make his first visit to Utah as president this week, the White House announced Monday.

White House spokesman Eric Schultz said the president will travel to Hill Air Force Base in northern Utah on Friday to speak about the economy.

The trip will mark the 49th state Obama has visited since becoming president.

White House officials have said he plans to travel to all 50 states before his term ends in January 2017. South Dakota is the only other state awaiting a visit.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, a Republican, told reporters Monday afternoon that he hopes to meet with the president and discuss the state’s positions on Medicaid expansion, public lands and energy development.

“I expect that we will greet him on the tarmac, as warrants any visiting president, and hopefully we can expand upon that and have some opportunity to have some quiet time to talk about some of the issues that impact Utah,” Herbert said.

Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, a Democrat, said he has been encouraging the president to visit Utah since they first met, when Obama was still in the transition period following George W. Bush’s presidency.

The mayor said he isn’t sure why Obama waited so long to visit but is grateful for the opportunity “to give him a flavor of Utah.” Obama took office in 2009.

State Sen. Jim Dabakis, a Salt Lake City Democrat, sponsored a resolution passed by the state Senate this year that invited the president and his family to visit Utah’s five national parks.

Dabakis said he is a little disappointed the entire first family isn’t joining the president and hopes that will happen in the future.

“More time is needed to explore the most beautiful scenery on Earth, but apparently the demands of the job are prohibitive of a longer stay now,” Dabakis said in a statement.

First lady Michelle Obama has visited Utah without her husband in recent years. She made a brief stop in Park City in 2011 as part of a fundraising trip.

Barack Obama also stopped in Park City while he was a presidential candidate in 2007.

No plans are in the works for a presidential trip to South Dakota, said Zach Nistler, interim executive

director of the South Dakota Democratic Party.

South Dakota Sen. Bernie Hunhoff, D-Yankton, said he anticipates the state will be on Obama's agenda in the future.

Hunhoff said that Obama needs to visit South Dakota to see the "extreme poverty and hopelessness and despair" on reservations in the state. A presidential visit would shine a spotlight for the state and country to see the problems in those communities, Hunhoff said. He said he hopes any visit would be "more than a traditional trip to Mount Rushmore."

"I'm hoping he would come and tour at least several of the reservation communities and listen and learn and see what could be done yet to make improvements in education, health care and economic development," Hunhoff said.

Obama stopped in South Dakota in 2008 while campaigning for the party's nomination, and he spoke last year in North Dakota on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, which straddles that state's border with South Dakota.

## **Veto of plan to gather rental property data will stand**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Senate has failed to override the governor's veto of a measure that would have helped determine whether South Dakota's property tax burden is a barrier to entry for businesses looking to offer affordable housing rentals.

Twenty-two senators voted to support the bill Monday, two fewer than needed to override Gov. Dennis Daugaard's veto from earlier this month.

The measure would have created a new property classification for leased residential property.

Republican Sen. Deb Peters of Hartford says she sponsored the proposal to help examine the lack of rental housing in South Dakota.

Daugaard said in his veto message that the measure would have been a step toward a lower property tax levy for leased residential property, which would have shifted the burden onto other property types.

## **Longtime chairman of Lower Brule Sioux Tribe hospitalized**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A tribal official says the longtime chairman of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe in central South Dakota is hospitalized with a serious illness.

Tribal attorney Marshall Matz tells The Associated Press that Michael Jandreau (JAN'-droh) is suffering from complications from pneumonia.

Matz says Jandreau was flown to a Sioux Falls hospital Friday evening and "it's a serious situation, no question about it."

Sanford Health says it has no patient information to release on Jandreau, but Matz confirmed that Jandreau was taken to Sanford.

Jandreau has been in the spotlight recently after a report by human rights advocacy organization showed that millions of taxpayer dollars meant to benefit the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation have disappeared throughout several years.

The report accuses Jandreau and others of diverting money and concealing financial activity.

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## Senate assistant leader announces retirement for family time

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Assistant Senate Majority Leader Dan Lederman has announced that he won't finish his term and is retiring from the Legislature ahead of the 2016 session.

The Republican from Dakota Dunes announced on Monday that he won't return to Pierre next year in order to spend more time with his family. Lederman has urged Gov. Dennis Daugaard to appoint Republican Rep. Jim Bolin to replace him.

Lederman has served in the Legislature for seven years and was first elected to the House in 2008. He jumped to the Senate in 2010.

One of Lederman's main legislative accomplishments was a measure encouraging shared parenting in divorce cases.

Daugaard says Lederman has served as a "vigorous advocate" for his constituents.

The governor says he expect to name a replacement by the early summer.

## Minnesota man dies in ATV rollover crash north of Sisseton

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a Browns Valley, Minnesota, man was killed when his all-terrain vehicle rolled over near Sisseton.

The patrol says 76-year-old Clarence Pistorius was pinned under his ATV. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The accident happened about 8 p.m. Sunday eight miles northeast of Sisseton.

Authorities say speed appears to be a factor in the crash. Pistorius was not wearing a helmet.

## Veto override of amateur baseball coach tax plan fails

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Senate has failed to override the governor's veto of a bill that would have exempted the earnings of American Legion and VFW baseball coaches from the state sales tax.

The Senate's 21-11 vote on Monday failed to reach the two-thirds threshold to override Gov. Dennis Daugaard's veto from earlier this month.

Daugaard had explained in a letter that the state relies heavily on a broad-based sales tax for revenue that shouldn't be eroded.

Daugaard says 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 says that the earnings weren't taxed until an administrative decision a few years ago. He unsuccessfully urged lawmakers to push back against "bureaucratic overreach."

## South Dakota's 2015 legislative session comes to an end

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The 2015 South Dakota legislative session has officially come to an end as the state House and Senate gaveled out at the close of "Veto Day."

Lawmakers considered three gubernatorial vetoes Monday, and the Legislature voted to override Gov. Dennis Daugaard's objection to a measure that would slightly reduce the amount of tax burden on rural electric companies.

In the session's main run, the Legislature passed funding hikes for roads and bridges, an overhaul of the juvenile justice system and a \$4.3 billion state budget.

The 38-day 91st legislative session will begin on Jan. 12, 2016, and run until March 29.

Smaller groups of lawmakers will meet over the summer to study problems that they want to address during the upcoming legislative session.

## State won't seek death penalty against murder convict

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A man serving life in prison without parole in the November 2009 slaying of a Mitchell teenager will not face the death penalty.

Alexander Salgado's uncooperative testimony during the recent trial of accomplice Maricela Diaz failed to satisfy conditions of his August 2010 agreement under which he pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 16-year-old Jasmine Guevara in exchange for having his life spared, Attorney General Marty Jackley said Monday. However, pursuing the death penalty would not serve justice, Jackley said.

"I struggle to believe that Jasmine's family will ever find closure, but I hope that the completion of these trial matters will allow them to begin to heal," Jackley said.

Jackley met with the girl's family members and Hanson County State's Attorney Jim Davies before making the decision.

Diaz was convicted in January of first-degree murder, kidnapping and arson and sentenced last Friday to serve 80 years in prison. She can't be sentenced to death because she was 15 years old at the time of the crime. Salgado was 20.

Prosecutors said Diaz and Salgado lured Guevara to a remote site near Mitchell, stabbed her and left her to die in the trunk of a burning car. An autopsy determined the fire killed Guevara.

Authorities alleged that Diaz, who has a child with Salgado, had become jealous of a developing relationship between Salgado and Guevara.

## Legislature overrides veto of electric cooperative tax plan

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Legislature has voted to override the governor's veto of a measure that would slightly reduce the amount of tax burden on rural electric companies.

Both the House and Senate voted Monday to override Gov. Dennis Daugaard's veto, and the measure will now become law.

Daugaard said in his veto letter that the exemption would give special preference to a specific type of business, eroding the foundation of South Dakota's sales tax base.

Sen. Corey Brown urged his colleagues to override the veto and end a "tax on a tax." It would roll back a recent administrative decision on how state tax for electric cooperatives is determined by excluding municipal taxes from calculations of state tax liability.

That would lower the burden on the rural electric companies.

## 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. MARATHON IRAN NUCLEAR TALKS TO END WITH MIXED RESULTS

Iran and six world powers will agree to continue negotiations in a new phase aimed at reaching a comprehensive accord by the end of June, officials say.

### 2. BIG RIGS OFTEN GO FASTER THAN RUBBER CAN HANDLE

AP Exclusive finds that many tractor-trailers are driven on tires built to handle speeds no greater than 75 mph — but 14 states now have speed limits of 75 or more.

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## 3. DOCUMENTS UNCOVER FURTHER CLINTON EMAIL USE

AP's Jack Gillum reports that Hillary Rodham Clinton used multiple devices for email and mixed work and personal concerns at least once during her tenure as secretary of state.

## 4. WHERE RELIGIOUS OBJECTION FOCUS TURNS NEXT

Arkansas is poised to enact a "religious freedom" measure, proposals that are facing increasing criticism from those who call them discriminatory against gays and lesbians.

## 5. LUFTHANSA MOBILIZING CRASH VICTIMS FUNDS

The German carrier says its insurers are setting aside \$300 million to deal with possible costs resulting from the Germanwings jet crash.

## 6. QUESTIONS REMAIN AS FORT MEADE PROBE CONTINUES

The FBI hasn't revealed what the motive might be for two men dressed as women attempting to breach the gates of the NSA, except to say it's not believed to be terrorism.

## 7. DESPONDENT GAZANS RETURN TO DESTROYED HOMES

Dismayed over the slow pace of post-war reconstruction, Gaza Strip residents are returning to uninhabitable structures while they wait for promised aid to arrive.

## 8. BOOZE BATTLE ERUPTS IN VOLUNTEER STATE

Two distillers say economic development in their small town is being hampered by a law governing what can be marketed as "Tennessee Whiskey."

## 9. WHAT TREND IS EMERGING IN LATE-NIGHT TV

The choice of South African comic Trevor Noah as Jon Stewart's replacement on "The Daily Show" spotlights a preference for hosts with a more worldly perspective.

## 10. WHO IS PULLING FOR UNBEATEN NCAA SEASON

Quinn Buckner says he and his 1976 Indiana teammates are hoping Kentucky can go 40-0 and end the 39-year wait to add another member to the exclusive club.

## AP News in Brief

### Officials: Iran nuke talks to end with agreement to continue negotiations

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Wrapping up six days of marathon nuclear talks with mixed results, Iran and six world powers prepared Tuesday to issue a general statement agreeing to continue negotiations in a new phase aimed at reaching a comprehensive accord by the end of June, officials told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The joint statement is to be accompanied by additional documents that outline more detailed understandings, allowing the sides to claim enough progress has been made thus far to merit a new round, the officials said.

The talks have already been extended twice as part of more than a decade of diplomatic attempts to curb Tehran's nuclear advance, and the next stage will be presented as a new phase, because most of the parties had ruled out another prolongation of this round.

One of the officials said the statement was general in part because differences between the sides remained ahead of a new phase of negotiations toward a comprehensive deal by late June. The second official said other documents will be more technical in nature and will also be made public later in the day.

Both demanded anonymity because they are not authorized to comment on the talks.

## **Clinton also used iPad for email despite claims of single device; mixed personal, work chats**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton emailed her staff on an iPad as well as a BlackBerry while secretary of state, despite her explanation she exclusively used a personal email address on a homebrew server so that she could carry a single device, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The State Department released a total of four emails between Clinton and her top advisers as part of a Freedom of Information Act request filed in 2013 by the AP, which sought Clinton's correspondence with senior advisers over a four-year period relating to drone strikes overseas and U.S. surveillance programs.

While limited, the emails offer one of the first looks into Clinton's correspondence while secretary of state. The messages came from and were sent to her private email address, hosted on a server at her property in Chappaqua, New York, as opposed to a government-run email account.

They show that Clinton, on at least one occasion, accidentally mingled personal and work matters. In reply to a message sent in September 2011 by adviser Huma Abedin to Clinton's personal email account, which contained an AP story about a drone strike in Pakistan, Clinton mistakenly replied with questions that appear to be about decorations.

"I like the idea of these," she wrote to Abedin. "How high are they? What would the bench be made of? And I'd prefer two shelves or attractive boxes/baskets/ containers (sic) on one. What do you think?"

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## **AP Exclusive: Many truck tires can't handle higher speed limits; wrecks and blowouts cited**

DETROIT (AP) — Many tractor-trailers on the nation's roads are driven faster than the 75 mph their tires are designed to handle, a practice that has been linked to wrecks and blowouts but has largely escaped the attention of highway officials.

Nearly all truck tires have been built for a maximum sustained speed of 75 mph since the middle of last decade, when drivers across the vast majority of the U.S. were allowed to go no faster than 65 or 70 mph.

But 14 states, mainly west of the Mississippi River, now have speed limits of 75, 80, even 85 mph in part of Texas. Some of those states acted without consulting the tire industry.

Safety advocates and tire experts say that habitually driving faster than a tire's rated speed can generate excessive heat that damages the rubber, with potentially catastrophic results.

"It's a recipe for disaster," said James Perham, president of Extreme Transportation Corp., an automobile-hauling company near San Diego that filed a complaint with regulators about Michelin tires after seven blowouts caused an estimated \$20,000 to \$30,000 in damage to its rigs.

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## **Fight over religious objection proposals that critics see as discriminatory shifts to Arkansas**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — The fight over "religious freedom" proposals facing increasing criticism from businesses and advocates who call them a license to discriminate against gays and lesbians has shifted toward Arkansas, which was poised to become the second state this year to enact such a measure.

A final vote could come as early as Tuesday in the state House on the proposal that would prohibit state and local government from infringing on someone's religious beliefs without a "compelling" reason. Unlike Indiana — where Republicans were working on adding language to clarify the state's recently enacted law after a firestorm of protests — Arkansas lawmakers said they weren't seeking to modify the measure.

"There's not really any place to make any changes now," Republican Rep. Bob Ballinger of Hindsville said about his proposal. "If there are questions in two years we can fix it."

Hundreds of protesters filled Arkansas' Capitol to oppose the measure, holding signs that read "Discrimination is not a Christian Value" and "Discrimination is a Disease," and chanting "Shame on You" at Ballinger after the measure was endorsed by a House committee.

"I believe that many people will want to flee the state and many people will want to avoid our state," said Rita Jernigan, a protester and one of the lead plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit challenging Arkansas' gay marriage ban. "I think it will hit us hard everywhere. I feel like we're moving backwards rather than being a progressive state."

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## Questions remain in officer-involved shooting at NSA; 1 man dead, officer, 1 other man hurt

FORT MEADE, Md. (AP) — The warnings are strong and security is always tight, but most drivers are versed in the daily routine as thousands of employees and contractors stream through the closely guarded entrance to the National Security Agency.

The ordinary start to the work week came to a violent halt Monday, though, when two men dressed as women and driving in a stolen, dark-colored SUV ignored officers' orders at the gate to the spy agency headquarters at Fort Meade in Maryland. Police fired on the SUV, which then rammed into a police vehicle. One suspect was killed. The second suspect was injured, as well as a police officer.

Whether the pair wanted to breach the perimeter or the driver was desperate and confused in a security-sensitive area only added to the mystery of the officer-involved shooting.

The FBI's Baltimore field office said it was investigating the "shooting incident."

"The shooting scene is contained and we do not believe it is related to terrorism," spokeswoman Amy Thoreson said in a statement.

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## French accident investigators examine cockpit entry, psychological screening rules after crash

PARIS (AP) — France's air accident investigation agency says it is examining cockpit entry and psychological screening procedures following the crash of a Germanwings plane in the French Alps that killed all 150 people on board.

Authorities say co-pilot Andreas Lubitz, who in the past had been treated for suicidal tendencies, locked the captain out of the cockpit before flying the Airbus 320 into a mountain during its March 24 flight from Barcelona to Duesseldorf.

In its first statement since the co-pilot's responsibility was established, the French agency known as BEA said Tuesday its investigation was aiming to provide a "detailed analysis" of flight data.

The BEA also said it would be studying "systemic weaknesses" that could have led to the crash — notably psychological screening procedures and cockpit-door procedures.

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## **Fed up with slow pace of reconstruction, despondent Gazans return to destroyed homes**

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Despondent over the slow pace of post-war reconstruction, displaced Gazans have begun to return to their damaged homes, patching up the structures with cinder blocks and plastic sheets and living in the unstable and unsafe buildings while they wait for promised aid to arrive.

The returns reflect a failure by local authorities and the international community to rebuild Gaza after a devastating war between Israel and Hamas militants last summer. Officials say most of the more than \$5 billion of international aid that was pledged never materialized, and returning residents say that small subsidies they received — and their patience — have run out.

“We have lost hope. There is no hope and nobody is interesting in helping us,” said Mohammed Afana, a 27-year-old resident of Shaaf, a neighborhood in eastern Gaza City.

An estimated 18,000 homes throughout Gaza were destroyed during the 50-day war, displacing 110,000 people, according to the United Nations. Less than 10,000 people are still living in U.N. schools that have been turned into shelters.

Shaaf, located close to the Israeli border, was among the hardest hit districts. Israeli ground forces took up positions on the eastern edges of the neighborhood, and Hamas said that its fighters engaged Israeli forces in the area.

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## **AP PHOTOS: In Israel, Jewish teens gear up for military rite of passage by training in mud**

YAKUM, Israel (AP) — Israeli high school seniors have more on their minds than prom and final exams.

With a mandatory three-year military service looming after graduation, Jewish teenage boys, and increasingly girls too, are gearing up for the draft, getting into shape and trying to improve their chances of acceptance into elite combat units. Girls serve two years, but very few are placed in combat positions.

Military service has long been a national rite of passage in Israel, with high school students competing to get into the most prestigious combat units. Some train solo, others in groups, to be ready for the pre-draft workouts the military holds for those who want to become air force pilots, naval officers or infantry commandos.

The military is Israel’s most admired institution, and men serve in reserve units well into their 40s. Ultra-Orthodox Jews and Arabs are largely exempt.

Among secular youth, it is customary to spend afternoons and weekends in military-style training preparations.

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## **New ‘Daily Show’ host reflects late-night’s new international look, lack of women**

NEW YORK (AP) — The choice of South African comic Trevor Noah as Jon Stewart’s replacement on “The Daily Show” advances an intriguing new trend of late-night comic hosts with a more worldly perspective while continuing the longer-running pattern of keeping those jobs filled with men.

Comedy Central announced Monday that the 31-year-old Noah will take over from Stewart, who said last month that he will exit the show that has made him a key part of the news and cultural landscape

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since 1999.

Noah follows James Corden — also little-known, also from overseas — who recently began as host of CBS' "Late Late Show" host. Corden is British, as is John Oliver, a veteran of "The Daily Show" who began a well-regarded late-night show on HBO last year.

"It says the world is a much smaller place than it used to be," said Michele Ganeless, Comedy Central president. "I think people will connect with him regardless of where he was born and where he grew up, as a citizen of the world."

Although he's not from the United States, Noah said in an interview Monday that he's lived in the country "and I've learned to love the place. I'll bring something different because I am different."

## The Unbeatens: Indiana's perfect team pulling for Kentucky to make history

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Quinn Buckner says he and his 1976 Indiana teammates aren't chilling any champagne to uncork in celebration of a Kentucky loss.

Instead, the nation's last undefeated college basketball team is eager to end the 39-year wait to add another member to the club — even if an old rival is trying to make history in the Hoosiers' backyard.

"These are young people who have a terrific opportunity to do something great," said Buckner, an Olympic gold medalist, an NBA champion with the Boston Celtics and now a TV analyst for the Pacers. "I think for me and my teammates, it's hard to pull against young people."

Perhaps these Hoosiers feel safe knowing that, two years ago, the NCAA named them the greatest team in college history. Or perhaps it's because their reign has survived so many other threats.

Last March, Wichita State was 35-0 when it lost to Kentucky on the first weekend of the NCAA Tournament.

## Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 31, the 90th day of 2015. There are 275 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 31, 2005, Terri Schiavo, 41, died at a hospice in Pinellas Park, Florida, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed in a wrenching right-to-die dispute.

### On this date:

In 1814, Paris was occupied by a coalition of Russian, Prussian and Austrian forces; the surrender of the French capital forced the abdication of Emperor Napoleon.

In 1889, French engineer Gustave Eiffel unfurled the French tricolor from atop the Eiffel Tower, officially marking its completion.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Emergency Conservation Work Act, which created the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 1943, "Oklahoma!" the first musical play by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, opened on Broadway.

In 1949, Newfoundland (now called Newfoundland and Labrador) entered confederation as Canada's tenth province.

In 1957, the original version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," starring Julie Andrews, aired live in color on CBS.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson stunned the country by announcing he would not seek re-

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election.

In 1975, "Gunsmoke" closed out 20 seasons on CBS with its final first-run episode, "The Sharecroppers."

In 1976, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that Karen Ann Quinlan, who was in a persistent vegetative state, could be disconnected from her respirator. (Quinlan, who remained unconscious, died in 1985.)

In 1986, 167 people died when a Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727 crashed in a remote mountainous region of Mexico.

In 1993, actor Brandon Lee, 28, was accidentally shot to death during the filming of a movie in Wilmington, North Carolina, when he was hit by a bullet fragment that had been lodged inside a prop gun. "Star Dust" lyricist Mitchell Parish, 92, died in New York.

In 1995, Mexican-American singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez, 23, was shot to death in Corpus Christi, Texas, by the founder of her fan club, Yolanda Saldívar, who was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

**Ten years ago:** A damning report by a presidential commission concluded the United States knew "disturbingly little" about nuclear and biological threats from dangerous adversaries. The World Bank approved Paul Wolfowitz as its new president. South Carolina defeated Saint Joseph's, 60-57, in the NIT championship game. Chicken entrepreneur Frank Perdue died in his hometown of Salisbury, Maryland, at age 84.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama threw open a huge swath of East Coast waters and other protected areas in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska to oil drilling. A Chechen militant claimed responsibility for deadly attacks on the Moscow subway two days earlier that claimed 40 lives; the claim came hours after two more suicide bombers struck in the southern Russian province of Dagestan, killing a dozen people.

**One year ago:** In a flood of last-minute sign-ups, hundreds of thousands of Americans rushed to apply for health insurance as deadline day for President Barack Obama's overhaul brought long waits and a new spate of website ills. North and South Korea fired hundreds of artillery shells into each other's waters. An umpire's call was overturned for the first time under Major League Baseball's expanded replay system, with Milwaukee Brewers star Ryan Braun ruled out instead of safe in a game against the Atlanta Braves. (The Brewers won, 2-0.) Charles H. Keating Jr., 90, the notorious financier who'd served prison time and was disgraced for his role in the costliest savings and loan failure in the U.S., died in Phoenix.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor William Daniels is 88. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Gordie Howe is 87. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 81. Actress Shirley Jones is 81. Country singer-songwriter John D. Loudermilk is 81. Musician Herb Alpert is 80. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., is 75. Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., is 75. Actor Christopher Walken is 72. Comedian Gabe Kaplan is 71. Former Vice President Al Gore is 67. Author David Eisenhower is 67. Actress Rhea Perlman is 67. Actor Ed Marinaro is 65. Rock musician Angus Young (AC/DC) is 60. Actor Marc McClure is 58. Actor William McNamara is 50. Alt-country musician Bob Crawford (The Avett (AY'-veht) Brothers) is 44. Actor Ewan (YOO'-en) McGregor is 44. Rapper Tony Yayo is 37. Actress Kate Micucci is 35. Jazz musician Christian Scott is 32. Pop musician Jack Antonoff (fun.) is 31. Actress Jessica Szohr is 30.

**Thought for Today:** "The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries." - Rene Descartes (ren-AY' day-KART'), French philosopher and mathematician (born this date in 1596, died in 1650).