

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, April 2

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Birthdays: Doug Doeden, Vera Musil, Randy Jaeschke

Senior Menu: Roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, apple sauce, Molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.

9:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran India Circle

2:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

7:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship and first communion for Fifth Grade

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit.

Friday, April 3

GOOD FRIDAY

No School

Birthdays: Adlyn Larsen, Haley Unzen, Marc Johnson, Randy Jaeschke, Sue Stanley

12:00 p.m.: Community Good Friday Worship at United Methodist Church

7:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

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

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

Friends . . . Near and Far

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

Name: Jesse Kurtenbach

Job Wise what are you doing today? CRNA is Spearfish SD

How long have you been working at the current job? 2.5 years

How did you get your current job? Waited for a job opening and applied.

If you have previous employments list them and how long you were there. Sioux Falls Sanford Health RN 2004-2007; Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital CRNA 2010-2013

What high school did you attend and what year did you graduate? GHS, 2000

Where did you attend college and what was your degree? Mount Marty, BSN

What advice would you give the high school students today? As much as you think life is boring after high school it really only begins!

List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life.

SD Amateur Baseball Tournament champs x2 (MVP x1)

Mount Marty Baseball Hall of Fame

Are you married? Ashley (Van Den Top) Kurtenbach- Rock Valley Iowa

How did the two of you meet? Ribfest in Sioux Falls

Do you have any children? None yet

Last question: do you feel that your high school and college education prepared you adequately for post education life? Very much so, but both will only take you as far as the work and effort you put into them!



Jesse and Ashley Kurtenbach

High School Dual Credit Courses Off to Strong Start

VERMILLION, S.D. – There is strong interest in a state-supported dual credit program that helps high school students get an affordable jump start on their college education. Officials told the South Dakota Board of Regents Wednesday that the reduced-tuition High School Dual Credit Program saw enrollments increase by 44 percent between the fall and spring semesters.

The program supports high school students who take college-level courses for both high school and college credit at the reduced rate of \$40 per credit hour. The program is available at all six public universities and four technical institutes in South Dakota.

Last fall, the first semester that the reduced tuition rate was available, 1,077 students enrolled in dual-credit coursework. Data show that 105 public school districts, eight private schools, one tribal school, and 14 students who are home schooled participated in the dual-credit program last fall. Course enrollments this spring were up by 44 percent; program headcount numbers increased by 41 percent to 1,203.

A majority of the dual-enrolled students, 76 percent, are taking public university courses and Board of Regents' institutions were responsible for 91 percent of the general education credits taken through the program. The most popular course offerings have been Fundamentals of Speech, General Psychology, College Algebra, Composition I, and Introduction to Sociology.

"Our mission with this program in the regental system has been to encourage students to enroll in general education coursework that will count toward degree requirements when they attend four-year institutions upon high school graduation," said Paul Turman, the regents' system vice president for academic affairs. "Taking the right courses and earning credit that applies is critical for students and families for this program to help improve affordability in South Dakota," he said.

Sobriety Checkpoints Planned

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Highway Patrol will conduct sobriety checkpoints throughout the state in April.

The checkpoints are planned for the counties of: Brookings, Brown, Brule, Butte, Clay, Codington, Day, Hanson, Hughes, McCook, Minnehaha, Minor, Pennington, Roberts, Sanborn and Spink.

The checkpoints are done as a way to discourage people from drinking and driving.

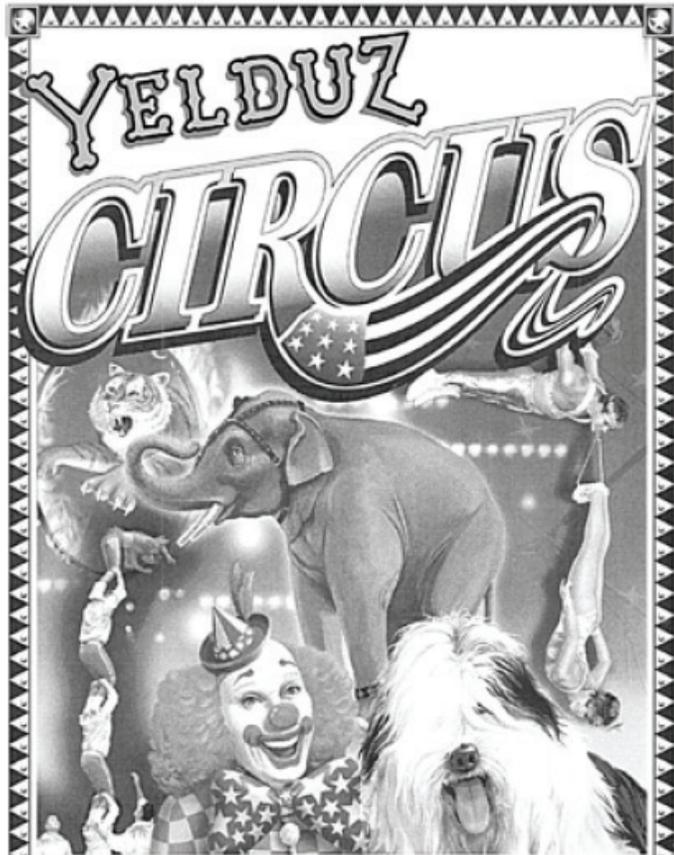
Classifieds

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.



YELDUZ CIRCUS

PRODUCED BY
CIRCUS SPECTACULAR, CINDY MIGLEY - PRODUCER

SPECTACULAR CIRCUS EXTRAVAGANZA
7 big shows packed full of amazing acts, many that
have never been seen in Aberdeen before!

ABERDEEN CIVIC ARENA

April 9, 10, 11, 2015

Thursday 4 p.m., 8 p.m.	Friday 4 p.m., 8 p.m.	Saturday 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.
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Children \$4⁰⁰
Adults \$12⁰⁰ at the door
Advance Tickets \$10⁰⁰

Advance tickets available at Ken's Super Fair Foods, Kessler's, Aberdeen Federal Credit Union or the Shrine Office, 8-2 S. Main St.

Doors open 1 hour before each show. Proceeds are for the benefits of the Yelduz Shriners. Payments are not deductible as charitable contributions.

80-1700278

Public Universities to Offer Special 'Children of Alumni' Tuition Rate

VERMILLION, S.D. – Children of alumni from South Dakota public universities may have a new financial incentive to attend a parent's alma mater.

The South Dakota Board of Regents this week agreed to set a special "children of alumni" tuition rate. The program is limited to incoming freshmen or transfer students who attend the same university from which one of their parents or legal guardian received a degree.

If students meet initial and ongoing eligibility criteria, they become eligible for in-state tuition and fees. Each university will set specific criteria for its "Child of Alum" program. Prospective students should contact the institution for details about how to qualify for participation in the program.

"We see this program as a way to provide incentives for alumni who have moved out of state to send their children back to South Dakota to attend school," said Jack Warner, the regents' executive director and CEO. "Donors often ask if such a program exists. Having this establishes goodwill with alumni and donors."

Kiwanis Club

Larry Wheeting, president, led the short business session, for last week's dinner meeting.

Upcoming events are the track meet the end of April, and the athletic banquet, in May.

Lee Schinkel was program chairman, and introduced Robert Webb, and Major David Womack, who told of the work the Salvation Army does, even in Groton.

Watch For Ticks On Spring Outings

PIERRE, S.D. – Tularemia and other tick-borne illnesses are reported every year in South Dakota so it's important that residents protect themselves as they head outdoors, says a state health official.

"Using repellent and checking often for ticks are the best ways to prevent tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and other tick-borne illnesses," said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist for the Department of Health. "Ticks need to be attached for several hours to spread infection so you can cut your risk by checking for ticks often and removing them right away. Tucking pants into your socks and spraying clothes and exposed skin with repellent further cuts your risk."

In 2014 the department investigated two cases of Lyme disease, three of Rocky Mountain spotted fever, five of tularemia and one of babesiosis. Most areas of South Dakota are not suitable habitat for the Ixodes deer tick that carries Lyme disease as it prefers heavily forested areas such as those in Wisconsin and Minnesota. South Dakota Lyme disease cases have typically had tick bites out-of-state.

A 2011 tick survey by SDSU did not find deer ticks in the locations tested but did find numerous Dermacentor dog ticks, which are common all over South Dakota. The dog tick doesn't carry Lyme disease but it does transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia and ehrlichiosis.

A tick bite is a small, painless red bump with a bright red halo. If a tick is attached, remove it with tweezers or tissue, pulling slowly and steadily, being careful not to crush it. Then apply antiseptic to prevent infection. If you use bare hands wash thoroughly with warm, soapy water and avoid touching your eyes before washing.

Symptoms of tick-borne illness include sudden onset of a moderate-to-high fever, stiff neck, deep muscle pain, arthritis, fatigue, severe headache, chills, a rash on the arms and legs or around the site of the bite, and swollen lymph nodes, particularly in the neck. If you develop any of these symptoms after a tick bite, see your doctor.

Other precautions include:

Check small children thoroughly for ticks when they've been outside or had contact with pets or livestock that may have ticks.

Use insecticides and collars to protect pets from ticks and limit the number they carry into the home. Apply insecticides and tick repellents to pet bedding.

Check your animals frequently for ticks. Remove ticks from animals using forceps or tweezers to apply constant traction. If you must use your fingers, wear disposable gloves then wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.

Fact sheets on specific tick-borne diseases can be found on the Department of Health web site at <http://doh.sd.gov/diseases/infectious/diseasefacts/>.

Drier Than Average April Expected

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The national climate forecast for April 2015, released March 31 by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center, indicates drier than average conditions to continue in South Dakota and the Great Plains.

The drought outlook for the month ahead also shows likely expansion of drought across much of the state in the month ahead, said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

"This latest outlook projects an increased probability of drier than average conditions in South Dakota, Nebraska, and parts of surrounding states," Edwards said. "This is not good news for us, given that we are already going into the growing season with a moisture deficit from the last several months."

She did add that one benefit of dry conditions in the early growing season is that planting and field preparation for spring planted crops, such as corn and soybeans, can be completed faster and more efficiently without saturated soils or ponding, as has been seen in many recent years in the eastern part of the state.

"There is some concern already that winter wheat has had some frost damage following the brief thaw in February in the western and central counties," said Dennis Todey, SDSU Extension Climate Specialist & South Dakota State Climatologist. "For the wheat that did survive the warm period, now the lack of precipitation is a growing concern."

He added that there was also winter wheat that did not emerge last fall because of the dry conditions.

With the dry outlook for the month ahead, the NOAA Climate Prediction Center also projects further expansion of drought conditions across most of South Dakota by month's end.

Edwards suggested this may be a conservative estimate, as wildland fire activity continues in the western counties, an area that is not included in the expansion of drought in the drought outlook map.

"Wildland fire is a complicated indicator of drought", Edwards said.

She explained that it relies on the wet years, such as 2013 and 2014, to grow vegetation to provide fuel for the fires. "The lack of precipitation since last fall has sufficiently dried out the vegetation to cause the fire hazards that we are seeing now," Edwards said.

Todey said drought conditions in the state are likely to get worse before they get better this spring. "Now is the time to think about how to conserve moisture on the farm, and consider chemical and fertilizer application plans with the dry climate outlook," he said.

Reducing tillage and planting rates may be some other considerations.

He added that the long-range outlooks beyond April are still a little mixed, but currently offer a bit more hope for precipitation.

Groton Coffee Cup League

Team Standings: Golden Girls 39.5 (winners of 2nd half), James Valley 32, Ten Pins 21, Ken's 20.5, Jungle Lanes 19.

High Games: Vickie Kramp 213, Sandy Sippel 176, Mary Jane Jark 174.

High Series: Vickie Kramp 543, Gert Erickson 455, Joyce Walter 452.

Conde National League

Team Standings: Giants 33 (Season champions), Braves 29, Pirates 22, Mets 22, Colts 21, Cubs 17.

Men's High Games: Cliff Kuckelburg 246, 221, 211; Brandon Kakwitch 235, 234; Bryce Dargatz 204, Larry Frohling 200.

Men's High Series: Cliff Kuckelburg 678, Brandon Kakwitch 648, Bryce Dargatz 480.

Women's High Games: Brianna Kuckelburg 215, Vickie Kramp 199, Nicole Kassube 195.

Women's High Series: Brianna Kuckelburg 556, Jackie Thorson 489, Mary Larson 462.

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Groton Honor Roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Maryn Howard, Kathleen Groeblichhoff, Luke Smith, Natalia Dohman, Matthew Knecht, Kasey Waage, Maddison Colestock, Gabriel Dohman, Taylor Gustafson, Jacob Milbrandt, Rachel Blackmun, Haley Unzen, Jocelyn Peterson, Lucas Sternhagen, Kennedy Clark, Sydney Thorson, Courtney Kurtz, Alyssa Sippel, Nicole Lewandowski

3.99-3.50: Kyler Ell, Wyatt Larson, Katherine LaMee, Kaitlin O'Neill, Ashley Gibbs, Christine Herr, Brittany Kjelden, Jackson Doeden, Kiana Kokales, Stormy Bahr, Austin Merkel, Danielle Schinkel, Breanna Marzahn, Spencer Knecht, Zachary Crosby, Sheldon Herr

3.49-3.00: Tori Bjerke, Chance Strom, Dylan Vogel, Michaela Cutler, Amanda Koens, Ethan Braun, Nicholas Dalchow, Alec Voss, Landon Larson

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Marlee Jones, Maggie Simon, Megan Unzen, Lily Cutler, Hailey Hanson, Martin Rygg, Jasmine Schaller, Emily Raap, Carly Wheeting

3.99-3.50 Kelsey Iverson, Jayleen Lier, Jaden Oliver, Kiernan McCranie, Mikaela Blumhardt, Katie Miller

3.49-3.00: James Thompson, Laura Garcia, Aubray Harry, Dustin Denson, Adam Herman, Kari Hanson, Brody Sombke, Kyle Miller, Angela Locke, Allison Weber, Magnus Jensen

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Kelby Hawkins, Landon Marzahn, Keri Pappas, Erin Smith

3.99-3.50: Patrick Gengerke, Macy Knecht, Paityn Bonn, Nathan Fjelstad, Alexis Harder, McClain Lone, Jessica Adler, Kate Helmer, Trey Wright, Katelyn Koehler, Nicholas Achen, Gabrielle Kramer, Whitney Voss

3.49-3.00: Sean Schuring, Braiden Craig, Shane Simon, Tage Taylor, Colton Hokana, Kelyn Fluke, Turner Webb

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Jenifer Fjelstad, Alexis Gustafson, Madilyn Wright

3.99-3.50: Madison Sippel, Alexandra Stange, Marshall Lane, Lisa Taylor

3.49-3.00: Brandon Keith, Emilie Crosby, Emma Donley, Anthony Sippel, Gia Gengerke, Hannah Lewandowski, Jessica Bjerke, Erika Herr, Brenna Johnson, Mitchel Thurston, Hsa Law Eh, Hayden Pigors

Eighth Graders

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: AnneMarie Smith, Alexis Simon, Tylan Glover, Emily Thompson, Ashley Garduno, Paige Snyder, John Achen, Kaitlyn Anderson, Cassandra Townsend

3.49-3.00: Maggie Crosby, Micah Poor, Taylor Holm, Jennie Doeden, Kaitlyn Kassube, Kylie Kassube, Shyla Larson, Samantha Menzia

Seventh Graders

4.0 GPA: Kayla Jensen

3.99-3.50: Nicole Marzahn, Payton Colestock, Kaycie Hawkins, KaSandra Pappas, Rylee Rosenau, Katlyn Kyar, Kya Jandel, Madeline Schuelke

3.49-3.00: Kaylin Kucker, Gabriel Taylor, Ashley Flihs, Austin Jones, Indigo Rogers, Tadya Glover, Peyton Johnson, Grady O'Neill, Caitlynn Barse, Cade Guthmiller, Cole Johnson, Thomas Cranford, Mu Law Eh

Sixth Graders

4.0 GPA: None

3.99-3.50: Erin Unzen, Tanae Lipp, Kale Pharis, Isaac Smith, Alexis Hanten, Samantha Pappas, Trey Gengerke, Grace Wambach, Sage Mortenson, Tessa Erdmann, Jasmine Gengerke, Chandler Larson

3.49-3.00: Lucas Simon, Brooklyn Gilbert, Alexa Herr, Kaden Carda, Steven Paulson, Grace Wiedrick, Jack Achen, Dragr Monson, Alyssa Fordham, Connor Lehman, Tiara DeHoet, Braden Freeman

DSU students create SD Wage Calculator

A popular wage calculator launched by the S.D. Governor's Office of Economic Development has direct ties to Dakota State University. Its creation was made possible by two DSU students, Chris Wahl and Jared Horack, along with faculty advisor Josh Stroschein.

The students designed the application to calculate the purchasing power of wages, after federal income tax, state income tax, and social security taxes are withheld. After-tax wages are then adjusted by a specific city/region's cost of living to determine a user's purchasing power. The calculator allows users to compare job offers to see which job really pays the best. It is the only calculator that takes taxes into account when comparing real wages in different cities and states.

The students started the work in the spring semester of 2014, using the initial excel spread sheet that existed and began to transfer the information into a website. They made sure the website was mobile responsive so that users could easily access the information on any mobile or tablet device.

The SD Real Wage Calculator was featured in the SF Business Journal with Pat Costello, commissioner of the Governor's Office of Economic Development speaking about the collaboration between the GOED and DSU.

"Our first target audience on this is college kids, coming out of school and tech school grads, so we had a couple DSU students build this website totally on their own and I think that's a great story in and of itself," Costello said. "We were very impressed with the students."

The website can be found at: <http://calculatedrealwages.com/>

Today in Weather History

1975 - The northeastern U.S. was in the grips of a severe storm which produced hurricane force winds along the coast, and two to three feet of snow in Maine and New Hampshire. Winds atop Mount Washington NH gusted to 140 mph. (David Ludlum)

1975 - The biggest snowstorm of record for so late in the season paralyzed Chicago, IL. Up to 20 inches of snow fell in extreme northeastern Illinois, and 10.9 inches of snow closed Chicago's O'Hare Airport. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - Severe thunderstorms spawned fifty-six tornadoes in the central U.S., including seventeen in the Red River Region of Texas and Oklahoma. The tornadoes claimed thirty lives, and injured 383 other persons. A violent tornado near Messer OK left only the carpet tack strips on the slab of a house it destroyed, and carried a motel sign thirty miles. (The Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1987 - Eleven cities in Florida reported record low temperatures for the date, including Tallahassee with a reading of 31 degrees. The low of 48 degrees at Key West smashed their previous record for the date by 13 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced up to nine inches of rain around New Orleans LA causing 18 million dollars damage. A tornado caused three million dollars damage at Slidell LA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Strong and gusty winds prevailed from California to Colorado and Wyoming. Winds gusted to 50 mph at Lancaster CA, and reached 85 mph at Berthoud Pass CO. Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in the Colorado Rockies. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in North Carolina and Virginia during the afternoon and evening. Thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail, and spawned a tornado near Chester VA which caused half a million dollars damage. A storm system produced snow and gale force winds across northern Michigan, with 8.3 inches of snow reported at Marquette. Temperatures in the north central U.S. soared from morning lows in the 20s and 30s to afternoon highs in the 60s and 70s. Eight cities reported record highs for the date, including Havre MT with a reading of 77 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - Heavy rainfall in the Northeast produced flooding in parts of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Severe flooding along the Delaware River forced the evacuation of 6,000 residents in New Jersey and over 5,700 in Pennsylvania during the weekend of the 2nd-3rd. Around 3,200 homes in New Jersey were damaged, while one fatality was reported in New York (Associated Press).

2006 - Tornadoes and hail as big as softballs ripped through eight Midwestern states, killing at least 27 people, injuring scores and destroying hundreds of homes. In Tennessee, tornadoes killed 23 people, including an infant and a family of four. Severe thunderstorms, many producing tornadoes, also struck parts of Iowa, Kentucky, Arkansas, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. Strong wind was blamed or at least three deaths in Missouri. The weather service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., said it had preliminary reports of 63 tornadoes. The worst damage occurred throughout the Tennessee Valley.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Breezy	Blustery	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 53 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 51 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 60 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 52 °F



Gusty Winds Prompt Red Flag Warnings

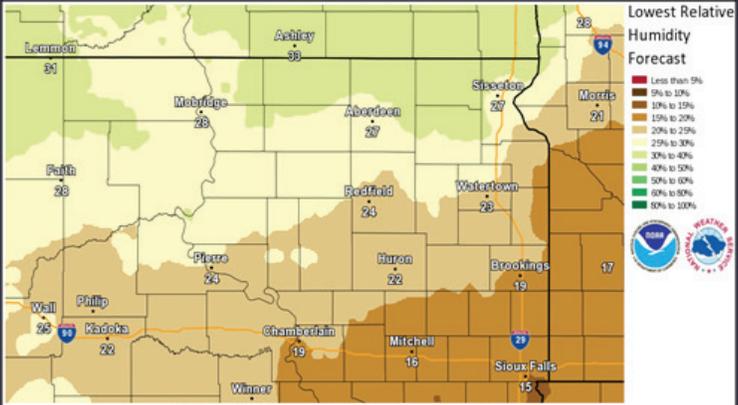




Very high to extreme fire danger across the forecast area.

Gusty northwest winds this afternoon, near 40 mph at times.

Humidity will drop into the 20s to low 30s.



Valid ending Friday April 3rd, 2015 at 1 AM CDT
Created Thursday April 2nd, 2015 at 5:35 AM CDT

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, South Dakota

 weather.gov/Aberdeen
 National Weather Service Aberdeen
 @NWSAberdeen
Updated: 4/2/2015 5:39 AM Central

Published on: 04/02/2015 at 5:48AM

Another day of very high to extreme fire danger is in store for today as gusty northwest winds combine with low relative humidity. Wind gusts may approach 40 mph at times as humidity values fall into the 20s to low 30s this afternoon. Although, temperatures will be cooler today as readings will only top out in the 50s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 68.9 at 2:27 PM

Low: 43.4 at 11:05 PM

High Gust: 37 at 10:25 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 84° in 1921

Record Low: 3° in 1899, 1975

Average High: 49°F

Average Low: 26°F

Average Precip in March.: 1.20

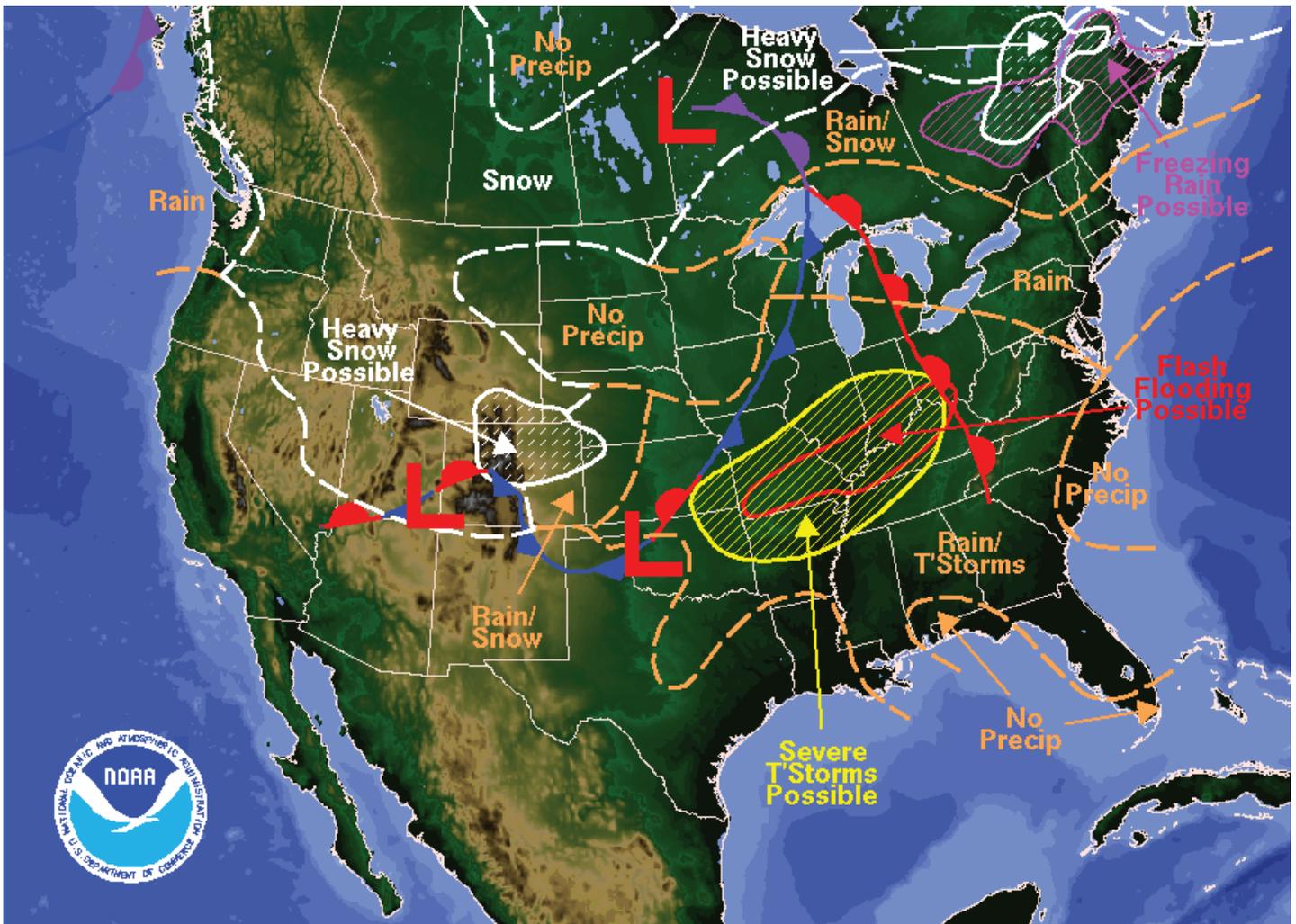
Precip to date in March.: 0.07

Average Precip to date: 2.22

Precip Year to Date: 0.47

Sunset Tonight: 8:03 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:11 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Apr 02, 2015, issued 3:33 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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APPLES OF GOLD

Words wound and leave scars. Words are often used by design to discredit or destroy the hopes and dreams of another. They are spoken with disgust and disapproval to hurt or harm a person's best intentions or desires. Words can be cruel and hateful, spiteful and repulsive. They can be disastrous to a person's reputation and future goals.

But words can also be blessings and bring hope and encouragement. "A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." What a thought provoking scene. Imagine if you will, fruit carved from gold by a craftsman and then placed in a brightly polished bowl made from silver - a sight that would excite the senses and bring a sense of amazement.

The phrase "A word aptly spoken" suggests saying the right thing at the right time in the right place. It may be sharing a verse of Scripture with a loved one as they are passing through a difficult experience. It may be sharing words of comfort and hope, encouragement and support or matching tears that are flowing from the eyes of one who is experiencing the loss of a loved one and is unable to deal at that time with the grim realities of grief. One thing is certain: Not all words fit all occasions. Not all words are good for all occasions. There are times to speak and times to be silent. There are times to talk and even more times to listen. It is the listening heart and the love of God that can flow through us when those in need are waiting for a "word aptly spoken."

Prayer: Seal our lips, Lord, from speaking harsh and harmful words. May they bring help, hope and healing. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 25:11 Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a ruling rightly given.

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

Grass fires continue to flare up across South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Grass fires continue to flare up across South Dakota as warm and dry conditions continue.

The Sheep Draw Fire in northwestern South Dakota has largely been contained after scorching nearly 22 square miles, but a new wildfire has started in Harding County. The Great Plains Fire Information office says the Moonshine Fire is about 3 square miles in size, with no containment.

Officials have closed a portion of state Highway 20 between Buffalo and Reva due to that fire. To the east, officials have reopened a stretch of U.S. Highway 212 that was shut down in Potter County Wednesday due to a grass fire.

That 8-square-mile blaze was started by a tractor fire. It caused the collision of a semitrailer and camper, and created hazy conditions as far as Mitchell.

Missing minimum-security inmate caught near Yankton

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — An inmate who failed to return to a minimum security prison in Yankton has been apprehended.

State corrections officials say 30-year-old John Collins was arrested east of the city early Thursday and taken to the county jail.

Collins had been placed on "escape" status Wednesday afternoon after he left a community service work site without authorization.

Collins is serving a 10-year sentence for grand theft, a five-year sentence for forgery and a 10-year sentence for third-burglary.

State launches aquatic invasive species website and hashtag

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has launched a website to help inform anglers and boaters about new statewide aquatic invasive species rules.

The rules take effect in mid-May. Department Secretary Kelly Hepler says they will require outdoors enthusiasts to change their old ways of transporting bait and fish.

The website <http://sdleastwanted.com> features information on the new laws and regulations and also has a variety of information on invasive species such as zebra mussels and Asian carp.

A new hashtag campaign called #sdleastwanted also has been implemented to enable people to share what they're doing to help slow the spread of aquatic invasive species in South Dakota.

Western governors tout sage grouse conservation efforts

KEITH RIDLER, Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A group of Western-state governors has released a report on voluntary efforts in 11 states to conserve the habitat of sage grouse as part of an effort to avoid a federal listing of the bird under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The 32-page "2014 Sage-Grouse Inventory" released Thursday by the Western Governors' Association identifies conservation work during the year and is accompanied by a 101-page appendix listing efforts since 2011.

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"The states have certainly done all that has been asked of them and all that can be done to prove to the federal government that a listing is unnecessary," said Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, who has proposed ideas for protecting habitat that have been incorporated by federal planners.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a Sept. 30 deadline to decide whether to propose the greater sage grouse as needing protections that could limit ranching as well as oil and gas drilling in the West. The Western Governors' Association said a listing will reduce voluntary conservation work and harm states' economies.

The chicken-sized bird once numbered in the millions, but current estimates put the population between 200,000 and 500,000. Experts blame loss of habitat. They attribute that loss to development and, in the last decade, massive wildfires blamed on a warming climate and invasive species, namely fire-prone cheatgrass that has transformed large areas into monocultures unsuitable for sage grouse.

"It's a good report," said John Freemuth, a Boise State University professor and public lands expert who analyzed the documents. "What they're trying to do is show — primarily Fish and Wildlife — that all these efforts are being done to protect sage grouse habitat."

Some highlights in the report include Montana Gov. Steve Bullock's executive order creating a state-wide greater sage-grouse habitat conservation program and requiring compliance by state agencies. In Nevada, the report said, the state's Sagebrush Ecosystem Council adopted a plan in 2014 building on the recommendations made by the state's Greater Sage-Grouse Advisory Committee.

The report noted that the Colorado Cattleman's Agricultural Land Trust holds conservation easements on more than 45,000 acres of sage grouse habitat. In November, though, Fish and Wildlife listed another type of sage grouse, the Gunnison, in Colorado as threatened. The state responded by suing Fish and Wildlife.

Federal officials are also trying to avoid a listing. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in January issued an order seeking a science-based approach to find a way to stop wildfire and other threats to protect sage grouse habitat.

The first part of the plan released in March calls for prioritizing and protecting sage-grouse habitat most at risk by using veteran crews, rural fire departments and fire protection associations made up of ranchers who can respond quickly.

The association's report said various agencies have also been working with private citizens to protect habitat through easements. Though too recent to be in the report, Jewell last week visited central Oregon to celebrate agreements with ranchers intended to protect sage grouse habitat.

Travis Bruner of the Idaho-based Western Watersheds Project, a conservation group, said voluntary measures on private land fall short because they lack scientific monitoring. He also said that could cause federal authorities to do less on public lands that contain most of the sage grouse habitat. If Fish and Wildlife had to make a decision today, he said, sage grouse should be listed.

"We haven't seen any kind of stringent regulations implemented to protect their habitat," Bruner said.

Freemuth said the association's documents could be enough to persuade the federal agency to decline a listing. "The sense is that Fish and Wildlife — they don't want to list either — but they need to be given enough evidence that they feel comfortable with that," he said.

SD Regents to consider 5.8 percent average tuition increase

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The state Board of Regents is scheduled to take up a proposal to raise tuition and fees for South Dakota's six public universities by an average of 5.8 percent for the upcoming school year.

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The board will meet Thursday in part to discuss the hikes, which translate to an average increase of \$455.76.

Scarce state funds killed the prospect of another year of frozen tuition for on-campus resident students, which lawmakers put nearly \$4 million toward during the 2014 legislative session.

The hikes the Regents will consider range from 4.3 percent at Northern State University to 6 percent at South Dakota State University.

The average cost of tuition and fees at a South Dakota public university for on-campus resident students for the upcoming year would be \$8,380.49, up from \$7,924.73.

Pennington County Sheriff's Office looking for missing woman

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Pennington County Sheriff's Office is trying to find a woman who has been missing since Tuesday.

The office says they want to find 50-year-old Rhonda Jones-Foos to check her welfare.

Jones-Foos is described as a white woman who weighs about 160 pounds and is five feet tall. She has brown eyes and brown hair.

Jones-Foos may be driving a gold 2008 Lincoln MKZ.

Anyone with information on Jones is urged to contact Investigator Paul Stevens.

Regents approve drone policy, tuition for alumni's children

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The Board of Regents has authorized the rebranding of a university center in Rapid City, established a new policy for drones and approved resident tuition for out-of-state students who attend the South Dakota public university where one of their parents received a degree.

The board met Wednesday at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

CHILDREN OF ALUMNI

Freshmen or transfer students from out of state who decide to attend the South Dakota university that one of their parents graduated from will now be eligible for in-state tuition and fees. System Vice President of Finance and Administration Monte Kramer said the in-state tuition proposal will help attract students to South Dakota. A report to the board says the move could also help make donors and alumni happy.

Students would be required to meet certain initial criteria and then meet ongoing standards to keep the in-state tuition rate depending on the institution they attend. Kramer said allowing children of alumni to attend a public South Dakota university of their choice would make it apply to too many incoming students.

DRONE POLICY

Regents General Counsel Jim Shekleton said drones are an area where technology has outstripped regulations. He said that unmanned aerial vehicles have the potential to be both a nuisance and an asset.

The new Regents policy establishes administrative requirements for universities that want to use drones and imposes limitations on where and when private users can fly them. An operator would have to fly the drone during daylight and away from buildings, people and animals. The drone would also have to remain in the pilot's field of vision and wouldn't be allowed near sports stadiums.

"You don't buzz the buildings, you don't buzz the people and you don't buzz the cows," Shekleton said.

South Dakota School of Mines and Technology President Heather Wilson said the school has con-

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ducted research into drones for years. Other South Dakota universities have expressed interest in the technology.

REBRAND

The Regents approved a proposal to rebrand a satellite center in Rapid City as a campus of Black Hills State University. The institution is currently known as University Center-Rapid City and is a partnership among South Dakota's six public universities.

Black Hills State University President Tom Jackson said rebranding the center as Black Hills State University-Rapid City will help it compete with other higher education institutions in Rapid City such as the city's technical institute.

Jackson said the approval "makes us the major player in Rapid City."

Heavy smoke from grass fire closes Highway 212 at Gettysburg

GETTYSBURG, S.D. (AP) — A 10-mile stretch of Highway 212 in central South Dakota that was Wednesday closed because of a grass fire has been reopened.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation says the fire created a dangerous situation for motorists from the heavy smoke creating zero visibility.

The closed part of Highway 212 was about 60 miles northeast of Pierre from just east of Gettysburg to the junction of Highway 47 south of Lebanon.

Transportation officials are urging drivers to exercise caution from Highway 47 to half a mile west of Highway 212 because of continued limited visibility from smoke.

Drivers such beware of emergency crews and vehicles still working in the area.

Bureau of Indian Affairs official released from hospital

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendent on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation who was stabbed last week has been released from the hospital.

Department of the Interior spokeswoman Nedra Darling says Patrick Duffy was released Wednesday and is expected to fully recover.

Authorities allege that Brian Iron Boulder stabbed Duffy in the back with a knife on March 25, penetrating Duffy's chest wall. Court documents don't indicate a motive.

Documents show that Iron Boulder waived his right to a detention hearing and requested a preliminary hearing.

As superintendent, Duffy oversees BIA facilities in Fort Thompson and manages tribal land.

The department says Duffy is requesting that everyone request his need for privacy while he recovers.

Speed limits on I-90, I-29 in South Dakota rise to 80 mph

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakotans began driving faster and paying more for fuel Wednesday as the state raised the speed limit to 80 mph on two major interstates and increased its gas tax by 6 cents per gallon.

The changes came as a result of a transportation funding package that Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed last month that aims to raise more than \$80 million in its first year to fix ailing roads and bridges in the state.

South Dakota now becomes the latest state to allow drivers to legally travel at speeds as high as 80 mph. Texas, Utah and Wyoming already allow those speeds and others are considering it.

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Many drivers praised the higher speed limit for Interstates 29 and 90 and said it could cut down on travel time in a state where it's not uncommon to travel great distances between cities and see few other cars.

But some worried the higher speeds may not be good for everyone.

John Sandbulte, a Minnesota resident who commutes to Sioux Falls for work, said he would probably still drive between 75 and 80 mph as he did before, but thinks some cars might not be able to handle the higher speeds.

"I work on cars for a living, so I see a lot of stuff that's out there that's not exactly safe for this kind of speed," Sandbulte said as he filled up his car at a gas station in Brandon.

An Associated Press report on Monday revealed that 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.

Tire and trucking industry groups blame the states for allowing unsafe speeds, but state officials note the speed limit doesn't require truckers to go that fast and say they should be aware of how fast their equipment can safely travel.

"If you're allowed to go the maximum of 80 mph, it doesn't mean you have to drive 80," said House Majority Leader Brian Gosch, who sponsored the speed limit change as part of the road and bridge funding legislation.

Gosch said he wasn't familiar with the truck tire design issue, but that the potential for tractor-trailer crashes at high speeds concerned him.

The 80 mph speed limit came bundled with the transportation package that will use the 6-cent gas tax increase along with increased license plate fees and a higher motor vehicle excise tax to fund road and bridge projects.

Terry Wixon, a retired Brandon resident who still works at the part-time at the Coffee Cup Fuel Stop off I-90, said he thought the higher gas tax would unfairly burden poorer residents, especially as gas prices have fallen recently.

"And then what happens? The government comes along and taxes the heck of them, thinking they won't notice it."

Black Hills State gets OK to put name on university center

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents has approved a proposal to rebrand a satellite center in Rapid City as a campus of Black Hills State University.

The board approved the change at their meeting Wednesday at the University of South Dakota. The institution is currently known as University Center-Rapid City and is a partnership among South Dakota's six public universities.

Black Hills State University President Tom Jackson says rebranding the center as Black Hills State University-Rapid City will help it compete with other higher education institutions in Rapid City, like the city's technical institute.

Enrollment in the center increased by nearly 20 percent between 2009 and 2013 while centers in Pierre and Sioux Falls have seen significant declines.

Jackson says the approval "makes us the major player in Rapid City."

Wage hike a 'good news, bad news' situation for students

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Board of Regents Executive Director and CEO Jack Warner says the \$8.50 minimum wage hike that voters approved in November is a "good news, bad news" situation for students at South Dakota's six public universities.

The board met Wednesday at the University of South Dakota and in part discussed the impact of the wage hike, which it has predicted would increase costs for the universities by about \$970,000 over a full year.

Some universities have attempted to use funds from unfilled positions to meet the costs. Others have reduced the availability of services such as building hours.

Warner says the hike had to be absorbed into existing budgets. But he says the move is helpful to students who have to work less to earn the same amount of money.

US gives threatened status to northern long-eared bat

DAVID N. GOODMAN, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The federal government said Wednesday that it is listing the northern long-eared bat as threatened, giving new protections to a species that has been nearly wiped out in some areas by the spread of a fungal disease.

White-nose syndrome first was first discovered among bats in a cave near Albany, New York, in 2006 and since then has killed millions of the flying mammals in the Northeast, South and Midwest. It spreads while they congregate on the wet walls of caves or abandoned mines, interrupting their hibernation and causing them to starve or dehydrate.

"Bats are a critical component of our nation's ecology and economy," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Dan Ashe said in a statement. He said they play a key role in insect control and "we lose them at our peril."

The service concluded that the northern long-eared bat meets the criteria for a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. It stopped short of declaring it endangered, which would mean that it is currently in danger of extinction.

While the threat to the northern long-eared bats and its cousins is dire, the tools to protect them are limited, said Tony Sullins, Midwestern chief of the endangered species program for the Fish and Wildlife Service. That's because the main threat is from a disease, rather than from human-induced changes in the environment.

The protective measures improve their breeding opportunities by restricting some logging and tree removal from forest areas where the bats spend the warmer months. They will be in effect in June and July, when newborn bats live in nests before learning to fly, he said.

White-nose syndrome has been confirmed or is suspected among northern long-eared bat populations in 28 of the 37 states where the species lives, Sullins said. He said the species has been hardest hit in New England.

"We've seen losses in the upper 90 percent range, 100 percent in some cases," Sullins told The Associated Press.

The Fish and Wildlife Service said interim rules take effect May 4 and final rules will be issued by year's end.

Meanwhile, researchers are trying to find ways to treat and prevent the disease, Sullins said.

An oil driller's group said the decision stifles industry while providing questionable protections to the bats.

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"Rather than listing the bat and limiting development, the Fish and Wildlife Service should work toward finding a solution to this deadly disease, while ensuring energy development, environmental stewardship, species conservation, and economic growth can thrive together across the nation," said Dan Naatz, senior vice president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

U.S. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, R-Utah, wrote Ashe asking that the Fish and Wildlife Service release more information on its review of the expected effectiveness of the protections. Bishop says the agency has repeatedly failed to release data showing how the order will make any difference in reducing the disease problem.

"The service's harmful and horrendous approach points to the greater, national obligation to reform and update this outdated law for a 21st century economy," Bishop said in a statement Wednesday.

Keith Creagh, the director of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources, said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision balances the interests of wildlife protection and the livelihood and convenience of people.

"The decision ... represents a biologically sound determination that will address the conservation needs of these bats while providing flexibility for those who live and work within the bats' range," Creagh said. "We expect to continue working closely with the service as we focus on finding the right solutions to this conservation challenge."

Governor: Shannon County name change to take effect May 1

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Shannon County will officially become Oglala Lakota County on May 1.

County voters last November overwhelmingly approved the move, and this year's state Legislature passed a resolution to make the name change. Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Wednesday officially proclaimed the new name, a step required by law.

The county currently is named for Peter Shannon, a chief justice of the Dakota Territory Supreme Court who later helped negotiate land deals with the Lakota. Shannon isn't well thought of among many American Indians.

South Dakota Senate majority leader resigns from Legislature

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Senate majority leader has stepped down to accept a job with Sanford Health.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced Sen. Tim Rave's resignation from the Senate on Wednesday. The Baltic Republican is joining Sanford Health as vice president for public policy.

Rave served in the Senate since 2011, after four terms in the House. He was speaker of the House from 2009-11 and Senate majority leader since 2013. He's the only South Dakotan to have held both positions.

Rave represents District 25, which includes some rural communities in Minnehaha County and an area in eastern Sioux Falls.

Daugaard will fill the Senate vacancy by appointment and is asking the public to nominate candidates. The governor expects to name a successor by early summer.

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Corn acres projected down, soybean acres up in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's corn and soybean crops are expected to follow the national trend this year.

The federal Agriculture Department says South Dakota corn acres are expected to drop 10 percent from last year, but soybean acres should match last year's record.

That scenario is expected to play out nationwide, as the profit potential for corn remains low due to slumping prices. More farmers are favoring soybeans because they cost less to grow and market prices haven't fallen as quickly as for corn.

South Dakota farmers this year are expected to plant more acres of durum wheat, barley, hay and flaxseed. Acres of sunflowers, sorghum and dry edible beans are expected to be down from last year. Acres of spring wheat and oats in the state are projected to be unchanged.

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. UNIVERSITY IN KENYA ATTACKED

Al-Shabab gunmen attack a college in the northeast, targeting Christians and killing at least 15 people and wounding 60 others, witnesses say.

2. PROGRESS SEEN IN NUCLEAR TALKS

Iran says "significant progress" has been made in negotiations meant to reach a preliminary pact on the curbs Tehran must accept on atomic activities.

3. RUSSIAN RIG SINKS OFF KAMCHATKA PENINSULA

A Russian freezer trawler with an international crew of 132 goes down in the Sea of Okhotsk, and at least 54 crew members were killed and 63 rescued.

4. NEW JERSEY SENATOR DEFIANT AFTER ACCUSATIONS

Democrat Bob Menendez declares he's "not going anywhere" after he was charged with accepting nearly \$1 million in gifts and campaign contributions from a friend in exchange for political favors.

5. HOW AMERICANS FEEL ABOUT RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS LAW

An AP poll suggests sympathy for religious objectors may be limited to those who refuse to provide services for wedding-related businesses.

6. CELLPHONES RECOVERED AMID FLIGHT 9525 DEBRIS

But the devices have not yet produced any clues about what happened aboard a Germanwings jetliner deliberately crashed in the French Alps.

7. WHAT IS MOST SIGNIFICANT U.S. BUSINESS EXPANSION IN CUBA

The popular online home-sharing service Airbnb will allow American travelers to book lodging on the island.

8. HOW DIGITAL AGE HAS CHANGED SCHOOL THREATS

Anonymous threats against schools, spread by smartphones and social media, are forcing more school evacuations and responses by police.

9. A DECISION THAT HAS GONE BATTY

Plans for Ohio University to replace the bat-infested college president's home with a million-dollar house rankles students and faculty.

10. JONI MITCHELL FANS SENDING GOOD VIBES

Emma Watson, Paul Stanley and Kevin Bacon are among the celebrity well-wishers for the stricken folk song icon

AP News in Brief

Gunmen attack university in eastern Kenya; attack bears hallmarks of al-Shabab

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Gunmen attacked a college campus in northeast Kenya early Thursday, opening fire in dormitories and killing at least 15 people and wounding 29 others, witnesses said. The attack bore the hallmarks of a Somali Islamic extremist group.

Augustine Alanga, a 21-year-old student who survived the attack at Garissa University College, described a panicked scene as gunshots rang out outside their dormitory in the pre-dawn hours when most people were still fast asleep.

The shooting became more intense almost immediately, he told The Associated Press by phone. The heavy gunfire forced some students to stay indoors as others fled with gunmen firing at them.

He said he saw at least five heavily armed, masked gunmen.

"I am just now recovering from the pain as I injured myself while trying to escape. I was running barefoot," said Alanga, who was one of scores of students who managed to escape through barb-wire fencing.

Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar probing labor abuses, slavery in seafood industry exposed by AP

BENJINA, Indonesia (AP) — Officials from three countries are traveling to remote islands in eastern Indonesia to investigate how thousands of foreign fishermen wound up there as slaves and were forced to catch seafood that could eventually end up being exported to the United States and elsewhere.

A week after The Associated Press published a yearlong investigation into the problem — including showing men locked in a company cage — delegations from Thailand and Indonesia visited the island village of Benjina. Officials from Myanmar are scheduled to visit the area next week to try to determine how many of their citizens are stuck there and what can be done to bring them home.

"No one seemed to be aware of the problem, and now that they are, they want to do something as quickly as possible," said Steve Hamilton, deputy chief of mission at the International Organization for Migration, or IOM, in Indonesia, which is working with authorities to assist the fishermen.

In Benjina, some officials saw a graveyard where dozens of fishermen are buried. Others talked to men who have been stranded there for months or even years after being brought to Indonesia from Thailand and forced to work under brutal conditions on boats with Thai captains.

One of the leaders of the Indonesian group, Ida Kusuma from the Fisheries Ministry, said she found the slavery reports very upsetting and that the government intends to take action.

Russian trawler with 132 crew sinks in Sea of Okhotsk, at least 54 dead and 63 rescued

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian trawler sank in just 15 minutes in icy waters off Russia's Far Eastern coast early Thursday, killing at least 54 crew members, rescue workers said.

The massive trawler Dalny Vostok, with an international crew of 132, sank at about 4 a.m. local time (1800 GMT on Wednesday) in the Sea of Okhotsk off the Kamchatka Peninsula. It did not send distress signals prior to the sinking, the Interfax news agency said.

Emergency services in Kamchatka, citing the head of the rescue operation, said 63 crew members

were rescued and the fate of the remaining 15 was unknown.

The crews of 26 fishing boats were helping the rescue operation that was scouring the water for survivors and bodies even after darkness fell in the region, Emergency Situations Minister Vladimir Puchkov said.

The fishing boats recovered 54 bodies. Some 1,300 people were involved in the rescue operation, emergency services said.

Iran sees progress but sides not yet there as talks resume after intense all-night session

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) —

Eyes bleary from lack of sleep, senior diplomats from six countries Iran huddled Thursday in a morning strategy session meant to advance the pace of agonizingly slow nuclear negotiations with Iran. Iran's foreign minister said the sides were close to a preliminary agreement, but not yet there.

The talks resumed several hours after a flurry of marathon overnight sessions between Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, as well as other meetings among the six powers negotiating to curb Iranian nuclear programs that could be used to make weapons. Iran denies any interest in such arms and wants a deal that will quickly lift economic sanctions stifling its economy.

Two days after busting through a March 31 deadline, the negotiators hope to leave the Swiss city of Lausanne with at least a text outlining general political commitments to resolve concerns about Iran's nuclear program, and the pace of lifting sanctions. They are also trying to fashion more detailed documents on the steps they must take by June 30 to meet those goals.

As he headed to his own meeting Thursday, Zarif said the talks had made "significant progress." But he said drafts still had to be written. Reaching both agreement in Lausanne as well as a June final deal will be "a difficult job," he said.

NJ Sen. Bob Menendez vows to fight corruption charges; expected in court Thursday

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A defiant New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez declared that he's "not going anywhere" after he was charged with accepting nearly \$1 million in gifts and campaign contributions from a longtime friend in exchange for a stream of political favors.

Menendez is expected to appear in federal court in Newark Thursday in response to charges that he used the power of his Senate seat to benefit Dr. Salomon Melgen, a wealthy Florida eye doctor who prosecutors say provided the senator with luxury vacations, airline travel, golf trips and tens of thousands of dollars in contributions to a legal defense fund.

The indictment, which marks the latest development in a federal investigation that came into public view when federal authorities raided Melgen's medical offices in 2013, will almost certainly lead to a drawn-out legal fight between Menendez and a team of Justice Department prosecutors who have spent years investigating his ties to Melgen.

It will require prosecutors to prove that a close and longtime friendship between the men was used for criminal purposes and is likely to revive the legal debate about the constitutional protections afforded to members of Congress for acts they take in office, which Menendez has already signaled as a possible line of defense.

The criminal charges brought Wednesday cloud the political future of the top Democrat — and former chairman — of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who has played a leading role on Capitol Hill on matters involving Iran's nuclear program and U.S. efforts to improve ties with Cuba.

Social media, smartphone apps among online tools used to fuel anonymous threats in schools

WASHINGTON (AP) — Threats against schools don't just come written on bathroom walls these days. Spread using smartphone apps, social media and Internet phone services, anonymous reports of bombs or other threats of violence are forcing school evacuations and responses by police or other authorities.

In the vast majority of cases, such a threat turns out to be a hoax. Still, the use of the modern technologies has made it that much harder to determine if a threat is real and to find the culprit.

Just this week, a 16-year-old from Gateway High School in Kissimmee, Florida, was arrested for posting about a bomb threat on Twitter because "she was angry and did not want to go to school," according to the Osceola County Sheriff's Office.

School safety experts say the number of such incidents appears to be increasing — as are the complexity of the cases. The latest figures from the National Center for Education Statistics for the 2009-2010 school year show 5,700 such disruptions.

"They send a great deal of fear and panic throughout a community," said Kenneth Trump, a school safety consultant who is president of National School Safety and Security Services. His group reviewed more than 800 threats reported in the media during the first half of the 2014-2015 school year and found that about one-third were sent electronically using text message, social media, email or other online means.

AP Exclusive: Airbnb comes to Cuba in major expansion of US business on communist island

HAVANA (AP) — The popular online home-rental service Airbnb will allow American travelers to book lodging in Cuba starting Thursday in the most significant U.S. business expansion on the island since the declaration of detente between the two countries late last year.

For a half-century, the U.S. trade embargo has blocked such businesses from entering the Cuban market. In January, however, the Obama administration loosened a series of restrictions on U.S. business in an attempt to encourage the growth of the island's small private sector.

Airbnb searches for "Cuba" will now turn up more than 1,000 properties across the island, with 40 percent in Havana and the rest in tourist destinations such as Cienfuegos a few hours away on the southern coast. The company has been sending teams of representatives to Cuba for three months to sign up home owners, and plans to expand steadily in coming months.

"We believe that Cuba could become one of Airbnb's biggest markets in Latin America," said Kay Kuehne, regional director for Airbnb, the website and mobile app that allows users to book rooms in more than 1 million private homes around the world. "We are actually plugging into an existing culture of micro-enterprise in Cuba. The hosts in Cuba have been doing for decades what we just started doing seven years ago."

One of the most developed and important elements of Cuba's entrepreneurial sector is a network of thousands of privately owned rooms and houses for tourists. Starting in the post-Soviet economic crisis

of the 1990s as homey, bed and breakfast-style alternatives to Cuba's generally grim state-run hotels, "casas particulares," or private homes, have expanded into an industry with options ranging from small apartments in central Havana to multi-room beach houses with top-notch food and maid service.

Arkansas, Indiana lawmakers race to update religious objection bills criticized as anti-gay

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Lawmakers in Arkansas and Indiana are scrambling to revise controversial religious objection measures as Republican governors in both states try to quell a growing backlash from businesses and other critics who have called the proposals anti-gay.

A day after Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson called on the Legislature to change the measure he had once said he'd sign into law, House leaders hoped to give final approval Thursday to a bill to address his concerns. Legislative leaders in Indiana were also working on efforts to change that state's similar recently enacted law.

Hutchinson asked lawmakers to recall the bill, which would prohibit state and local government from infringing upon someone's religious beliefs without a compelling reason, from his desk to amend it or pass a follow-up measure that would make the proposal more closely mirror a federal religious freedom law.

"How do we as a state communicate to the world that we are respectful of a diverse workplace and we want to be known as a state that does not discriminate but understands tolerance?" Hutchinson said to reporters at the Capitol Wednesday. "That is the challenge we face. Making this law like the federal law will aid us in that effort in communication, but also was my original objective from the beginning."

Hutchinson was the second governor in as many days to give ground to opponents of the law. After Indiana Gov. Mike Pence signed a similar measure last week, Pence and fellow Republicans endured days of sharp criticism from around the country. Pence is now seeking follow-up legislation to address concerns that the law could allow businesses to discriminate based on sexual orientation.

Minority Leader Harry Reid's retirement sets off struggle in Senate Democratic ranks

WASHINGTON (AP) — A very public spat between the No. 2 and No. 3 Senate Democrats is dashing the party's hopes for a drama-free succession in the wake of Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid's retirement.

Dick Durbin of Illinois and Chuck Schumer of New York are longtime colleagues and former housemates in a group home on Capitol Hill who have clashed for power in the past.

This time, Durbin stood aside in the hours before Reid's retirement became public Friday morning, throwing his backing to Schumer and allowing the outspoken New Yorker to lock up support for the job of Democratic leader. Reid, D-Nev., publicly blessed Schumer, long seen as his likeliest successor, and Democrats hoped a messy leadership fight had been avoided.

The mess was still to come.

According to Durbin's version of events, in the same conversation where Durbin told Schumer he would not challenge him for leader, Schumer pledged his support for Durbin to hang onto the No. 2 job as Democratic whip.

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Andrew Getty's death is latest tragedy to strike rich, prominent American family

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's a family name that has long been associated with unimaginable wealth and sometimes unspeakable tragedy.

The mysterious death of J. Paul Getty's grandson Andrew Getty is just the latest example of the latter. Andrew Getty, 47, was found dead Tuesday after authorities said his girlfriend called 911 to report discovering his bloodied body at his Hollywood Hills mansion.

He appeared to have died of natural causes, coroner's Assistant Chief Ed Winter said, but he added it could take more than two months to determine the exact cause.

The reclusive Getty had said in recent court documents that he was battling a "serious medical condition" that could endanger his life.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 2, the 92nd day of 2015. There are 273 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 2, 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, because of advancing Union forces.

On this date:

In 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon and his expedition landed in present-day Florida. (Some historians say the landing actually occurred the next day, on April 3.)

In 1792, Congress passed the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

In 1800, Ludwig van Beethoven premiered his Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21, in Vienna.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy." (Congress declared war four days later.)

In 1932, aviator Charles A. Lindbergh and John F. Condon went to a cemetery in The Bronx, New York, where Condon turned over \$50,000 to a man in exchange for Lindbergh's kidnapped son. (The child, who was not returned, was found dead the following month.)

In 1942, Glenn Miller and his orchestra recorded "American Patrol" at the RCA Victor studios in Hollywood.

In 1956, the soap operas "As the World Turns" and "The Edge of Night" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1968, the science-fiction film "2001: A Space Odyssey," produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick, had its world premiere in Washington D.C.

In 1974, French President Georges Pompidou, 62, died in Paris.

In 1982, several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain. (Britain seized the islands back the following June.)

In 1986, four American passengers were killed when a bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

In 1995, baseball owners accepted the players' union offer to play without a contract, ending the longest and costliest strike in the history of professional sports.

Ten years ago: Pope John Paul II, who'd helped topple communism in Europe and left a deeply conservative stamp on the church that he'd led for 26 years, died in his Vatican apartment at age 84. Terri Schiavo's body was cremated as disagreements continued between her husband and her parents, who were unable to have their own independent expert observe her autopsy. An Australian helicopter

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on a relief mission in Indonesia crashed on earthquake-devastated Nias (nee-AHS') Island, killing nine people on board.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, visiting a factory in Charlotte, North Carolina, hailed a new government report showing the most jobs created in nearly three years, saying, "We are beginning to turn the corner." Gunmen seeking to pass themselves off as U.S. and Iraqi soldiers raided a Sunni village outside Baghdad, killing at least 24 people in an execution-style attack. Ohio State junior swingman Evan Turner was the runaway choice as The Associated Press' college basketball player of the year; Syracuse's Jim Boeheim (BAY'-hym) was the AP's college basketball coach of the year.

One year ago: The Supreme Court's conservative majority voted 5-4 to free wealthy individuals to donate to as many political candidates and campaigns as they wanted, further loosening the reins on giving by big contributors. At Fort Hood in Texas, three soldiers were killed and 16 others were wounded in a shooting rampage by another soldier, Army Spc. Ivan A. Lopez, who then killed himself.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Rita Gam is 88. Actress Sharon Acker is 80. Actress Penelope Keith is 75. Singer Leon Russell is 73. Jazz musician Larry Coryell is 72. Actress Linda Hunt is 70. Singer Emmylou Harris is 68. Social critic and author Camille Paglia is 68. Actress Pamela Reed is 66. Rock musician Dave Robinson (The Cars) is 62. Country singer Buddy Jewell is 54. Actor Christopher Meloni is 54. Singer Keren Woodward (Bananarama) is 54. Country singer Billy Dean is 53. Actor Clark Gregg is 53. Actress Jana Marie Hupp is 51. Rock musician Greg Camp is 48. Rock musician Tony Fredianelli (Third Eye Blind) is 46. Actress Roselyn Sanchez is 42. Country singer Jill King is 40. Actor Pedro Pascal (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 40. Actor Adam Rodriguez is 40. Actor Jeremy Garrett is 39. Actor Michael Fassbender is 38. Actress Jaime Ray Newman is 37. Rock musician Jesse Carmichael (Maroon 5) is 36. Actress Bethany Joy Lenz is 34. Singer Lee Dewyze (TV: "American Idol") is 29. Actor Jesse Plemons is 27. Singer Aaron Kelly (TV: "American Idol") is 22.

Thought for Today: "Never think you've seen the last of anything." - Eudora Welty, American author (1909-2001).

Driver's Exam Stations

Important: Application must be submitted at least 1 hour in advance of scheduled closing time. No drive tests will be given from 11:30 to 1:30. For more information see our website at www.dps.sd.gov call 1-800-952-3696.

Aberdeen: 2729 W Highway 12

Open 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday

Redfield: Dept. of Transportation - N Hwy 281.

Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Webster: Courthouse Basement (711 W 1st St. - Ste. 107

Open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays

DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO OBTAIN A SOUTH DAKOTA DRIVER LICENSE OR ID CARD (photo copies cannot be accepted)

Federal requirements have changed the documents required to obtain or renew your South Dakota driver license or identification card. We want to make the process as quick and easy as possible for you. Look over the documents on the list below, and if you have any questions at all, anything you don't

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understand or any documents you aren't sure you can find, please contact the Driver Licensing Program. You may email DPSLicensingInfo@state.sd.us (please include your first and last name) or call toll-free at 1-800-952-3696 or directly at 605-773-6883.

If you think you will have difficulty obtaining any of the documents please contact us. We may be able to arrange for an extension or a temporary permit while you gather the documents needed to obtain your federally compliant South Dakota driver license or identification card. If you find that you simply can't produce one of the required documents, we can work with you in those situations. Again, please use the contact information for the Driver Licensing Program if you have any questions or concerns.

The need to show the additional documents is a one-time requirement. That means once you have your federally compliant driver license or identification card in hand, you will only need that card and two documents to show your current address the next time you renew your driver license or identification card. If your driver license or identification card has a gold star in the upper right corner, then it is federally compliant.

Our staff is committed to providing the best service possible, so don't hesitate to contact us by telephone or email. We will help you in any way we can.

Federal regulations require anyone applying for a new, renewal, or duplicate driver license or identification card to provide the documents listed below and on page 2 (photo copies are not acceptable):

I. You will need one Identity Document. NOTE: If your name is different than the name on your identity document, you will need to bring additional proof of your legal name. Acceptable documents for proof of a legal name change are a certified marriage certificate (issued by a state vital records agency), a certified adoption document, or a certified court order authorizing a name change (such as a divorce decree). If you have had multiple marriages, you will need to bring similar documents providing legal proof of each name change (presenting a valid passport with your current name eliminates this requirement).

An Identity Document to prove identity, date of birth, and lawful status is considered to be one of the following:

- ◆ Certified U.S. birth certificate issued by state or county (hospital birth certificates are not acceptable)

- ◆ Valid unexpired U.S. passport
- ◆ Certificate of Naturalization
- ◆ Certificate of Citizenship

Non-Citizens may bring:

- ◆ Valid unexpired permanent resident card
- ◆ Valid unexpired employment authorization document
- ◆ Foreign passport with valid unexpired U.S. Visa with I-94

South Dakota birth and marriage certificate information is available on the state of South Dakota web site at <http://www.doh.sd.gov/vitalrecords/order.aspx> and through your local County Register of Deeds office. Marriage certificates before 1950 may not be available for same day issuance. For telephone numbers and addresses to write for out-of-state vital records, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm>.

II. You will need one document to prove Social Security number. Only the documents listed below can serve as proof of Social Security number (the document must include your name and full social

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security number):

- ◆ Social Security card
- ◆ W-2 Form
- ◆ SSA 1099 Form
- ◆ Non-SSA 1099 Form
- ◆ Pay stub

(For information on how to apply for a social security number or replacement card, please visit <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber/>.)

III. You will need two documents to prove your residential address. A parent's proof of address is acceptable for a minor child. Proof of address documents may **not be more than one year old**. Please bring two of the documents listed below (each must contain your current physical address):

- ◆ Utility bill
- ◆ Pay stub or earnings statement
- ◆ Rent receipt
- ◆ Phone bill
- ◆ Transcript or report card from an accredited school
- ◆ Bank statement
- ◆ Mortgage document
- ◆ Tax document
- ◆ Homeowners/renter's insurance policy
- ◆ Other items with your address can be reviewed by Driver Licensing personnel
- ◆ If you are unable to provide proof of residency, please call 1-800-952-3696 or 605-773-6883 for exceptions.
- ◆ Post Office Box addresses are acceptable in areas not assigned a street or 911 address

Address Exceptions:

Minors - If a minor does not have two documents proving residency, the parent may provide two forms for them.

Living with someone else - An individual residing with another person may have the other person sign a "Consent for Use of South Dakota Address" form and present two residency documents belonging to the person with whom they reside. The Consent for Use of Address form may be obtained at the exam station or printed off our website.

Living within an organization or at a facility - Applicants may provide a letter from the organization or facility (on their letterhead) stating the individual resides there.

People who travel full-time - If you are using a mail forwarding address, you must complete the Residency Affidavit. You will also need to provide one document no more than one year old proving your temporary South Dakota address (campground or RV park receipt) and one document no more than one year old proving your personal mailbox (PMB) service address (receipt from the PMB business or a piece of mail with your PMB address on it). If you have friends or family in South Dakota and plan to use their address, you can complete and follow the instructions on the Consent for Use of Address form.

Military and Military Dependents - Applicants can use an out-of-state address on their license and provide two documents proving residency showing the out-of-state address.

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Before your license or ID card is issued, our examiners will review your documents to make sure they comply with the federal requirements. We will work with you to resolve any problems with your documents and to identify any additional documents or other information that may be necessary to complete the process. The additional requirements are designed to establish a more secure driver license, which will address our shared concern about national security, identity theft and highway safety.

Veterans

Veterans who have been honorably discharged from the military have the option of adding the word "Veteran" to the front of their South Dakota driver license or identification card. In addition to the documents listed above, they will need to present:

- ◆ DD-214 form which shows their honorable discharge status from active duty or
- ◆ Present a certificate signed by a county or tribal veteran's service officer verifying their status.
- ◆ DD Form 2 (Retired)
- ◆ DD Form 2A (Reserve Retired)

Note to CDL holders: If you are required to carry a medical examiners certificate (aka DOT medical card) you must show a valid card at the driver exam station.