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Thursday, April 9

Birthdays: Becca Monson, Carla Smith, Dale Grenz, Debora Tietz, Lance Larsen, Melissa Connolly, Roxie Merkel, Sydney Rossow

Senior Menu: Hot roast beef combination, carrots, mandarin oranges, peanut butter cookie.

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Lasagna hot dish, corn, romaine salad, fruit, tea buns.

3:30 pm: Track at Milbank

Friday, April 10

Birthdays: Amber Farnen, Martha Miller, Pauline Luce, Cody Herron, Matthew Hinds

Senior Menu: Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, fruit, whole wheat bread.

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

School Lunch: Pepperoni piazza, green beans, veggie cups, fruit.

State Student Congress at Pierre T.F. Riggs High School.

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

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

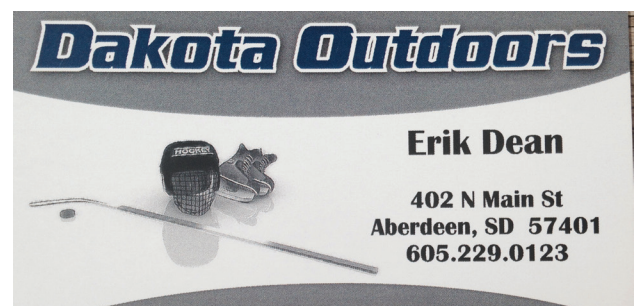
Roger: 605/397-7118

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.



Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean

402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

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Classifieds

Help Wanted

The Groton Area School District is seeking applications for a GRASP OST Coordinator/Paraprofessional. This position includes summer months and offers competitive salary and benefits. This position closes on April 17, 2015. Questions should be directed to Mr. Dan Dalchow, Elementary Principal. Applications can be found at www.grotonarea.com. (0407.0414)

The Groton Area School District is seeking applications for a Business Office Assistant. This position includes summer months and offers competitive salary and benefits. This position will remain opened until filled. Questions should be directed to Mr. Joe Schwan, Superintendent. Applications can be found at www.grotonarea.com. (0407.0414)

Dairy Queen is now hiring! Looking for smiling, energetic people to work day or evening shifts, flexible schedule. Apply in person at 11 E Hwy 12 in Groton.

FOR RENT

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/380-0571 or Arlys Kluess at 605-216-8399.

CARD OF THANKS

I would like to sincerely thank all who came to help celebrate my 90th birthday. Thank you to all that sent cards and gifts. I truly enjoyed them all.

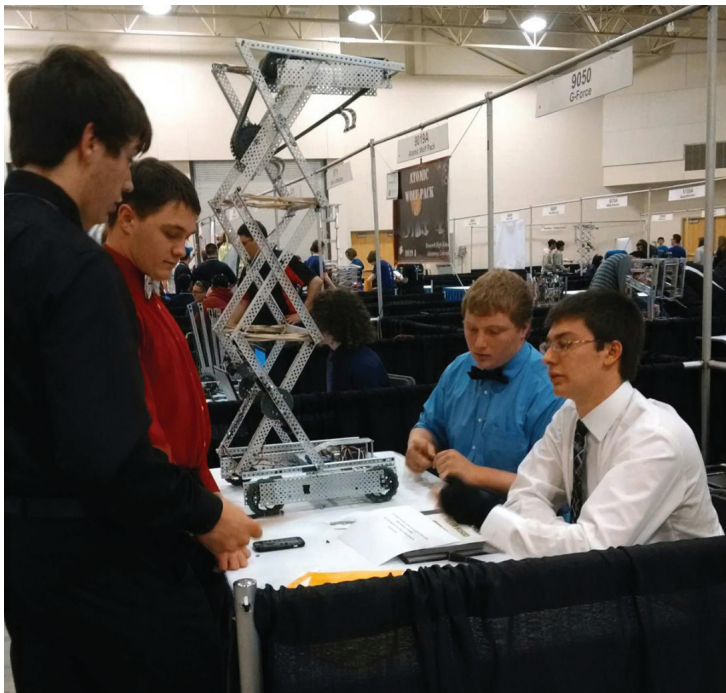
Marie Gengerke. (pd)

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G-Force having a team discussion. Standing, L to R: GT Robotics advisor, Jim Lane, Micah Poor (from the team Gear Heads), Landon Marzahn, Logan Lane seated Hunter Monson and Alex Morris.



Geek Squad in their pit area at Nationals in Council Bluffs, Ia. L to R: Jacob Milbrandt, Devon Poppen, Nick Dalchow and Ethan Braun



GAT Wrenches cleaning up for the evening: L to R: Dragr Monson, Tomas Cranford, Noah Tullis

Groton Area School District #06-6

School Board Meeting

April 13, 2015 – 7:30 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of March 9, 2015 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
2. Approval of minutes of March 23, 2015 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
3. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as school of record.
4. Approval of March District bills for payment.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Approval of March Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
3. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Lars Hanson, Merle Harder, Marty Weismantel
 - b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Dorene Nelson, Grant Rix
 - c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith
4. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Report; (c) Business Manager's Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Issue auxiliary staff work agreements.
2. Set last day of school for 2014-2015 school year [Recommend May 19, 2015].
3. Accept resignation/retirement of Connie Stauch, Business Office Assistant effective June 30, 2015.
4. Accept resignation of Reid Johnson, HS Band Instructor at end of 2014-15 school year.
5. Adopt resolution authorizing membership in the SDHSAA for 2015-2016 school year.
6. Acknowledge receipt of public school exemption #15-08.
7. Appoint board member(s) to review banking fees with administrative staff.
8. Approve hiring Brittany Kjelden as summer custodian at \$11.00/hour up to 40 hours/week.
9. Approve hiring Mason Madsen as summer custodian at \$11.00/hour up to 40 hours/week.
10. Executive session for negotiations pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(4) and student issues pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(2).
11. Other items as deemed appropriate or necessary.

ADJOURN

Aberdeen University/Civic Symphony to present 'Disney in Concert'

ABERDEEN, S.D. – On April 26, Aberdeen concertgoers will be treated to live performances of songs from beloved Disney classics, such as "Frozen" and "The Lion King," while watching excerpts of those films.

The Aberdeen University/Civic Symphony will present "Disney in Concert: Magical Music of the Movies," the final concert of its 2014-15 season, at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 26, at the Aberdeen Civic Theatre.

The program is a spectacular multi-media event that features full symphony orchestra and five Northern State University vocal soloists together with video excerpts from 10 Disney animated features: "Frozen," "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and the Beast," "Pocahontas," "Aladdin," "Lion King," "Jungle Book," "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Mary Poppins" and "Pirates of the Caribbean." In addition, there will be projected never-before-seen art stills from "Mary Poppins."

The program opens with a "Disney Overture," which includes classic animated moments from many of these films plus "The Mickey Mouse Club," "Pinocchio," "Dumbo" and "Cinderella." The program ends with a sing-along version of "It's a Small World After All." The musical scores and videos are being obtained directly from the Disney Concert Library.

Vocal Cast of NSU Students

The five-member vocal cast for this extraordinary event includes Natalie Allcock of Britton, Kaitlin Buchholz of Tripp, Eli Corbett of Deadwood, Emily Davis of Aberdeen and Nathan Wilson of Kimball.

Aberdeen-area concertgoers have thrilled to performances by all of them: Allcock sang the role of Fantine in "Les Misérables"; Buchholz appeared in the recent NSU production of "On the Verge" and in the cast of "Irving Berlin's White Christmas"; Corbett sang the roles of Bob Wallace in "White Christmas" and Marius Pontmercy in "Les Misérables"; Davis sang the role of Audrey in Aberdeen Community Theatre's production of "Little Shop of Horrors," and Wilson sang the role of Enjolras in "Les Misérables." Davis, Buchholz and Corbett were all award winners at this year's National Association of Teachers of Singing competition in Spearfish.

Conducted Program in Indiana

Robert Vodnoy, music director of the orchestra, conducted this program in July 2014 with the Whiting Park Festival Orchestra in northwest Indiana, where he is music director during the summers. Vodnoy began conducting the Whiting orchestra in 2000.

"I can attest to the genuine magic of this program," Vodnoy said. "Young and young-at-heart alike will be treated to their favorite Disney stories, brought to life through memorable melodies brilliantly sung by our talented students and played by our marvelous symphony orchestra. At the same time, they will be able to watch these magical moments of Disney animation projected on a giant screen directly above the orchestra. The interaction between live performance and video is truly spectacular."

Vodnoy said that when he conducted the concert for Whiting's 125th anniversary, over 5,000 people came and were thrilled with it. He said he is delighted to bring this program to Aberdeen and especially grateful for the support of sponsors Molded Fiber Glass Companies, Erin and David Giovannini, Dacotah Bank and the American News, which is making the performance possible.

Vocal Coach from L.A.

To prepare for the performance, NSU Theater Director Dan Yurgaitis is helping with the staging, and well-known Aberdeen Community Theater musical director and accompanist Mary Marion is assisting with the vocal coaching. To put the final touches on the show, the orchestra has contracted A.J. Robb, a Los Angeles-based pianist/vocal coach to come to Aberdeen and work with the singers for almost a week.

"The 90-minute program is like a Broadway show in many ways," Vodnoy said. "The cast sings and dances all of the numbers and introduces each piece with a little background about the animated

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musical film from which it came. A.J. has prepared over 100 performances of this program, and we're thrilled to be able to bring him here to work with the cast and listen to them work with the orchestra."

Ticket Information

The Aberdeen Civic Theatre is the temporary home for concerts of the AUCS during the Johnson Fine Arts Center renovation. Tickets for "Disney in Concert" are priced at adults, \$18; seniors, \$16; and children and non-NSU students, \$12. NSU students are admitted free. Student tickets or other discounted tickets must be picked up from the NSU Wolf Shoppe (bookstore) ticket window, no later than 3 p.m. Friday, April 24. General tickets can be purchased at the Wolf Shoppe; at Engel Music, 209 S. Main St., Aberdeen (605-225-2950); or at the Box Office. For group sales, call Debra at 605-225-5420. For more information about the concert, call the School of Fine Arts Office at 605-626-2497.

The orchestra receives a grant from the South Dakota Arts Council and is supported by NSU and the Friends of the Aberdeen University/Civic Symphony (Gregg Magera, president). For more information about the orchestra, visit www.aberdeensymphony.org or friend them on Facebook.

Aberdeen University/Civic Symphony Personnel Roster

Violin I

Beth Neitzert#, Aberdeen
Iiris Säkkinen, Riihimäki, Finland
Noelle Stubbe, Aberdeen
Gregg Magera, Aberdeen
Xin Wang, Beijing, China
Kira Makeever, Aberdeen
Emily Engelhart, Westport
Hans Peterson, Huron

Violin II

Timothy Woods#, Aberdeen
Jessie Kolb, Aberdeen
Sara Kjetland, Watertown
Leandro Fernandez, Rosario, Argentina
Nancy Ohnstad, Aberdeen
Christa Coyne, Aberdeen
Elizabeth Gustafson, Sioux Falls

Viola

Meagan Teply#, Aberdeen
Josh Opp, Aberdeen
Deryn Lewis, Aberdeen

Cello

Stuart Davidson#, Crocker
Natasha Tharp, Watertown
Marian Casey, Sioux Falls
Laura Keller, Sioux Falls

Bass

Erin Wolter#, Frederick
John Casey, Sioux Falls
Trevor Carlson, Sioux Falls

Flute and Piccolo

Kylie Rusch#, Bismarck, N.D.
Maris Grewe, Aberdeen
Maggi Liebetrau, Elk Point

Oboe and English horn

Jamie Stadel#, Aberdeen
Derek Vandentop, Canton
Fred Hemke, Aberdeen

Clarinet and bass clarinet

John Patzlaff#, Aberdeen
Molly Royals, Rapid City
Jacque Bratcher, Lead

Bassoon

Anna Dzieweczynski#, Inver Grove Heights, Minn
Alyssa Ullrich, Aberdeen

Horn

Ginny Lewis#, Aberdeen
Elsa Swanson, Chaska, Minn.
Colton Schaefer, Wilmot
Gretchen Sharp, Bath

Trumpet

Amanda Wentz#, Bismarck, N.D.
Nick Ries, Watertown
Hillary Sward, Dell Rapids

Trombone

Christina Renz#, Lennox
Brady Vandevort, Rapid City
Carl Mathwig, Waconia, Minn.

Tuba

John Gorr, Rapid City

Keyboards

Kelly McPhail, Wessington Springs
Mary Marion, Aberdeen

Timpani and Percussion

Luke Bergjord, Aberdeen
Balie Albrecht, Rapid City
Daniel Jimenez, Cochabamba, Bolivia
Nyssa Duffield, Browns Valley, Minn.

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Blood Drive is April 16th

The Groton Blood Drive is set for Thursday, April 16, noon to 6 p.m. at the Groton American Legion. Contact June Ackman at 397-8369 or Carol Osterman at 397-8498 to make an appointment.

Today in Weather History

1877 - Oregon Inlet, NC, was widened three quarters of a mile by a nor'easter. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1947 - A tornado struck Woodward, OK, during the late evening killing 95 persons and causing six million dollars damage. The tornado, one to two miles in width, and traveling at a speed of 68 mph, killed a total of 167 persons along its 221 mile path from Texas into Kansas, injured 980 others, and caused nearly ten million dollars damage. (David Ludlum) A man looking out his front door was swept by a tornado from his home near Higgins TX and carried two hundred feet over trees. The bodies of two people, thought to be together at Glazier TX, were found three miles apart. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1977 - A storm brought 15.5 inches of rain to Jolo, WV, in thirty hours. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - International Falls, MN, reported their sixth straight record high for the date, with a reading of 77 degrees. A cold front ushering sharply colder weather into the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 60 mph at Glasgow MT. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Residents of Sioux City, IA, awoke to find two inches of snow on the ground following a record high temperature of 88 degrees the previous afternoon. (The National Weather Summary)








1989 - Eighteen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Eureka CA established a record for the month of April. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from the Central High Plains to Arkansas and northern Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned five tornadoes, and there were seventy reports of large hail and damaging winds. A tornado injured four persons at Ardmore OK, and thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Kellyville OK, and hail three inches in diameter at Halmstead KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2011 - An EF-3 tornado hits Mapleton, IA. Officials estimate more than half the town is damaged or destroyed but none of the 1200 residents were killed. 31 tornadoes were confirmed across Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina on this day.

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| Today | Tonight | Friday | Friday Night | Saturday | Saturday Night | Sunday |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chance Rain | Blustery | Sunny | Mostly Clear | Breezy | Partly Cloudy | Breezy |
| High: 56 °F | Low: 29 °F | High: 56 °F | Low: 32 °F | High: 71 °F | Low: 49 °F | High: 64 °F |



Dry & Mild Conditions Dominate Into Next Week

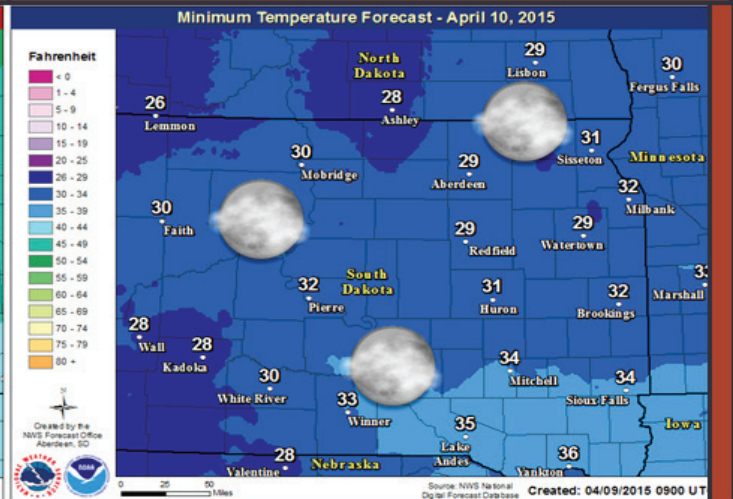
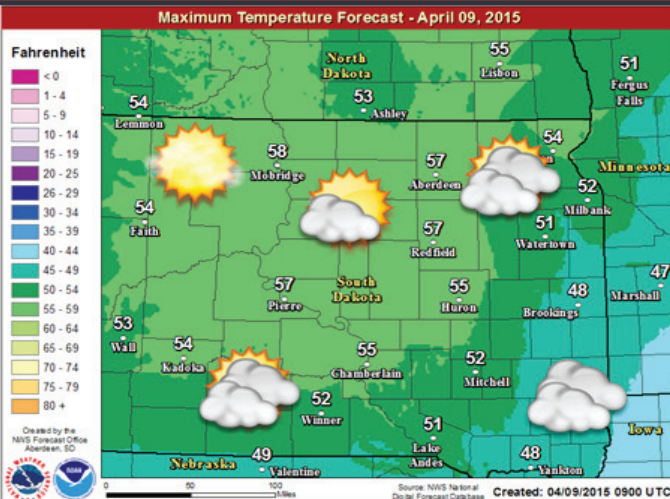


- Low relative humidity & strong north winds develop this afternoon
- Low relative humidity with light winds Friday
- Low relative humidity ... Above normal temperatures ... strong south breeze for Saturday



Highs

Lows



weather.gov/Aberdeen National Weather Service Aberdeen @NWSAberdeen Updated: 4/9/2015 4:46 AM Central

Published on: 04/09/2015 at 4:48AM

Dry air returns to dominate the weather for the next several days, with fire weather conditions again becoming the chief concern. Today, there is the potential for strong north winds. Winds will be light for Friday, however Saturday will feature a strong south breeze and well above normal temperatures.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 46.8 at 4:39 PM

Low: 35.1 at 5:53 AM

High Gust: 20 at 11:10 AM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 91° in 1977

Record Low: 8° in 1997

Average High: 54°F

Average Low: 29°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.37

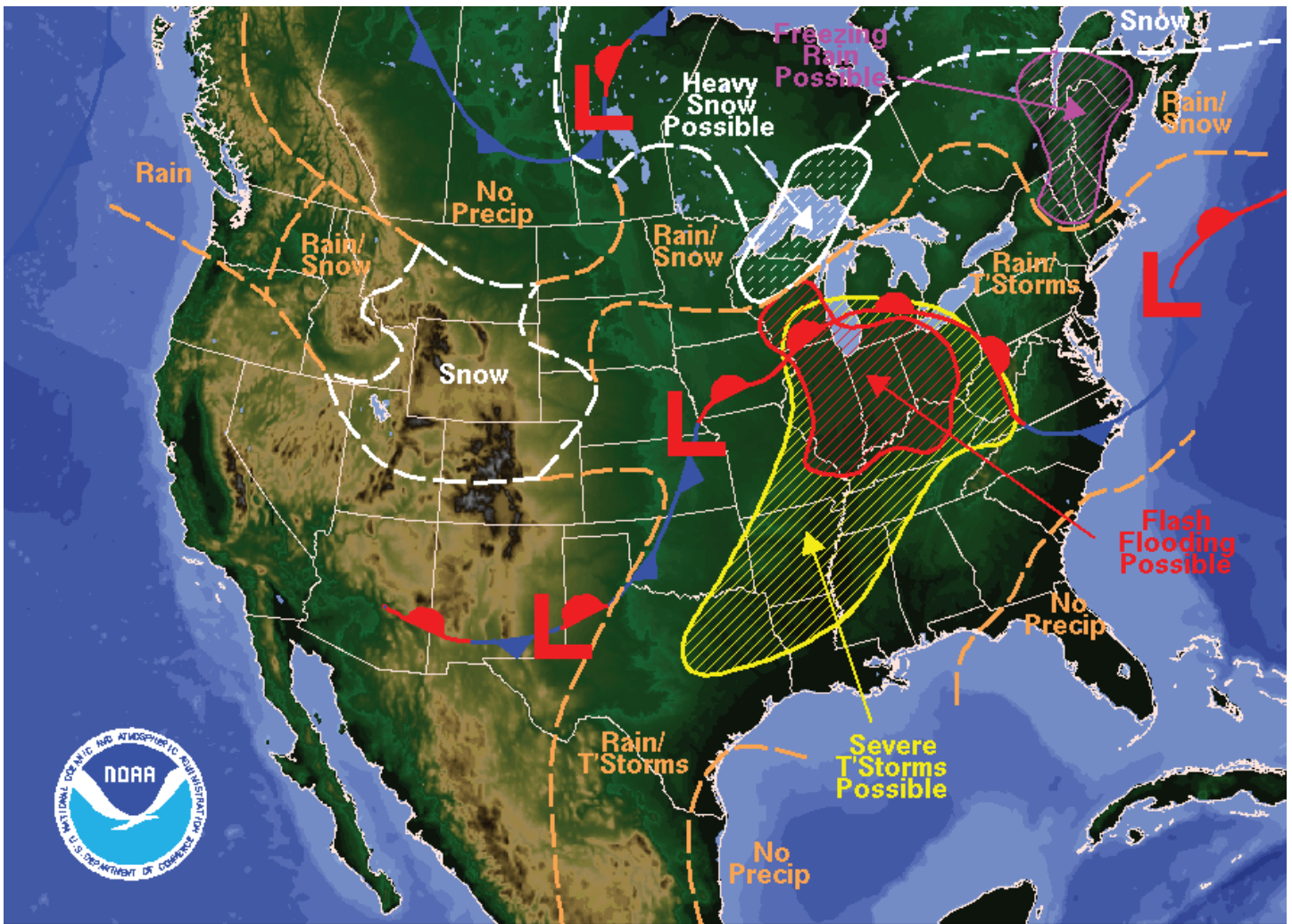
Precip to date in April.: 0.01

Average Precip to date: 2.55

Precip Year to Date: 0.48

Sunset Tonight: 8:12 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:58 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Apr 09, 2015, issued 3:40 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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PASS IT ON

Many parents strive to leave an inheritance for their children. They have a sense of obligation and duty to work and sacrifice to make certain that those they leave behind will have more than they did. They didn't have much of this "world's goods" so they want to make life a little easier and more comfortable for others who are left behind.

It is one thing to leave an inheritance and quite another to leave a legacy. An inheritance is made up of "things" - monetary, physical, tangible, negotiable items that have a "cash value" attached to them. However, a legacy is quite different.

While not all parents leave an inheritance for their children, all parents leave their children a legacy. Legacies are the core values of life that are passed on to children that guide and guard them. It is a process of instilling attitudes in children that makes life work to the glory of God. Godly legacies will provide wisdom, insight and knowledge that shape behavior and give purpose and meaning to life.

An inheritance is something parents can leave to their children but a legacy is much more than that. A legacy is a way of life that is planted deep inside the heart of a child that produces Godly behavior.

"Be wise my son, and bring joy to my heart; then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt."

It is obvious that Solomon wanted to leave a legacy for his children that exceeded his wealth: A God-like character.

Prayer: We pray, Father, that each of us will leave legacies that honor You and inspire others to follow You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 27:11 Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart; then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt.

Spring Annual
Ladies Night

Designer Fashions
50-75% off
with Deb Gengerke &
new spring
fashions showing

**Original
Photography
Showing**
by Kendyl (Hanson) Brooks

**Olde Bank
Floral**
'N More

10% discount
on regular priced merchandise
- some exclusions apply

Up to **75% off**
with several new
markdowns

Hors d'oeuvre • Wine Tasting

Thursday, April 9th - 5-8 pm

101 N. Main St.
Groton, SD
605-397-8650

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!

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



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**As long as premiums are paid*

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

Analysis: Few SD vets wait more than 30 days for appointment **CARSON WALKER, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Relatively few veterans in South Dakota had to wait more than 30 days for an appointment at a Veterans Affairs medical center or clinic, according to an analysis of the most recent government data.

The Associated Press examined waiting times at 940 VA hospitals and outpatient clinics from Sept. 1 to Feb. 28 to see how things might have improved since a scandal over delays and attempts to cover them up led to the resignation of the agency's secretary and prompted lawmakers in August to pass the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act.

The AP's analysis found that, nationally, 2.8 percent of all appointments handled by the health system failed to meet the federal timeliness goal, which calls for patients to be seen within 30 days. The majority of South Dakota's VA locations fared better than the national average, less than 1.5 percent, though three fell just short: Fort Meade at 3.6 percent, Rapid City at 3 percent and Sioux Falls at 2.9 percent, according to the data.

"Our veterans are getting the care they need. And if they're waiting, it's often something we're doing to support their choice of when they get their health care and where they get their health care," said Darwin Goodspeed, a Navy veteran who now leads the Sioux Falls VA system. He cited possible examples, such as snowbirds who won't see their VA doctor until returning from warmer climates or veterans in rural areas scheduling numerous appointments for one trip to a VA site.

"A fairly large majority of them have agreed to stay on that waiting list because they want to wait for a VA doctor. They don't want to go a civilian doctor. They're willing to wait," added Ken Laughlin, adjutant executive director of the Disabled American Veterans for South Dakota.

One potential change that could alter some wait times in western South Dakota is the proposed closure of the inpatient hospital at Hot Springs, which would shift some services to Rapid City, Laughlin said.

But VA Black Hills Health Care System acting director Jo-Ann Ginsberg said that wouldn't be the case because a new outpatient clinic would be built in Hot Springs to handle all other services, she said.

"Rather than be housed in an outpatient part of our hospital, they'd be housed in an outpatient clinic," Ginsberg said.

Sloan Gibson, deputy secretary of the VA, said that when he looked at the Hot Spring hospital's data a few months ago, just five patients, on average, were spending the night.

That illustrates some of the unique challenges the VA faces when it comes to allocating resources and dealing with patient access, he said. Only the VA would continue to operate a full-service hospital in an area with so little demand for inpatient services, Sloan said, adding that the Black Hills hospital staff had done a good job ensuring quality care.

"Go find a private sector hospital" operating with just five patients per night, he said. "In fact, you won't find them."

While the overall number of South Dakota appointments with a wait time of 61 days or more was relatively low, it was higher in January and February at the Fort Meade hospital, which Ginsberg attributed to various factors, such as post-holiday scheduling, snowbirds scheduling for their return and some farmers taking advantage of the slower month.

Rain likely to slow search for missing South Dakota boy

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Rain is likely to slow the search for a 6-year-old southeastern South Dakota boy believed drowned in the Missouri River on Easter.

Yankton Police Chief Brian Paulsen says authorities searching for Lincoln Hilt, of Hurley, plan to focus

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on gearing up for the weekend, when the weather should be more favorable.

Hilt went missing Sunday night while fishing with family from the docks at a Yankton city park. He had received a fishing pole in his Easter basket.

South Dakota and Nebraska officials are using boats and airplanes in their search.

SD schools use grants to improve math, science instruction

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Federal grants of \$270,000 will go toward six South Dakota projects geared toward improving science and mathematics instruction in middle and high schools.

South Dakota State University, Black Hills State University and the Sanford Underground Research Facility are involved as are K-12 schools in Waubay, Chamberlain, White River, Newell, Hoven, Bennett County, Todd County, Huron and Chamberlain.

The Title II grants from the U.S. Department of Education pair university science, math, and education faculty with teachers and administrators from high-need school systems for specialized summer workshops and follow-up activities. Those efforts will lead to lesson plans in math and science throughout the school year.

About 125 teachers from across South Dakota will participate. Grant amounts for the six projects range from \$29,000 to \$50,000.

6 regions where vets wait longest for VA care

DAVID B. CARUSO, Associated Press

The Veterans Affairs system operates more than 1,000 facilities. A look at some regions where waits were longest over a six-month period beginning on Sept. 1 and ending Feb. 28:

-
Northern Florida:

It's a long drive from the tip of Florida's panhandle to Jacksonville, on the Atlantic coast, but with some detours you can hit four of the most delay-prone VA outpatient clinics in the country. The VA clinics in Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Panama City and Pensacola collectively completed 250,000 appointments during the six-month period. Nearly 13 percent of those visits involved a wait of longer than 30 days, well above the national average of 2.8 percent. In Jacksonville, 7,117 appointments involved a wait of more than 60 days — more than in the entire states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut combined.

-
Central Alabama:

When the U.S. government built a veterans hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama, in 1923, the idea was to create a haven for black servicemen excluded from "whites only" medical facilities. From September to February, that facility and its sister medical center in nearby Montgomery, Alabama, struggled more than any other VA hospitals to meet the department's goals for timely access to care. About 9 percent of patient visits involved a wait of longer than 30 days.

-
Georgia:

Of the 100 VA hospitals and clinics with the most patients waiting more than 30 days for care, 10 are in Georgia. A small VA clinic near Fort Benning, in Columbus, Georgia, has been among the worst performers. About 13 percent patient visits involved a wait of more than 30 days. It has close to the longest average wait for mental health care in the country. At the VA hospital in Dublin, one in 36 ap-

pointments involved a wait longer than 60 days.

-
Eastern North Carolina:

North Carolina is home to the Army's Fort Bragg, the Marines' Camp Lejeune, and nine of the 50 VA medical facilities with the most patients waiting more than 30 days for care. Around 16 percent of the vets getting treatment at the clinic in Jacksonville, North Carolina, had to wait longer than 30 days for an appointment. Close to 1 in 9 patients there had to wait longer than 60 days to see a caregiver. The VA has opened several new clinics in the state in recent years to deal with long waits, but those new and expanded sites haven't met expanding demand.

-
Hampton Roads, Virginia:

A home to U.S. naval power, and a popular spot for military retirees, the Hampton Roads region of southeastern Virginia also ranks among the worst places for a vet to get a timely appointment at the VA. About 7.3 percent of the appointments completed at the VA hospital in Hampton failed to meet the department's timeliness standards. At the outpatient clinic in Virginia Beach, 18 percent of patient visits involved a wait of longer than 30 days — although things have been improving. The clinic completed nearly 89 percent of its visits in a timely fashion in February, compared to 76 percent six months earlier.

-
Tennessee and Kentucky:

The VA has opened a host of small medical clinics in rural Tennessee and southern Kentucky, and while they treat a modest number of patients, those that do come are among the most likely to face a long wait for care. Thirteen of the 100 VA sites with the highest percentage of patients waiting more than 30 days are in the two states. The outpatient clinic in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, has the highest percentage of delayed appointments of any VA clinic in the country. Nearly 20 percent of the 5,377 appointments completed at that facility involved a wait of longer than 30 days, and things have been getting steadily worse since the summer.

Appointments and wait times at South Dakota VA locations

The Associated Press

An Associated Press analysis of waiting times at Veterans Affairs hospitals and outpatient clinics found that most South Dakota appointments were handled within the federal timeliness goal, which calls for appointments to be completed within 30 days.

Here are the number of appointments at each site in the state and the number of longer wait times between Sept. 1 and Feb. 28:

—Sioux Falls medical center: 80,052 completed appointments; 315 involved waits of 61 days or more, 64 of more than 90 days.

—Fort Meade medical center near Sturgis: 37,091 medical appointments; 148 involved waits of 61 days or more, 10 more than 90 days.

—Hot Springs medical center: 24,893 appointments; 28 involved waits of 61 days or more, five more than 90 days.

—Rapid City clinic: 10,839 appointments; 66 involved waits of 61 days or more, four more than 90 days.

—Aberdeen clinic: 7,355 appointments; 18 involved waits of 61 days or more, three more than 90 days.

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—Watertown clinic: 6,209 appointments; nine involved waits of 61 days or more, four more than 90 days.

—Wagner clinic: 1,525 appointments; five involved waits of 61 days or more, five of at least 90 days.

—Pierre clinic: 1,168 appointments; no wait times of 61 days or more.

—Winner clinic: 709 appointments; no wait times of 61 days or more.

—Pine Ridge clinic: 313 appointments; no wait times of 61 days or more.

—Eagle Butte clinic: 181 appointments; no wait times of 61 days or more.

—Mission clinic: 161 appointments; no wait times of 31 days or more.

—McLaughlin clinic: 18 appointments; no wait times of 31 days or more.

Transportation Department to repair Highway 105 in mid-April

NORTH SIOUX CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Transportation is scheduled to begin resurfacing Highway 105 in North Sioux City later this month.

The Transportation Department said Wednesday that the asphalt resurfacing will begin the week of April 13.

The contractor is expected to finish up work on Highway 105 by the middle of May, and traffic is expected to be maintained over the course of the maintenance.

Knife River Midwest will repair the highway. The Sioux City-based company will address the road and shoulders as part of a roughly \$700,000 contract.

Lower Brule Sioux leader seeks out new tribal attorneys

LOWER BRULE, S.D. (AP) — A Lower Brule Sioux tribal official acting as chairman has asked for new tribal counsel and says he will soon attempt to dismiss three tribal attorneys who worked under late Chairman Michael Jandreau.

Then-Vice Chairman Kevin Wright cited the tribe's constitution and bylaws when he took over leadership Friday, hours before Jandreau died. They opposed each other politically.

Wright said he would send emails Wednesday evening dismissing three lawyers who worked with the tribe, including General Counsel Tara Adamski and attorney Marshall Matz. Adamski didn't return calls Wednesday.

Matz and the third attorney, Dennis Ickes, said they had not yet heard from Wright.

Rapid City-based attorney Steven Emery says he would be one of several new attorneys if the council approves a new contract.

Jandreau's funeral is Thursday.

Activists working to block election law from taking effect

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Activists are working to block a new bundle of election law changes that opponents say would discourage candidates from running for office and overly burden independent political hopefuls from getting on the ballot.

The state Democratic Party and other activists are campaigning to stop the law, which was passed by the Republican-dominated Legislature this session, by referring it to the voters for their review. Opponents must secure 13,871 signatures from registered South Dakota voters and submit them to the secretary of state's office by June 29 to put the issue on the 2016 ballot.

Liberal activist Cory Heidelberger filed a petition in late March to begin such a campaign. Heidelberger

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said he is working with a politically diverse group of South Dakota activists to push back against the legislation, which Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed on March 20.

"Voters are having their rights taken away," Heidelberger said.

But Republican Sen. Ernie Otten, who worked on the legislation, said that the law changes make sure political parties are treated equally. He said the law is a "good compromise" and could help smaller political parties get out their message and grow.

"We were pretty sure that it was going to get challenged by them, and I guess the voters can have their say in it," Otten said.

The law is scheduled to go into effect on July 1. Securing the signatures would put the changes on hold until the 2016 election.

The law was initially put forward to allow citizens more time to challenge a candidates' nominating petition by moving up the candidate filing deadlines. But the Legislature added pieces that opponents say would make it harder for independent candidates to collect enough signatures to get on the ballot. Lawmakers reduced the number of signatures that would be necessary for an independent to collect, but limited the pool of potential signatories by blocking registered Republicans or Democrats from providing them.

"Previously, independent candidates could get signatures from the entire voter pool," said Pam Peak, executive director of the Centrist Project, which works to elect independent U.S. senators. "Now, they're restricted to what (the law) defines as independent voters."

The South Dakota Democratic Party is concerned that the earlier candidate filing deadlines will make it harder to get candidates to run.

Democratic Party Chairwoman Ann Tornberg said the bill also "creates more red tape for candidate withdrawal and replacement" and said the existing law worked well.

"We don't understand the Republican insistence that they need to fix something that isn't broken," Tornberg said. "They already have a supermajority in the Legislature, so I can't understand why they think they have to put more barriers in front of the election process."

Otten said it's important to give citizens enough time to challenge nominating petitions. He also said the new petitioning period is balanced because it includes the winter holidays, which means more people will be at home when candidates are knocking on doors.

"I think that we came up with something pretty middle of the road," he said.

Body of Colorado woman lost in SD flood found by rancher

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in western South Dakota say the body of a 24-year-old Colorado woman who was swept up in flood waters while driving last summer has been found.

Butte County Sheriff Fred Lamphere says an area rancher found the body of Kristen Lakin in a field while working cattle on Easter Sunday. She was found about seven miles downstream from where she disappeared on June 17.

Lakin, of Grand Junction, Colorado, was traveling south on Highway 85 from North Dakota with 57-year-old Roxanne Bleibaum when their SUV was hit with a flash flood from a surging Battle Creek.

Bleibaum survived and was able to walk back to the highway the same day.

Authorities searched for Lakin for weeks last summer without any luck.

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Talking turkey: How bird flu outbreaks are playing out

STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A deadly strain of bird flu has reached the Midwest, killing or requiring hundreds of thousands of turkeys to be euthanized. Some questions and answers about the outbreak:

WHAT KIND OF FLU IS THIS, EXACTLY?

H5N2 is a highly contagious virus that kills commercial poultry quickly once it gets into a barn. It can spread through an infected bird's droppings or nasal discharges — yes, turkeys can sneeze. But the risk to the public is considered low, and infected birds are kept out of the food supply.

WHERE IS THIS TURNING UP, AND IN WHAT KINDS OF BIRDS?

Minnesota has been hit harder than any other state, but it's not clear why. The virus has caused outbreaks at nine turkey farms in central and western Minnesota since late February, as well as farms in the Mississippi and Central flyways in Missouri (2) South Dakota (1), Kansas (1) and Arkansas (1). Nearly all the losses have been at big commercial turkey farms. But this strain of bird flu can be just as deadly to chickens. The Kansas outbreak involved a backyard flock of chickens and ducks. H5N2 and other highly pathogenic strains have also been found since late last year among wild birds, backyard flocks and commercial farms in some western states and British Columbia. Canadian officials confirmed Wednesday that a turkey farm in southern Ontario had also been infected with H5N2.

AREN'T MOST COMMERCIAL POULTRY BARNS SHUT TIGHT TO KEEP DISEASES OUT?

They are. Poultry farms with good biosecurity strictly limit who's allowed in. Workers often have to shower on their way in and out, wear protective coveralls and step in disinfectant to kill viruses on their boots. Equipment coming in and out is typically sanitized. Trucks entering and leaving a farm might get their tires scrubbed. But the system doesn't always work. Experts say it requires everyone to do everything right all the time. Plus rodents and wild birds that sneak into a barn can bring in the virus.

SO WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE TURKEYS WHEN BIRD FLU ARRIVES?

They die, and quickly. The first symptom farm workers notice may be a rapid spike in sudden deaths. Less severe symptoms can be similar to colds and flu in humans, or a flock turning quiet. Vaccines have been used around the world to protect flocks against various bird flu strains ahead of time, but this strain is new to the U.S. Once an infection is confirmed at a farm, all surviving birds on the property are typically killed to prevent it from spreading. These flocks are usually killed by pumping a water-based foam into the barn, following guidelines from the U.S. Department of Agriculture endorsed as humane by the American Veterinary Medical Association. The foam suffocates the birds within minutes.

OH. SO WHAT DO THEY DO WITH ALL THESE DEAD BIRDS?

They compost them — usually right in the same barn where they died. It sounds gross, but compost-

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ing is a widely used and approved method throughout the poultry industry to dispose of birds that die in the usual course of business on a farm — and those that die in disease outbreaks. Studies show that properly done, the heat generated by composting is enough to kill flu viruses and other pathogens commonly present in poultry such as salmonella. The compost then can be safely spread as fertilizer.

DO THESE OUTBREAKS WIPE OUT AFFECTED FARMERS?

An outbreak that kills tens of thousands of birds certainly can cost a farm dearly. The government doesn't compensate producers for birds that die of the disease itself, but it does reimburse them for birds that have to be euthanized as a precaution. That gives farmers an incentive to report suspected outbreaks and deal with them swiftly. Often the birds themselves belong to a big poultry company such as Jennie-O Turkey Store, Cargill or Butterball but are being raised by contract growers. And a barn can be returned to production within a few months, once it's been thoroughly cleaned out and disinfected.

WHY DOES MINNESOTA HAVE SO MANY TURKEYS?

Minnesota is the top turkey state in the U.S. It produces around 46 million turkeys each year worth about \$750 million, and exports around 8 percent of its production. Turkey farms have become clustered over the decades around processing plants and cheap sources of feed, and Minnesota has plenty of both. Jennie-O is based in prime turkey territory in western Minnesota, and Minnesota is also leading corn and soybean producer.

SO DOES THIS MEAN I'LL BE PAYING MORE FOR TURKEY?

Probably not. While Minnesota alone has lost at least 373,000 birds from this outbreak, and the toll nationwide is over 500,000, that's just a sliver of U.S. turkey production — 235 million birds in 2014. If anything, the loss of export markets because of these outbreaks may put downward pressure on prices because that turkey will have to be sold domestically. And don't worry about Thanksgiving. Turkey prices around the holidays often have nothing to do with the costs of production. Retailers often sell turkeys at a loss just to draw in customers who'll stock up on stuffing mix, cranberries, sweet potatoes, pies and other traditional favorites.

Obedient thief returns cash at request of truck stop clerk

TEA, S.D. (AP) — A would-be thief at a truck stop in Tea may be bad at stealing, but he can sure follow orders.

Lincoln County Sheriff Dennis Johnson says a man walked into the Roadway Express Stop early Wednesday morning and grabbed some cash out of the register when the clerk wasn't looking.

As soon as the clerk noticed, he told the man to give the money back. And he did.

The man left the building, tried to pump gas and then drove away.

Johnson says police are still looking for the suspect and that he could be charged with theft.

He's described as a 5-foot-9 white man in his late 20s. He weighs about 200 pounds and drives a late 2000s Ford 500 or Taurus.

VA makes little headway in fight to shorten waits for care

DAVID B. CARUSO, Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — A year after Americans recoiled at new revelations that sick veterans were getting sicker while languishing on waiting lists — and months after the Department of Veterans Affairs instituted major reforms — government data shows that the number of patients facing long waits at VA facilities has not dropped at all.

No one expected that the VA mess could be fixed overnight. But The Associated Press has found that

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since the summer, the number of medical appointments delayed 30 to 90 days has largely stayed flat. The number of appointments that take longer than 90 days to complete has nearly doubled.

Nearly 894,000 appointments completed at VA medical facilities from Aug. 1 to Feb. 28 failed to meet the health system's timeliness goal, which calls for patients to be seen within 30 days.

That means roughly one in 36 patient visits involved a delay of at least a month. Nearly 232,000 of those appointments involved a delay of longer than 60 days.

A closer look reveals deep geographic disparities.

Many delay-prone facilities are clustered in a handful of Southern states, often in areas with a strong military presence, a rural population and patient growth that has outpaced the VA's sluggish planning process.

Of the 75 clinics and hospitals with the highest percentage of patients waiting more than 30 days for care, 12 are in Tennessee or Kentucky, 11 are in eastern North Carolina and the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, 11 are in Georgia or southern Alabama and six are in north Florida.

Seven more were clustered in the region between Albuquerque, New Mexico and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Those 47 clinics and hospitals represent just a fraction of the more than 1,000 VA facilities nationwide, but they were responsible for more than one in five of the appointments that took longer than 60 days to complete.

That has meant big headaches for veterans like Rosie Noel, a retired Marine sergeant awarded the Purple Heart in Iraq after rocket shrapnel slashed open her cheek and broke her jaw.

Noel, 47, said it took 10 months for the VA to successfully schedule her for a follow-up exam and biopsy after an abnormal cervical cancer screening test. Her first scheduled appointment in February of 2014 was postponed due to a medical provider's family emergency, she said. Her make-up appointment at the VA hospital in Fayetteville, one of the most backed-up facilities in the country, was canceled when she was nearly two hours into the drive from her home in Sneads Ferry on the coast.

Noel said she was so enraged, she warned the caller she had post-traumatic stress disorder — and they better have security meet her in the lobby.

"To say I was livid is being mild," she said.

The AP examined six months of appointment data at 940 individual VA facilities to gauge changes since a scandal over delays led to the resignation of the VA's secretary and prompted lawmakers in August to give the VA an additional \$16.3 billion to hire doctors, open more clinics and build the new Choice program that allows patients facing long delays to get private-sector care. Data for individual facilities were not available for August.

The analysis reveals stark differences between the haves and have-nots.

In the Northeast, Midwest and Pacific Coast states, few VA sites reported having significant delays. A little less than half of all VA hospitals and clinics reported averaging fewer than two appointments per month that involved a wait of more than 60 days.

But at the VA's outpatient clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, 7,117 appointments completed between Sept. 1 and Feb. 28 involved a wait of more than 60 days. There were more vets experiencing extended delays there than in the entire states of New York and Pennsylvania combined.

VA officials cite numerous efforts to ramp up capacity by building new health centers and hiring more staff. Between April and December, the system added 8,000 employees. In Fayetteville, the VA is finishing a new 250,000-square-foot health center to help alleviate the delays that frustrated Rosie Noel.

And they say that in one statistical category, the VA has improved: The number of appointments handled by VA facilities between May and February was up 4.5 percent compared to the same period a

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year earlier. Referrals to private sector doctors are rising.

But they also acknowledge that in some places, the VA is perpetually behind rising demand. Total enrollees in the VA system have ballooned from 6.8 million in 2002 to 8.9 million in 2013.

"I think what we are seeing is that as we improve access, more veterans are coming," Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Sloan Gibson said.

He also acknowledged that the VA takes too long to plan and build new clinics, and hasn't been flexible about reallocating resources to areas experiencing fast growth.

"We are doing a whole series of things — the right things, I believe — to deal with the immediate issue," Gibson said. "But we need an intermediate term plan that moves us ahead a quantum leap, so that we don't continue over the next three or four years just trying to stay up. We've got to get ahead of demand."

He also asked for patience ramping up the Choice program. Between Nov. 5 and March 17, about 46,000 patients had made appointments for private-sector care through the new option — a drop in the bucket for a system averaging 4.7 million appointments per month.

Sioux Falls leaders approve 6-month moratorium on billboards

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls City Council has approved a six-month moratorium on billboards while it re-examines sign rules.

A voter-approved zoning ordinance adopted last year opened the door for billboards on virtually any commercial property, including business lots near residential areas. That has prompted some complaints from people who don't want billboards in their neighborhoods.

City officials plan to work on solutions that will appease those homeowners and still be acceptable to advertisers.

The moratorium takes effect Saturday. Planned billboards that already have been permitted will be allowed during the six-month freeze.

AP News in Brief

AP EXCLUSIVE: SC police officer charged in shooting of unarmed motorist faced 2013 complaint

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The South Carolina police officer charged with murder after video surfaced of him shooting a fleeing unarmed black man in the back was allowed to stay on the force despite an earlier complaint that he used excessive force against another unarmed man.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Mario Givens recounted Wednesday how he was awakened before dawn one morning in September 2013 by loud banging on the front door of his family's North Charleston home.

On his front porch was Patrolman Michael Thomas Slager, the white officer now charged in the shooting death of Walter Lamer Scott following a traffic stop over a broken taillight. The latest case of a white police officer killing an unarmed black man grabbed international attention this week after a video recorded by a bystander showed Slager firing eight times as Scott ran away.

The uproar over Scott's death comes amid a plunge in trust between law enforcement and minorities after the officer-involved killings of other men, including Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner on Staten Island, New York, which have triggered nationwide protests. Cases involving white officers have come under particular scrutiny.

Wearing only a T-shirt and boxer shorts, Givens, who is also black, said he cracked open his door and asked the officer what he wanted.

Video of fatal police shooting in SC rekindles debate over required use of body cameras

NEW YORK (AP) — A bystander's video proved pivotal in the filing of a murder charge against a South Carolina police officer, and also rekindled a fervent national discussion about the use of body cameras by police officers.

The White House seized on the case to make a pitch for wider use of such cameras. So did New York Mayor Bill De Blasio, whose city has experienced wrenching controversies related to police use of force.

And in North Charleston, South Carolina, where a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black man in the back, Mayor Keith Summey said Wednesday that every uniformed officer on patrol will get a body camera. The city already had ordered 101 cameras, and is ordering 150 more in the aftermath of the shooting, the mayor said.

It's unclear how quickly they'll be deployed. Summey said officers have to be trained and a policy for the use of the cameras must be written and approved by lawyers.

In many jurisdictions nationwide, there have been complications and disagreements related to details of such policies. In some states, lawmakers have proposed bills to exempt video recordings of police encounters with citizens from state public records laws, or to limit what can be made public.

Obama reaches out to Caribbean nations ahead of summit with Western Hemisphere leaders

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Opening a three-day trip to the Caribbean and Central America, President Barack Obama hopes to capitalize on mutual needs in the face of expanding Chinese influence and weakening power by Venezuela, once the energy juggernaut of the Americas.

Obama's arrival Wednesday evening in Kingston, Jamaica, was low-key compared to the excitement he stirred in the Caribbean upon his election in 2008. Greeted at the airport tarmac by dignitaries including Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, Obama slipped into a motorcade that ran through mostly quiet, empty streets.

The visit comes amid a perception that Obama's interest in the region has failed to materialize. Yet his travels — first to Jamaica, then to the Summit of the Americas in Panama — follow a year of increased attention to the region by the U.S. president. His immigration executive orders, his efforts to slow the influx of Central American minors to the U.S. border, and his diplomatic outreach to Cuba have put a foreign policy spotlight on U.S. neighbors to the south.

Obama on Thursday will meet with Simpson Miller and with other leaders in the 15-member Caribbean Community. He also plans to speak to young regional leaders in a town-hall setting, continuing a tradition of engaging new generations in foreign political and civil society institutions.

The president promptly paid tribute to the island's cultural hero, the late reggae star Bob Marley, making an unscheduled visit Wednesday night to the legendary singer's museum. He toured Marley's former home as Marley's hit "One Love" played through the building's sound system.

After Boston Marathon bomber's conviction, jury to decide whether he lives or dies

BOSTON (AP) — Now that a jury has convicted Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev on all charges, even more is at stake in the next phase of the federal trial: The same 12 people must decide whether the 21-year-old lives or dies.

Tsarnaev was found guilty Wednesday of 30 counts against him, including conspiracy and deadly use of a weapon of mass destruction. Seventeen of those charges are punishable by death.

The verdict was considered practically a foregone conclusion since Tsarnaev's lawyer admitted he participated in the bombings.

The former college student was found responsible for the deaths of three people who died in the bombings as well as the killing of a Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer who was gunned down days later as Tsarnaev and his now-dead brother, Tamerlan, attempted to flee.

In addition to the people who were killed, more than 260 others were injured when twin pressure-cooker bombs packed with shrapnel exploded near the marathon's finish line on April 15, 2013, turning the traditionally celebratory home stretch of the world-famous race into a scene of carnage.

Despite reforms, VA makes little headway in fight to shorten waits for care

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — A year after Americans recoiled at new revelations that sick veterans were getting sicker while languishing on waiting lists — and months after the Department of Veterans Affairs instituted major reforms — government data shows that the number of patients facing long waits at VA facilities has not dropped at all.

No one expected that the VA mess could be fixed overnight. But The Associated Press has found that since the summer, the number of medical appointments delayed 30 to 90 days has largely stayed flat. The number of appointments that take longer than 90 days to complete has nearly doubled.

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A closer look reveals deep geographic disparities.

Short fired in Milan courthouse, 2 reported hit but no word on condition

MILAN (AP) — Italy's ANSA news agency reports that a man has opened fire in Milan's courthouse and at least two persons are believed to have been hit. There was no word on their condition.

ANSA quoted the president of the appeals court, Giovanni Canzio, as saying there was more than one victim. The building has been evacuated, and that women were seen leaving the building.

The shooter is believed to be at large, and police were posted at all exits.

ANSA and other news outlets said the man suspected of the shooting was in the courthouse Thursday for a bankruptcy proceeding.

It was unclear how the gunman gained entrance, as visitors to the building have to pass through metal detectors.

FACT CHECK: Rand Paul's 'extraordinary' idea, a balanced budget, an elusive goal in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Rand Paul is campaigning for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination as a man who wants to upend the ways of Washington. In one way, though, he's a creature of the capital: He carries on a long tradition of promising the implausible, if not the impossible, on the budget.

The Kentucky senator opened his campaign this week with the "extraordinary" thought that the federal government be forced to spend no more than it takes in. This, while cutting taxes, increasing military spending and asking people to imagine "what a billion-dollar stimulus could do for Detroit or for Appalachia" from his plan to establish "economic freedom zones."

He is neither the first, nor certainly the last, to hold out the hope for a balanced budget — while at the same time glossing over what happens if the government is truly made to live within its means.

Some combination of Social Security, Medicare, the armed forces, domestic security, roads, medical research and much more wouldn't look the same if that happened.

Paul told his campaign-kickoff crowd Tuesday: "Currently some \$3 trillion comes into the U.S. Treasury. Couldn't the country just survive on \$3 trillion? I propose we do something extraordinary. Let's just spend what comes in."

Forecasters warn hail, damaging winds, tornado or 2 possible over broad area of Midwest

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Strong storms rumbled through the Southern Plains early Thursday, missing major population centers but offering a preview of bad weather that could hit Chicago, Detroit and other big cities in the Midwest later in the day.

The Storm Prediction Center said 57 million people lived in an area with an "enhanced risk" of hail, damaging winds and tornadoes on Thursday. Tornadoes were reported Wednesday and early Thursday in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, but those areas saw minimal damage.

Meteorologists and emergency managers from the high Plains to the Appalachians were on alert as the U.S. had the year's first widespread bout of severe weather. The key message: Have a plan.

"Where to hide, emergency kits with medicines, snacks, water. Even something like sturdy shoes, gloves, long-sleeve shirts. If they get hit by a tornado they'll find they'll need those things pretty quickly," said meteorologist Erin Maxwell with the National Weather Service in Norman, Oklahoma.

"Know what you're doing, and just don't panic," Maxwell added.

Iranian President Rouhani warns Saudi Arabia, its allies that Yemen airstrikes are a 'mistake'

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president on Thursday warned Saudi Arabia and its allies that their airstrikes' campaign in Yemen is a "mistake" and called for a halt to the strikes targeting the Iran-backed Shiite rebels who have seized much of the impoverished Arabian Peninsula country.

For two weeks now, the Saudi-led coalition has failed to stop the power grab by the Houthi rebels, whose advance has forced President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi to flee the country. Both Tehran and the rebels deny that Iran is arming them.

The airstrikes against the Houthis and their allies, including loyalists of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, have also failed to stop the rebels' advance on Aden, Yemen's second-largest city, which was declared a provisional capital by Hadi before he fled to Saudi Arabia.

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In his speech in Tehran, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani urged for a ceasefire in Yemen to allow for broad-based talks on resolving the crisis.

"To the countries in the region, I say, let's adopt the spirit of brotherhood, let's respect each other and other nations. A nation does not give in through bombing," said Rouhani. "Do not kill innocent children. Let's think about an end to the war, about ceasefire and humanitarian assistance to the suffering people of Yemen."

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 9, the 99th day of 2015. There are 266 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 9, 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

On this date:

In 1413, the coronation of England's King Henry V took place in Westminster Abbey.

In 1682, French explorer Robert de La Salle claimed the Mississippi River Basin for France.

In 1913, the first game was played at Ebbets Field, the newly built home of the Brooklyn Dodgers, who lost to the Philadelphia Phillies, 1-0.

In 1914, the Tampico Incident took place as eight U.S. sailors were arrested by Mexican authorities for allegedly entering a restricted area and held for a short time before being released.

In 1939, singer Marian Anderson performed a concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. after being denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway.

In 1942, American and Philippine defenders on Bataan capitulated to Japanese forces; the surrender was followed by the notorious Bataan Death March.

In 1945, German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 39, was executed by the Nazis at the Flossenburg concentration camp.

In 1959, NASA presented its first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, 91, died in Phoenix, Ariz.

In 1965, the newly built Astrodome in Houston featured its first baseball game, an exhibition between the Astros and the New York Yankees, with President Lyndon B. Johnson in attendance. (The Astros won, 2-1, in 12 innings.)

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger ended its first mission with a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1996, in a dramatic shift of purse-string power, President Bill Clinton signed a line-item veto bill into law. (However, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the veto in 1998.)

Ten years ago: Britain's Prince Charles married longtime love Camilla Parker Bowles, who took the title Duchess of Cornwall. Tens of thousands of supporters of a militant Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) cleric filled central Baghdad's streets, demanding that American soldiers go home. A day after the funeral for Pope John Paul II, cardinals began an intense period of silence and prayer before their conclave to choose the next pope. Feminist author Andrea Dworkin died in Washington, D.C. at age 58.

Five years ago: Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens announced his retirement. (His vacancy was filled by Elena Kagan.) Wisconsin forward Blake Geoffrion, the grandson of Hockey Hall of Famer

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Bernie "Boom Boom" Geoffrion, received the Hobey Baker Memorial Award as college hockey's top player. Meinhardt Raabe, who'd played the Munchkin coroner in "The Wizard of Oz," died in Orange Park, Florida, at age 94.

One year ago: A 16-year-old boy armed with two knives went on a rampage at Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville, Pennsylvania, stabbing 20 students and a security guard (all of whom survived). President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, visited Fort Hood, Texas, the scene of a shooting a week earlier in which three U.S. Army soldiers were killed by a fellow soldier who then took his own life.

Today's Birthdays: Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner is 89. Satirical songwriter and mathematician Tom Lehrer is 87. Naturalist Jim Fowler is 85. Actor Jean-Paul Belmondo is 82. Actress Michael Learned is 76. Country singer Margo Smith is 73. Country singer Hal Ketchum is 62. Actor Dennis Quaid is 61. Comedian Jimmy Tingle is 60. Country musician Dave Innis (Restless Heart) is 56. Actress-sports reporter Lisa Guerrero is 51. Actor Mark Pellegrino is 50. Actress-model Paulina Porizkova is 50. Actress Cynthia Nixon is 49. Rock singer Kevin Martin (Candlebox) is 46. Rock singer Gerard Way (My Chemical Romance) is 38. Actress Keshia Knight Pulliam is 36. Rock musician Albert Hammond Jr. (The Strokes) is 35. Actor Charlie Hunnam is 35. Actor Ryan Northcott is 35. Actor Arlen Escarpeta is 34. Actor Jay Baruchel is 33. Actress Leighton Meester is 29. Actor-singer Jesse McCartney is 28. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jazmine Sullivan is 28. Actress Kristen Stewart is 25. Actress Elle Fanning is 17. Actor Isaac Hempstead Wright is 16. Classical crossover singer Jackie Evancho (ee-VAYN'-koh) is 15.

Thought for Today: "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945).

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 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

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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 security number):

- ◆ Social Security card
- ◆ W-2 Form
- ◆ SSA 1099 Form

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- ◆ 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.

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 com-

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plete 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.