

Groton Daily Independent

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Saturday, April 4

Birthdays: David Krueger, Desiree Morehouse, Mitchell Madsen, Sandy Strom

Sunday, April 5

EASTER SUNDAY

Birthday: Toby Carda

7:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Sunrise Service
(Breakfast by League)

10:00 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries Worship
at Bethlehem Church, Pierpont (Cancelled)

10:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

Monday, April 6

Birthdays: Cheryl Tullis, Walker Cutler, Josh Heupel, Courtney Kurtz

Senior Menu: Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, Mandarin oranges, chocolate pudding, whole wheat bread.

NO SCHOOL

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

Tuesday, April 7

Anniv: Scott & Mary Fordham

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



Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

Member-Owner Meetings Provide Information and Answers

(Aberdeen, SD) --- Wheat Growers and North Central Farmers Elevator wrapped up the first series of member-owner meetings aimed at providing information and answering questions about the proposed unification. Over the course of three weeks and 45 meetings, hundreds of Wheat Growers and North Central member-owners learned many of the details of the proposed unification from board members and staff.

"Our goal was to provide as much information as possible and answer any questions our member-owners had," Dale Locken, Wheat Growers CEO, said. "There were plenty of questions and some excellent suggestions and input. There have been a lot of rumors and speculation out there initially, and so it was important for Wheat Growers and North Central to address the rumors with facts."

Many of the questions dealt with the concern over a reduction in competition.

"Both our cooperatives knew this would be a top concern to our member-owners," Mike Nickolas, General Manager of North Central Farmers Elevator, said. "Even though the newly named cooperative will be large in scale compared to other locally-owned cooperatives, it will be 60 times smaller than current competitors that we both compete against in today's marketplace. We have competed well against each other in the past, and it will be even more important to be competitive in the future against these much larger companies."

The cooperatives have created a joint website aimed at providing ongoing information to member-owners. The site, growingtogether.coop, contains background on the proposed unification, a question-and-answer section, a way for member-owners to ask additional questions and updated, important information about the unification process.

"We want to continue talking with all our member-owners and sharing information so they can make the best decision based on the facts," Locken said. "Our 15-member board of directors and North Central's 11-member board voted unanimously in favor of the letter of intent to unify these two strong, successful cooperatives, based on all that information. We think our member-owners, given that same information, will agree."

This was the first round of informational meetings, with more to be scheduled between now and the vote, which will be in June. There will be updated information on future member-owner meeting schedules at www.growingtogether.coop.

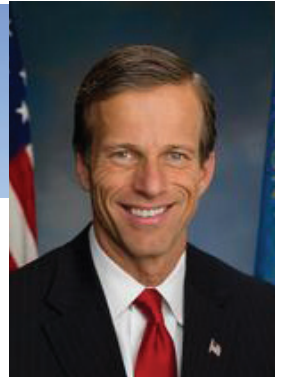
About North Central Farmers Elevator

North Central Farmers Elevator is a full-service, farmer-owned cooperative with product and service areas in grain, agronomy, feed and energy with locations in north central South Dakota and south central North Dakota. Its mission is to excel at providing high-quality services and products that grow member and cooperative profitability and success.

About Wheat Growers

Wheat Growers is a grain and agronomy cooperative in the heart of South and North Dakota. Owned by the members it serves, Wheat Growers exists to provide, with integrity, customers with reliable markets, services and quality products through a safety-oriented, profitable and innovative organization.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Balanced Budget Is a South Dakota Priority

Every day, South Dakota families pay their bills, plan for the future, and strive to live within their means. I believe the federal government should do the same. Day after day, I hear from South Dakotans about their concerns with our out-of-control federal debt. They are worried about the burden that will be left on their children and grandchildren and the economic consequences of our debt, like slower economic growth and fewer opportunities.

To address these concerns, the Republican-led Senate recently passed a budget that will reduce spending by \$5.1 trillion and balance in 10 years – all without raising taxes on hardworking South Dakotans. In contrast, the president's budget never balances. Not now. Not in 10 years. Not in 75 years. His budget would add \$7.4 trillion to our debt while raising taxes by \$1.8 trillion to grow the government.

South Dakotans understand that spending more than what you take in leads to an unsustainable financial future. With the national debt skyrocketing, it's high time for that same kind of common sense in Washington. Senate Republicans understand what's at stake, which is why our balanced budget will create a framework for a more efficient, effective, and accountable federal government. It's a clear contrast to the days of Democrat leadership in the Senate, when for years Democrats refused to pass a balanced budget, or any budget at all.

Returning fiscal sanity to Washington, D.C., is exactly what Republicans meant when we said that we wanted to get Washington working again for the American people. A responsible budget like the one we just passed is long overdue. Our budget preserves Social Security, enhances U.S. energy independence, supports our military and national security, and provides Congress with its best chance yet to repeal and replace Obamacare. Most importantly, it creates a path to a sustainable fiscal future for America and our future generations. While additional work remains to address our fiscal challenges, the Senate-passed budget is a big step toward serious accountability in Washington and greater opportunity for all Americans.

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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SPECTACULAR CIRCUS EXTRAVAGANZA
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ABERDEEN CIVIC ARENA

April 9, 10, 11. 2015

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 p.m., 8 p.m.	4 p.m., 8 p.m.	11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m.

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

POPS Concert is April 12th

The Groton High School Music Department will present its annual POPS Concert on Sunday April 12th with shows at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The program will feature the jazz band, show choir, and various other acts performing popular music from across the decades to today! Complimentary pop and popcorn will be served as usual. There will also be a silent auction to benefit the show choir and their activities. Advance tickets are available at the high school business office or at Lori's Pharmacy; otherwise they may be purchased at the door. Doors will open at 1:00 for the 2:00 show, and at 6:00 for the 7:00 show. There will be no reserved seating. Please make plans to attend this huge production and enjoy an evening of great music performed by our many hard working students in the music department!



Unlocking Leadership

President Ronald Reagan once said, "The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things."

Leadership isn't about you. It isn't about being loud or a showman. Leaders don't look for credit; they find victory in creating a meaningful change. They unlock opportunities for those around them. They start each mission by listening and learning. They tap into the potential of others and focus it on a common goal, a worthy purpose.

On April 8, I will hold my second annual Lead Now! Youth Leadership Conference for high school juniors and seniors. Here, students from across the state will have the opportunity to learn from those who help unlock South Dakota's potential – in everything from science to academia to social media and more.

What impresses me most about each of this year's speakers is their proven ability to inspire other people to do great things. Each leads by building, rather than destroying – and that's a much needed example of leadership in today's culture.

Our Founding Fathers did the same thing. Colonial leaders didn't inspire Americans by focusing on a defeat of the British; they asked the American people to fight for freedom, independence, and representation – principles that still inspire Americans to do great things today.

Consider the Declaration of Independence. Yes, it contains a long list of grievances against King George that made clear what the American people were against at the time, but few of us could recite more than one or two of those grievances today. Instead, we remember – and many can still recite – the sentences our Founding Fathers chose to begin that document: "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Inspired leaders – including the leaders who will be presenting to students at the Lead Now! conference – focus attention on the values they fundamentally support, whether it's greater equality through social media, opportunities for South Dakotans in science, or the pursuit of happiness.

Our state and our country will face some tremendous hurdles in the coming years – hurdles that could define a generation. We will need strong leaders who look beyond their own capabilities and wrangle the potential of others in our community and our country – leaders who focus on building, rather than destroying – leaders who recognize that the greatest leader is one who gets the people to do the greatest things.

My hope is that the Lead Now! Youth Leadership Conference plays a role in inspiring our next generation of leaders. I wholeheartedly believe South Dakota's young people carry with them great potential. Once it's unlocked, I know they can change our world.

Peeps Display Contest 2015 Winners

59 entries submitted

1st place wins \$10 gift card to DQ
2nd place wins \$5 gift card to DQ
3rd place wins free sundae at DQ

Upper level (Grades 3-5)

1st Carly Guthmiller – Peep Camping (3rd grade)
2nd Kaylynn Overacker & Brenna Carda – 78th Ice Skating Carnival (4th Grade)
3rd Jillian Hughes - Elsa (3rd Grade)

Lower Level (Grades K-2)

1st Talli Wright - Wright Field (1st grade)
2nd Karter Moody – Moody's Merriam Turkey Farm (1st grade)
3rd Jacob Tewskbury - City Peeps (1st Grade)



Carly Guthmiller, first place



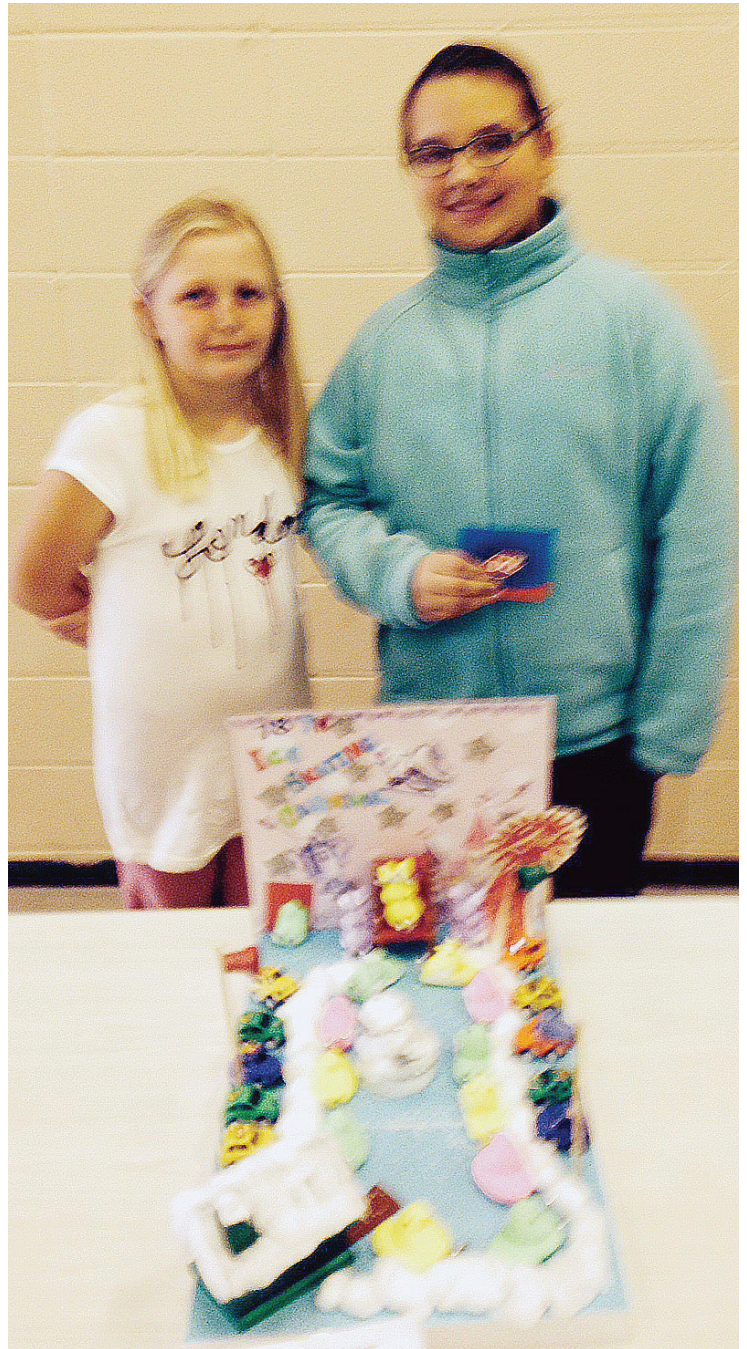
Talli Wright, first place

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Karter Moody, Second Place



Kaylynn Overacker/Brenna Carda, Second

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Jacob Tewksbury, third place



Jillian Hughes, third place

Today in Weather History

1804 - A large tornado crossed six Georgia counties killing at least eleven persons near Augusta. (David Ludlum)

1933 - Pigeon River Bridge, MN, reported 28 inches of snow, which established the state 24 hour snowfall record. (4th-5th) (The Weather Channel)

1973 - Sandia Crest, NM, reported a snow depth of 95 inches, a record for the state of New Mexico. (The Weather Channel)

1983 - Colorado was in the midst of a three day winter storm. Buckhorn Mountain, located west of Fort Collins, received 64 inches of snow. (Storm Data)

1987 - Rains of five to eight inches drenched eastern New York State, and ten persons were killed in a bridge collapse over Schoharie Creek. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Sunny and warm weather prevailed across the nation. Fort Smith AR reported a record high of 90 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Lower Mississippi Valley to the Southern Appalachians. The thunderstorms spawned seventeen tornadoes, including one which caused two million dollars damage at Baldwin AL. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 90 mph at Bremen GA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A deep low pressure system in northern New York State brought heavy snow to parts of western and central New York during the day. The snowfall total of 5.8 inches at Buffalo was a record for the date, and 9.5 inches was reported at Rochester. Snowfall totals ranged up to 11 inches at Warsaw. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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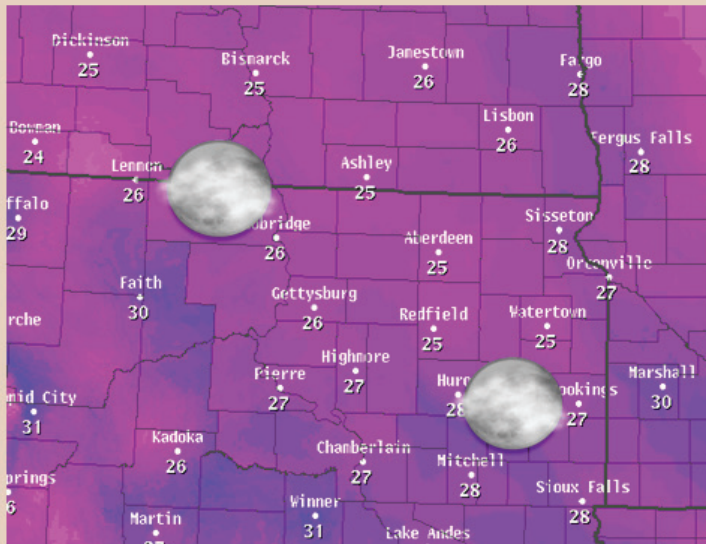
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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Chance Rain/Snow	Chance Rain/Snow	Chance Rain/Snow	Chance Rain/Snow
High: 61 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 51 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 42 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 48 °F

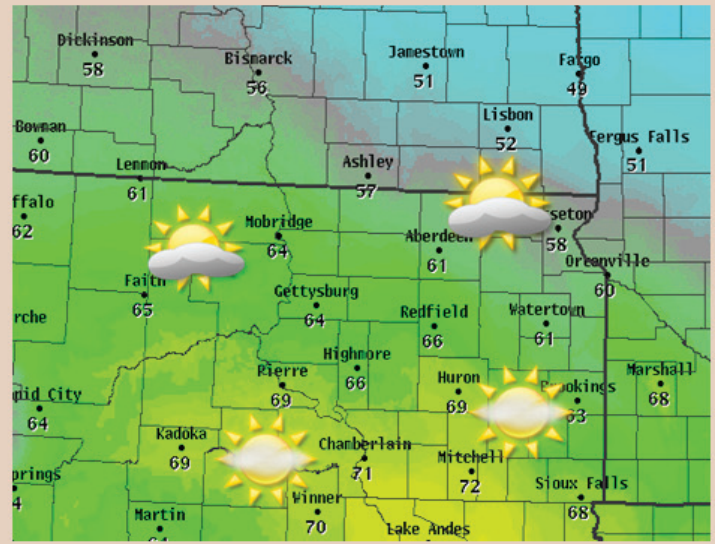


Chilly Tonight, Warmer Saturday

Lows Tonight



Highs Saturday



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 04/03/2015 at 3:16PM

Skies will become mostly clear overnight, allowing temperatures to fall into the 20s most areas. Warmer air will return on Saturday with highs in the upper 50s to upper 60s. The next chance for precipitation will come Sunday night and Monday when a little light rain or light snow will be possible.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 51.7 at 6:15 PM

Low: 18.4 at 7:08 AM

High Gust: 28 at 8:25 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1921

Record Low: 5° in 1920

Average High: 51°F

Average Low: 27°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.13

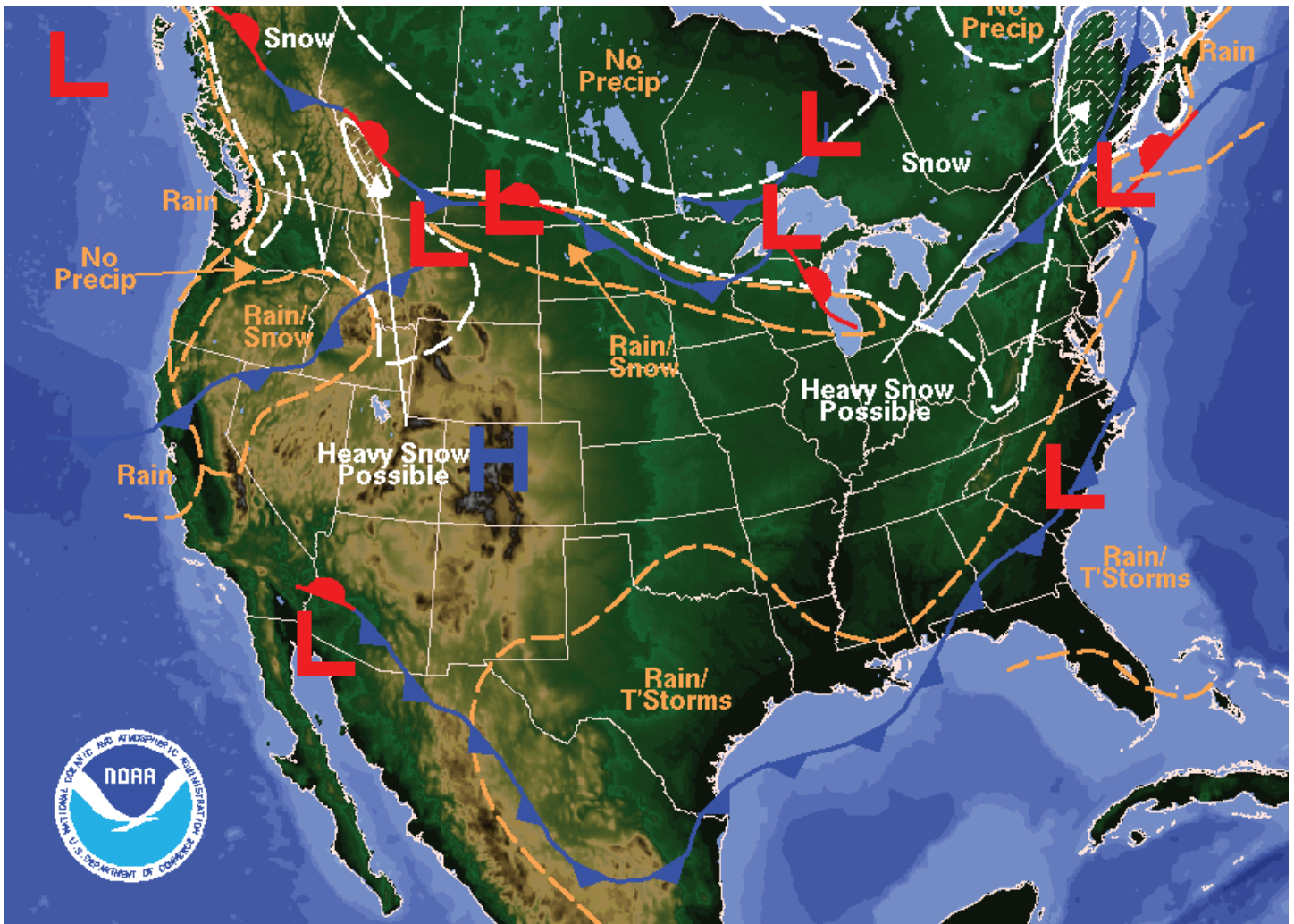
Precip to date in April.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 2.31

Precip Year to Date: 0.47

Sunset Tonight: 8:05 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:07 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Apr 04, 2015, issued 4:34 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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A TEACHING OF JESUS

We sometimes forget that there are many teachings in the New Testament that come from the Old Testament. "Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be heard" is one of those teachings.

Shortly after Jesus began His ministry of teaching and preaching He said, "Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy." However, Jesus did more than preach and teach "The Beatitudes," He brought them to life by the way He lived. If people were hungry, He fed them. If they were sick, He healed them. If they were blind, He gave them sight. If they were lost, He set them on the right path. If they were in darkness, He shed His light to guide them.

Solomon warns us that if we expect good things from God, we must "not shut our ears to the poor." Those who are poor and in need are just as important to God as the most wealthy. But the wealthy and those who have more than "the least of these" are obligated to have "open ears" and do something when they hear the cry of the poor. Closed ears and closed hearts cannot expect God to have open ears and an open heart when they cry to Him in times of need.

Persons who are unrighteous and self-centered and care only for themselves do not understand God's love and mercy and grace. If we love, as God loves, mercy and grace will flow from our hearts - as it does from His - and our ears will be open and our hearts touched and our hands outstretched to bring hope and help to the poor.

One more thought: No matter how "secure" we may think we are with what we have, there is no guarantee that our riches will last forever. We may be forced to cry for His help!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to have ears that are open, hearts that are tender and hands that are willing to help those in need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 21:13 Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.

ATTENTION

Parents and Grandparents:

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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!

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or to apply!**



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Policy Form Series GPP-12

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News from the Associated Press

Enrollment in state's dual credit program up 44 percent

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents says enrollment in its program that allows high school students to earn college credit continues to increase.

The board announced this week that the High School Dual Credit Program saw a 44 percent increase in enrollment between the fall and spring semesters.

The program allows high school students to take college courses at a reduced rate of \$40 per credit and earn both college and high school credit. All six public universities and four technical schools in the state participate in the program.

The regents say 1,077 students enrolled in the program when it was introduced last fall. More than 1,200 students enrolled this spring.

Popular courses include General Psychology, Fundamentals of Speech, College Algebra, Composition I and Introduction to Sociology.

Wanted: Sponsors for weather stations to cover South Dakota

CARSON WALKER, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An effort to blanket South Dakota with real-time weather stations has secured 24 of the 75 units needed to improve statewide weather forecasts, school closures, farming decisions and other uses.

South Dakota State University and SDSU Extension are behind the plan to expand the Mesonet, a network of automated stations that report weather and soil data every 10 minutes. The units gather the typical wind speed, gust and direction, temperature, humidity and rainfall but also track crop soil temperature and moisture and solar radiation, which allow farmers and others in the agriculture industry to make better decisions about when to plant and how much fertilizer to apply, said Nathan Edwards, South Dakota Mesonet manager in Aberdeen.

Real-time weather information is gathered at the state's biggest airports, but about a third of the state's 66 counties have neither an airport nor Mesonet station, which is the gap Edwards said he's trying to fill.

"These stations are not made for aviation. They're meant to cover broader types of applications, including ag and soil data and data that can be used to calculate plant activity," he said.

Edwards said it took two years to get the funding in place for the first 18 stations. He hopes to have 36 supported and maintained in the next two years. The goal to eventually have 75 would be enough to put all South Dakotans within 25 miles of a unit, he said.

Edwards recruits businesses, local governments, tribes and other organizations to cover the \$12,000 to \$15,000 initial cost and \$3,000 annual maintenance fees.

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe recently sponsored a reporting station, in part to better track the flood risk on the nearby the Big Sioux River.

The first sponsor, Full Circle Ag in Britton, uses the data all the time and needed a local station because of the distance to stations in Aberdeen, Watertown and Sisseton, said location manager Joe Gustafson.

Soil temperature and other information are critical this time of year as planting begins, he said.

"When guys are talking about putting in wheat and asking whether I should treat my wheat. Well, temperatures are colder, so you may want to put a treatment on there," Gustafson said.

Though thousands of amateur weather stations send out data, relatively few provide the quality and quantity of information that professional-grade stations do, Edwards said. Many aren't maintained and often aren't sited correctly to ensure accurate measurements, such as too close to a building or a tree, he said.

Mike Fowle, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Aberdeen, echoed that, saying some weather observations on mobile apps and websites default to the nearest station or estimate the local weather based on stations that can be miles away.

"We'd like to have some reliable and good weather observation in every county," Fowle said of the Mesonet data, which is sent to the weather service. "Weather can change pretty substantially in a short distance."

Vice chairman says he's in charge of Lower Brule tribe

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The vice chairman of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe says he has assumed control of tribal government.

Kevin Wright on Friday cited what he said was the tribe's constitution and bylaws in taking over leadership because Chairman Michael Jandreau was hospitalized.

Later in the day, after Jandreau died at a Sioux Falls hospital, Wright told The Associated Press the family needs time to grieve and the federal government needs to know the tribe is functioning.

But it's unclear how tribal government ultimately will operate without Jandreau.

A copy of the tribe's constitution provided to the AP by its general counsel says the tribal council appoints someone to serve the remainder of a Jandreau's term.

Wright was one of the council members who criticized Jandreau over reports of financial mismanagement.

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe leader Michael Jandreau dies

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Michael Jandreau, who as the leader of South Dakota's Lower Brule Sioux Tribe for at least 35 years was known for a variety of economic development projects but had recently faced allegations of financial wrongdoing, died Friday. He was 71.

Jandreau died from complications from pneumonia and heart disease at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls, said tribal attorney Marshall Matz, of Washington, D.C.

"We have lost a visionary Tribal leader who was widely respected throughout the State of South Dakota and the nation," Matz said in an email to The Associated Press.

Councilman Orville Langdeau, who is also the tribe's secretary and treasurer, said, "An icon in Indian Country is gone."

Jandreau was elected to the Lower Brule Tribal Council in the early 1970s and by 1980 was chairman. He earned praise from tribal members and state and federal leaders for economic development projects that benefited the 1,300 Native Americans who live on the tribe's reservation along the Missouri River.

The tribe owns the Golden Buffalo Casino & Motel, a propane plant, a construction company, hunting and tourism enterprises, and a farm that made it one of the nation's top popcorn producers and processors.

"Chairman Jandreau served his tribe for decades, and he was always willing to talk with me about how the state and Lower Brule could partner," Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in an email.

But Jandreau spent his final days defending himself against allegations of financial wrongdoing out-

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lined in January by Human Rights Watch that accused him and others of diverting money and concealing financial activity.

Jandreau and Matz denied any wrongdoing, and Matz urged the organization to retract its findings and issue an apology.

"I believe in myself. I believe in what I've committed my life to, and so every day I talk to that guy first, and I go through my life," Jandreau told the AP on Feb. 28 at the state Capitol in Pierre, pointing upward. "To me that's what it's all about. You know, I've lived my life with one thought in mind: that what I reach beyond this life is more important to me than becoming a wealthy man by skullduggery or wickedness."

Jandreau was born Oct. 20, 1943, in Fort Thompson on the Crow Creek reservation. He was educated in Catholic American Indian schools. He had 10 children, according to Matz. His wife, Jackie, died in 2011.

Officials believe damage to Tolna Dam less than once thought

TOLNA, N.D. (AP) — Officials say damage to a dam in northeastern North Dakota that nearly breached last month isn't as bad as once thought.

WDAY-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/1GaGx6O>) workers with the State Water Commission began to repair the Tolna Dam in Nelson County this week.

Nelson County Commissioner Odell Flaagan says less concrete eroded than originally thought.

The dam nearly breached on March 13th when water began rushing into a five-foot hole that developed on the top of the spillway.

Instead of an eight-week repair project, engineers think the dam can be fixed in six weeks.

The project is affecting efforts to remove flood water from Devils Lake. The east end outlet can't be turned on until the downstream dam is repaired.

Lawsuit arguing parts of Mickelson Trail private dismissed

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says a federal court has decided to dismiss a lawsuit from landowners who wanted to declare that parts of the Mickelson Trail in Fall River County are privately owned.

Jackley says local landowners filed a lawsuit last April arguing some parts of the trail that was originally owned by Grand Island Railroad had passed into private ownership. The 109-mile trail in the Black Hills is on a former railroad line and stretches between Deadwood and Edgemont.

The state argued the corridor was not abandoned but was instead subject to 1989 agreement that allowed the railroad right-of-way to be used as a recreational trail and be managed by the state.

Jackley says the court agreed, confirming the state's right to manage the trail for recreational purposes.

Monthly Dakota Hymn Sing keeping Dakota language alive

LANCE NIXON, Capital Journal

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Red is the color of the Holy Spirit, so it's fitting that it's the color of the door to St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Fort Pierre.

But recently, for Native Americans who grew up speaking and hearing the Dakota language of the eastern Sioux tribes spoken, St. Peter's is also a red door back into that crucial part of their culture. It's at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Fort Pierre that people with connections to the Dakota language are

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meeting once a month for what organizer Mary Ashley calls "Dakota Sing" and what some call "Dakota Hymn Sing."

It's just what it sounds like — a time of singing songs in the Dakota language.

The participants typically meet the third Thursday of every month at St. Peter's starting at 5:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome. The participants sing until they get tired, entirely in the Dakota language. And then they have soup and bread.

But first they feast on words from their native language.

"I think it's important to be around elders because then you hear how they pronounce Dakota and how they make the intonations. I think it's true what they say, the easiest way to learn Dakota is to sing it," Mary Ashley told the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/1GRWRbr>).

Ashley is an organist who was first encouraged to play, in part, by Vine Deloria Sr.— the father of the famous Native American writer of the same name. Ashley said her father, Vernon Ashley, was a lay reader in the Episcopal Church for about 40 years, so she grew up hearing Dakota spoken.

"My mother did not speak the language, but my father did. I am not fluent in it," she said.

That's all the more reason she wants to hear the songs sung in the old words. And she's elated that of the 13 people who attended last month's Dakota Sing, some were young.

"It's good for them to hear the old songs being sung by their elders," Ashley said.

The tunes, she said, are already familiar.

"We sing 'Silent Night' every Christmas and it's the same tune," Ashley said. "'My Faith Looks up to Thee' is the same melody. 'Rock of Ages' is the same melody."

Ashley said the gathering is ecumenical, but noted that the Episcopal Church has been entwined with Dakota culture since before South Dakota statehood. When Dakota people were forcibly relocated to the Crow Creek area after the Minnesota uprising of 1862, Ashley said, some were already Episcopalians. That's apparent in the hymn books the participants sing from during the Dakota Sing event.

"Samuel Hinman was a person who did a lot of the translations," Ashley said. "He came to South Dakota with the Dakota people when they were expelled from Minnesota."

Episcopal pastors in the area like the idea of preserving those ties.

"Dakota Hymn Sing for me is a wonderful way of keeping connected to the Dakota culture," says the Rev. Mercy Hobbs of Trinity Episcopal Church in Pierre. "Singing these hymns also makes a deeper connection with our relationship with God than just talking can. One of the elders and priest, The Rev. Webster Two Hawk, shares stories about each hymn that we sing. Lastly, it is a wonderful time of fellowship."

Ashley said Webster Two Hawk's contribution is important because he talks about the occasions on which a song might be sung and he offers a translation.

At Sinte Gleska University in Mission, South Dakota, Duane Hollow Horn Bear, who teaches the closely related Lakota language, said the event at St. Peter's is good for the language and participants — provided the participants embrace Christian philosophy.

"It is not the philosophy of the traditional language," he said.

And, he noted, some would contend that early missionaries who learned the Dakota language and culture were not so much interested in the culture for itself, but as a tool to impart a new philosophy.

"That's what the missionaries have used to assimilate our people," Hollow Horn Bear said.

Nevertheless, he said, it's positive that Dakota people are practicing the language.

At the University of South Dakota's Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, linguist Armik Mirzayan said it's no simple matter to say how many speakers of Dakota and Lakota there are. He said surveys and anecdotal evidence indicate that Lakota speakers in North Dakota and South Dakota may

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number about 6,000.

He said that the Ethnologue, the comprehensive reference work that catalogs all the known languages in the world today, puts the number of Dakota speakers at about 18,000 over a far-flung area from Minnesota and eastern Nebraska across the Dakotas and into Montana.

But Mirzayan cautioned that it's unclear how the Ethnologue came up with that number, and he said counts of those speaking a certain language vary considerably depending on the methods used. For example, authors Harlan LaFontaine and Neil McKay, in a book from 2004 to teach Dakota verbs, wrote that probably about 6,000 people in the region can converse in the Dakota language on some level, Mirzayan said.

"I'm glad to hear about the efforts to keep the language alive by Singing at the Episcopal Church! That's awesome," Mirzayan said.

1 Harding County wildfire contained, another still burning

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Crews have fully contained one wildfire in northwestern South Dakota's Harding County but are still working to get a handle on a second blaze.

The Great Plains Fire Information office says the Sheep Draw Fire is 100 percent contained, but the Moonshine Fire is only about 5 percent contained. The cause of both fires is still being investigated.

The Sheep Draw Fire scored nearly 22 square miles. The Moonshine Fire is about 6 square miles in size. State Highway 20 between Buffalo and Reva was closed due to that fire. Officials reopened the stretch of road Thursday night.

To the east in Potter County, officials have reopened stretches of U.S. Highway 212 and state Highway 47 that were closed due to a grass fire near Gettysburg.

Unusually short total lunar eclipse dazzles skywatchers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The total eclipse of the moon lasted only a short time, but it still dazzled.

Early risers in the western U.S. and Canada should have been able to catch a glimpse before dawn Saturday. The moment when the moon was completely obscured by Earth's shadow lasted several minutes, making it the shortest lunar eclipse of the century.

Some skygazers complained that clouds prevented them from seeing any of the 3½-hour lunar show.

People in eastern Australia, New Zealand and Japan viewed the eclipse at night.

The total eclipse was unusually brief because the moon passed through the upper part of Earth's shadow. Longer eclipses occur when the moon passes through the middle of the shadow.

The next total lunar eclipse occurs in September.

AP News in Brief

AP Analysis: More negotiations amid questions from skeptics remain for Iranian nuclear deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The framework nuclear deal sealed by world powers and Iran leaves major questions: Could Iran cheat? Possibly. Would the U.S or anyone else be able to respond in time? In theory, yes. Are they prepared to use military force? Questionable.

Would a final deal settle global fears about Iran's intentions? Almost surely, no.

But the surprisingly detailed fact sheet released by the United States after Thursday's diplomatic breakthrough in Switzerland provides President Barack Obama significant ammunition for the fight he'll

face selling an agreement to skeptical U.S. lawmakers and Middle East allies.

That is, if negotiators can get to that point over the next three months.

As Obama said from the White House, "Their work, our work, is not yet done and success is not guaranteed." And the parameters for a comprehensive accord by June 30 still include big holes for Washington and its negotiating partners.

Traditional Mizrahi vote for Netanyahu's Likud unleashes Israeli ethnic divide once again

ROSH HA'AYIN, Israel (AP) — Israel's visceral election campaign has exposed a rift that many here thought had long subsided — the deep-seated schism between Jews of European and Middle Eastern descent.

Mizrahi, or Middle Eastern, Jews heavily backed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party, while Ashkenazi, or European, Jews mostly identified with the opposition Zionist Union.

That dynamic has been going on for a while but passions have run particularly high this time, with jarring results. Since Netanyahu's win, the sides have been exchanging insults that have not been heard in public in a generation — with the Mizrahi voters accused of being primitive and Ashkenazi voters viewed as elitist.

The dispute goes back to Israel's earliest days of independence. Arriving from Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa after Israel's establishment in 1948, many Mizrahi immigrants were sent to shantytown transit camps and largely sidelined by the European leaders of the founding Labor Party.

They found their political savior in Likud's Menachem Begin — even though he was himself of Polish Jewish descent. With consummate skill the longtime opposition leader cultivated an outsiders' alliance that appealed to their sense of deprivation — and with massive Mizrahi backing he swept to power in 1977 to break nearly 30 years of Labor rule.

AP WAS THERE: 'At 4 o'clock they shook hands' — the Civil War's end, as reported in 1865

EDITOR'S NOTE: When Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in a farmhouse parlor in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on April 9, 1865, standing with other war correspondents in the front yard was William Downs MacGregor of The Associated Press.

The names of many AP Civil War correspondents, along with their original manuscript reports, have been lost. But those like MacGregor, whose names were occasionally printed beneath their dispatches, are remembered for delivering disciplined and restrained accounts in an era when reporting was often laced with shrill and sectarian opinion.

The Associated Press had been organized as a newspaper cooperative in 1846, just two years after the first successful telegraph message had been sent. During the war, the AP and most big city papers utilized the thousands of miles of ever-expanding telegraph lines to revolutionize war reporting. For the first time, battlefield victories and defeats could be transmitted and even printed within a day.

Competition was often fierce: When Washington officially confirmed Lee's surrender, one northern paper boasted it beat AP's telegraphic report by 15 minutes. News of the Union victory spread within hours to most major cities in the North and was published there the following day. (Southern papers, for the most part, had by this time been taken over by Union loyalists, had their presses destroyed, or could no longer publish for want of ink and paper.)

But telegraph lines were wildly unreliable too, subject to storms and constant cutting by the combatants. Longer and more fully detailed accounts of the moment most associated with the end of the war didn't appear until April 14, the day Abraham Lincoln was shot and Union troops re-entered Fort Sumter, South Carolina, the place where the war began.

Lufthansa CEO faces scrutiny over how plane's co-pilot got job and damage to reputation.

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The crash of Germanwings Flight 9525 in France has heaped intense pressure on Lufthansa's CEO Carsten Spohr, who in less than a year at the helm has had to grapple with big financial losses, labor unrest and tough competition from lower-cost carriers.

Analysts say he has made the correct moves, notably in his swift expressions of sympathy for the 149 victims and the relatives of those who died last week. French officials say co-pilot Andreas Lubitz locked the pilot out of the cockpit and deliberately flew the Airbus A320 into a mountainside in the French Alps.

They point to Lufthansa's admission that Lubitz had told them during his training that he had been treated for serious depression as an example of owning up quickly to bad news.

"They are taking it absolutely seriously, they are not being anything other than completely cooperative with the authorities and that's a good start," said Andrew Charlton, managing director of strategic consulting and government affairs firm Aviation Advocacy in Nyon, Switzerland.

Spohr, he added, has "checked all the boxes" in responding to the crash and treating the situation with "the gravitas it requires."

Mine explosion hazards persist despite crackdown in 5 years since notorious coal mine blew up

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The nation's worst coal mine disaster in decades exposed lax safety measures at some Appalachian mines, issues that persist five years later despite the crackdown that followed, according to an Associated Press review of federal inspection records.

Excess methane gas and flammable coal dust fueled a fireball that raced through the Upper Big Branch mine in southern West Virginia on April 5, 2010, killing 29 men. The explosion and mass casualties rocked the mining community, which had just recorded its safest year ever in coal mines.

The revelation that inspectors repeatedly had cited the mine for buildups of coal dust and methane, with little disruption to the mine's operations, drove calls for greater accountability. Federal authorities responded by stiffening safety rules, stepping up inspection raids and going after company higher-ups.

Prosecutors have won four convictions against former officials at Massey Energy, the company that owned Upper Big Branch, and secured a rare indictment on conspiracy charges against Don Blankenship, the former CEO. He has pleaded not guilty and is set for trial April 20.

In 2014, the nation again set a new low for coal mining deaths — 16 — in part because about a hundred underground mines have closed in West Virginia and Kentucky over the last five years as the energy industry has moved away from Appalachian coal.

Purported Islamic State video: Militants shot, hammered away Iraq's ancient city of Hatra

BAGHDAD (AP) — Islamic State extremists at Iraq's ancient city of Hatra destroyed the archaeological site by smashing sledgehammers into its walls and shooting Kalashnikov assault rifles at priceless

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statues, a new militant video purportedly from the group shows.

Militants attacked Hatra, a UNESCO World Heritage site, last month, officials and local residents said, though the extent of the damage remains unclear as it is in territory still controlled by the Islamic State group.

The video, released overnight Friday, shows a militant on a ladder using a sledgehammer to bang repeatedly on the back of one of the carved faces until it crashes to the ground and breaks into pieces. The video also shows a militant firing a Kalashnikov rifle at another, while men chop away the bases of some of the larger wall sculptures.

The video corresponded with Associated Press reporting on the attack and was posted to a militant website frequently used by the group.

One of the militants, who speaks Arabic with a distinct Gulf accent on the video, declares they destroyed the site because it is "worshipped instead of God." The Islamic State group, which holds a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria in its self-declared caliphate, has been destroying ancient relics they say promote idolatry that violates their fundamentalist interpretation of Islamic law. Authorities also believe they've sold others on the black market to fund their atrocities.

Iraq struggles with devastation in Tikrit after it was freed from the Islamic State group

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP) — In Iraq's Tikrit, liberation from the Islamic State group comes at a heavy price, both in loss of life and in the sheer devastation the militants leave in their wake.

Much of Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's hometown and once a bustling city north of Baghdad, now lies in ruins.

Islamic State extremists captured it during a blitz last June that also seized large chunks of northern and western Iraq, along with a huge swath of land in neighboring Syria.

After a nearly 10-month Islamic State occupation, it took Iraqi forces and their allies, including Iranian-backed Shiite militias, a month of ferocious street battles to win the city back. They declared victory in Tikrit on Wednesday, and U.S.-led coalition airstrikes also helped turn the tide in the final weeks of the battle.

Today, the houses that still stand are pocked with bullet holes and Tikrit's streets are lined with potholes where mortars slammed down. The provincial headquarters in the downtown — now adorned with Shiite militia flags in place of the Islamic State group's black banner — is burned from fire and damaged from heavy fighting.

Man reported missing at sea for 66 days found, walks away from hospital in good condition

PORTSMOUTH, Va. (AP) — Louis Jordan says he survived 66 days at sea by capturing rainwater in a bucket, snagging little fish to catch bigger fish, and praying to God.

On Friday, a day after he was found, the 37-year-old bearded man walked out of a Norfolk hospital grateful for his good fortune and showing no obvious ill effects.

"We were expecting worse with blisters and severe sunburn and dehydration," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Kyle McCollum, who had the first contact with the sailor.

Jordan was plucked out of the Atlantic Ocean about 200 miles off the North Carolina coast on Thursday afternoon by a German-flagged container ship.

The mast of Jordan's 35-foot sailboat had broken off in heavy weather, and the vessel appeared to

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have flipped over multiple times, said the ship's captain, Thomas Grenz. His boat was upright at the time he was found, Grenz said.

Secular writers in Bangladesh fearful after 2nd blogger slain by suspected Islamists

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — The writer, a thin young man who fears the growing interweaving of religion and politics in Bangladesh, knows his turn could come next. What happened earlier this week, when the second secularist blogger in less than a month was hacked to death in the streets of the capital, made it clear he wasn't safe.

"Anytime they can hit me or my like-minded friends," said Ananya Azad, a 25-year-old blogger who has written pieces that were critical of Islamic fundamentalism and politics driven by religion. He quit his job as a newspaper columnist and stopped writing blogs in recent months after receiving numerous threats, but still posts critical comments on Facebook.

Ananya says he's thinking about fleeing the country and spends much of his time indoors these days.

"They don't hesitate to kill in the name of their beliefs," he said. "I'm an easy target for the fanatics."

Bangladesh, a majority Muslim nation long seen as insulated from the most fervent strains of militant Islam, has seen that reputation crack amid an increasingly bloody divide between secular bloggers and conservative Islamist groups.

AP PHOTOS: Christians celebrate Holy Week

As Holy Week nears an end, Christians around the world are observing Good Friday, which recalls Jesus' death by crucifixion.

Holy Week began with Palm Sunday, in commemoration of the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago.

It continued with Holy Wednesday and then Maundy Thursday, when Pope Francis washed the feet of 12 inmates and a baby at Rome's main prison in a pre-Easter ritual meant to show his willingness to serve.

On Good Friday in the Philippines, . Asia's largest Roman Catholic nation, devotees had themselves nailed to wooden crosses to mimic the suffering of Jesus Christ. Church leaders have spoken against the annual practice mixing Catholic devotion with folk belief.

Standing under a red canopy on the warm evening, In Rome on Good Friday, the pope listened to prayers affirming the right of religious freedom.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, April 4, the 94th day of 2015. There are 271 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 4, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln, accompanied by his son Tad, visited the vanquished Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, where he was greeted by a crowd that included former slaves.

On this date:

In 1818, Congress decided the flag of the United States would consist of 13 red and white stripes and 20 stars, with a new star to be added for every new state of the Union.

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In 1841, President William Henry Harrison succumbed to pneumonia one month after his inaugural, becoming the first U.S. chief executive to die in office.

In 1850, the city of Los Angeles was incorporated.

In 1859, "Dixie" was performed publicly for the first time by Bryant's Minstrels at Mechanics' Hall in New York.

In 1865, the Crossness Pumping Station, a key component of London's new and improved sewage system, was officially opened by Edward, Prince of Wales.

In 1933, the Navy airship USS Akron crashed in severe weather off the New Jersey coast with the loss of 73 lives.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces liberated the Nazi concentration camp Ohrdruf in Germany. Hungary was liberated as Soviet forces cleared out remaining German troops.

In 1958, Johnny Stompanato, an enforcer for crime boss Mickey Cohen and the boyfriend of actress Lana Turner, was stabbed to death by Turner's teenage daughter, Cheryl Crane, who said Stompanato had attacked her mother.

In 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was shot and killed while standing on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1975, more than 130 people, most of them children, were killed when a U.S. Air Force transport plane evacuating Vietnamese orphans crash-landed shortly after takeoff from Saigon. Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1985, Gary Dotson, who'd served six years of a prison sentence for rape, was freed on bail from the Joliet Correctional Center in Illinois after his accuser, Cathleen Crowell Webb, testified that the attack had never occurred. (Charges against Dotson were dropped in 1989; he was pardoned by Illinois Gov. George Ryan in 2002.)

In 1995, Francisco Martin Duran, who had raked the White House with semiautomatic rifle fire in Oct. 1994, was convicted in Washington of trying to assassinate President Bill Clinton (Duran was later sentenced to 40 years in prison).

Ten years ago: Tens of thousands of pilgrims paid their final respects to Pope John Paul II after his body was carried on a crimson platform to St. Peter's Basilica. Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev (AHS'-kahr ah-KY'-ev), who'd fled the country from an uprising, signed a resignation agreement. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled creditors could not seize the Individual Retirement Accounts of bankrupt people. The Los Angeles Times and The Wall Street Journal captured two Pulitzer Prizes apiece; Marilynne Robinson received the fiction award for her novel "Gilead," while John Patrick Shanley received the drama Pulitzer for "Doubt." Coaches Jim Boeheim (BAY'-hym) and Jim Calhoun were elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: At least 42 people were killed as suicide attackers detonated car bombs near embassies in Baghdad. A magnitude-7.2 earthquake struck Mexicali, Mexico. A U.S.-Russian space team sent Easter greetings down to Earth after their Soyuz spacecraft docked flawlessly at the International Space Station.

One year ago: An Afghan police officer opened fire on two Associated Press journalists inside a security forces base in eastern Afghanistan, killing prize-winning photographer Anja Niedringhaus (AHN'-yuh NEE'-dring-hows) and wounding veteran correspondent Kathy Gannon.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Elizabeth Wilson is 94. Former Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., is 83. Recording executive Clive Davis is 83. Bandleader Hugh Masekela is 76. Author Kitty Kelley is 73. Actor Craig T. Nelson is 71. Actor Walter Charles is 70. Actress Christine Lahti is 65. Country singer Steve Gatlin (The Gatlin Brothers) is 64. Actress Mary-Margaret Humes is 61. Writer-producer David E. Kelley is 59.

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Actor Phil Morris is 56. Actress Lorraine Toussaint is 55. Actor Hugo Weaving is 55. Rock musician Craig Adams (The Cult) is 53. Talk show host/comic Graham Norton is 52. Actor David Cross is 51. Actor Robert Downey Jr. is 50. Actress Nancy McKeon is 49. Actor Barry Pepper is 45. Country singer Clay Davidson is 44. Rock singer Josh Todd (Buckcherry) is 44. Singer Jill Scott is 43. Rock musician Magnus Sveningsson (The Cardigans) is 43. Magician David Blaine is 42. Singer Kelly Price is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Andre Dalrymple (Soul For Real) is 41. Actor James Roday is 39. Actress Natasha Lyonne is 36. Actor Eric Andre is 32. Actress Amanda Righetti is 32. Actress Jamie Lynn Spears is 24. Actress Daniela Bobadilla is 22. Pop singer Austin Mahone (muh-HOHN') is 19.

Thought for Today: "You can kill a man but you can't kill an idea." - Medgar Evers, American civil rights activist (1926-1963).