

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 1 of 25

- 1- Rix Apartments for Rent
- 1- Cutting Edge Lawn Care
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Classifieds
- 3- Friends: Aaron Delzer
- 4- POPS Concert
- 10- Carnival of Silver Skates will go on
- 11- Today in Weather History
- 11- Blood Drive set for April 16th
- 12- Local Forecast
- 13- National Weather Map
- 13- Local Weather
- 14- Daily Devotional
- 15- Gerber Life Insurance Ad
- 16- News from the Associated Press

Sunday, April 12

Anniv: Bruce & Vickie Sippel

Birthdays: Brandon Spanier, Dee Kieso-Stange

Monday, April 13

Birthdays: Jessica Morehouse, JoAnn Nehls, Nancy Cutler

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli, garlic toast, orange sherbet.

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken tenders, tiny potato, lettuce salad, fruit.

6:30 am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

7:30 pm: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 14

Birthdays: Aloise Brolin, Toby Dobbins, Becky Hearnen

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw, frosted brownie, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, fruit, juice, milk.

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



Mowing ~ Trimming
Edging ~ Fertilizing
Spring/Fall Cleanups
Travis Kurth, Licensed and Insured
Free Estimates ~ 605/397-7469
Cutting Edge Lawn Care
Quality Lawn Care At Affordable Prices

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 2 of 25

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.

Friends . . . Near and Far

Editor's Note: This is the 10th in a series featuring your friends, near and far.



Aaron Delzer and Gayli DeBoer

Aaron Delzer

JobWise what are you doing today?

Today I am a full-time student at SDSU in Brookings, SD. I hope to graduate with a degree in History. My dream is to someday work at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC as an archivist in the early American history department. I work part time at miscellaneous bars in downtown Brookings as a bouncer. I have been an on and off bouncer for the better part of three years. I got my job by becoming a loyal customer at Pints & Quarts and Sully's Irish Pub and also by becoming good friends with the owners.

If you have previous employments list them and how long you were there.

Previous employments since graduating high school include the following: United States Marine Corps (active duty) (2008-2012), *Veterans Affairs Office, Peer Coordinator at SDSU's campus (2012-2014) *I helped incoming service members and veterans adjust to campus life and helped them get their educational benefits in line and processed.

What high school did you attend and what year did you graduate? I graduated from Groton Area High School with the class of 2008.

Where did you attend college and what was your degree? SDSU- I'm still currently pursuing a bachelors degree in History.

What advice would you give the high school students today? My advice to high school students today would be; never give up what you are passionate about, don't let negative influences become part of who you are, and that life is so short to stress over the small things in life. Whatever you decide on doing in life NEVER give up and NEVER do something unless you are willing to put your all into it.

List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life. Graduating high school, Marine Corps with two tours overseas, enrolling into college and continuing my education.

Girl Friend: Not married-have a girlfriend though. Gayli DeBoer, 26, of Freeman, SD who is currently in the process of changing jobs from Counterpart (Brookings) to be an administrative assistant at Daktronics (Brookings). She has an associates degree in business administration from Southeast Tech in Sioux Falls, SD.

POPS Concert is filled with action



Dillon Freeman had his hands full of popcorn and pop as he helped with the serving at the POPS Concert. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Marlee Jones and Katie Groeblichhoff were the Masters of Cermony. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Jazz Band played six selections - three at the start of the POPS Concert and three after the intermission. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 5 of 25



The Flute Choir performed, "My Favorite Things." (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Kiana Kokales sang, "Arms Around Me." (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 6 of 25



Adam Herman sang, "L.O.V.E." with four girls holding up the letters. Then one "girl" came in and took away the E. (Photos by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 7 of 25



The percussion ensemble performed, "Tico Tico." (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Laura Garcia sang, "See You Again." (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Macy Knecht sang, "Greatest Love of All." (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

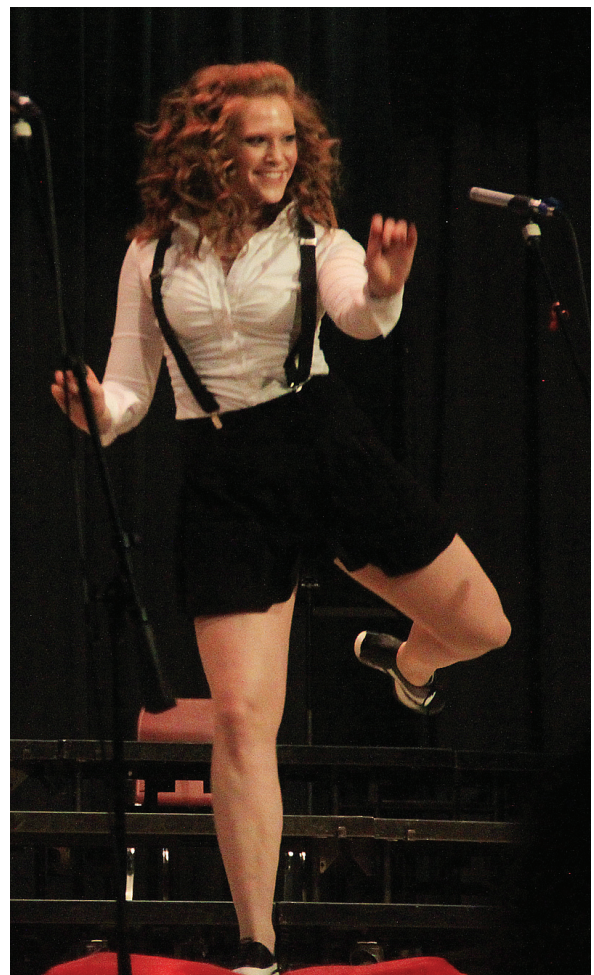
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 8 of 25



Sydney Thorson sang, "American Pie" with three others playing their "air" instruments.

(Photos by Julianna Kosel)



Kaitlin O'Neill performed "Dance With Me Tonight" with her tapping shoes. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 9 of 25



The Chamber Choir sang, "Bridge over Troubled Water." (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Kari Hanson sang, "All That Jazz."
(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Audrey Wanner sang, "Uncharted."
(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



The Show Choir concluded the POPS Concert with, "Carry On, Wayward Son," "Johnny B. Goode," "We Built This City," "We're Not Gonna Take It," "Faithfully" and "Any Way You Want It." (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Carnival of Silver Skates will go on!

The Carnival of Silver Skates will go on. Several people were on hand for a special meeting Sunday evening at the Skating House to fill out the slate of officers.

The officers are: Rachael Crank, chairman; Tasha Dunker, co-chairman; Pam Barse and Bridget Flihs, costumes; Tina Kosel, treasurer; Coralea Wolter, skating instructor; Sue Fjeldheim, city liaison/communications; Deb Schuelke and Dawn Imrie, public relations; Kristi Flihs, secretary; Traci Davies and LeAnn Weidrick, members at large.

The next meeting for the Carnival of Silver Skates committee will be held Sunday, April 26, 7 p.m., at the Groton Dairy Queen. The date for next year's performance will be set at that meeting.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 11 of 25

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

1927 - A tornado wiped out the town of Rock Springs, TX, killing 72 persons and causing 1.2 million dollars damage. The tornado, more than one mile in width, destroyed 235 of 247 buildings, leaving no trace of lumber or contents in many cases. Many survivors were bruised by large hail which fell after the passage of the tornado. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1934 - Winds atop Mount Washington, NH, averaged 186 mph for five minutes, with a peak gust of 231 mph, the highest wind speed ever clocked in the world. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A cold front crossing the central U.S. produced heavy snow in the Central Rockies, and severe thunderstorms over Kansas and Oklahoma. Snowfall totals ranged up to 16 inches at Red Mountain Pass CO. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 87 mph at Ponca City OK. Winds associated with the cold front itself gusted to 69 mph at Tucumcari NM. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Snow blanketed the Southern Appalachians. Totals in North Carolina ranged up to 17 inches at Mitchell. Winds at Flat Top Mountain gusted to 80 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - Twenty-two cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Elkins WV with a low of 15 degrees, and Baton Rouge LA with a reading of 37 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Arctic air invaded the central U.S. Lincoln, NE, reported a record low of 17 degrees. Thunderstorms developing along the arctic cold front produced heavy snow in north central Kansas, wind gusts to 61 mph at Midland TX, and wind gusts to 69 mph at Rawlins WY. Warm weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Las Vegas NV reported a record high of 91 degrees, and on the 13th, Sacramento CA reported a record high of 95 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2010 - One-inch diameter hail falls in Fresno, CA. Two condominiums are destroyed by thunderstorms in California's San Joaquin Valley. Up to three funnel clouds were also seen in the region.

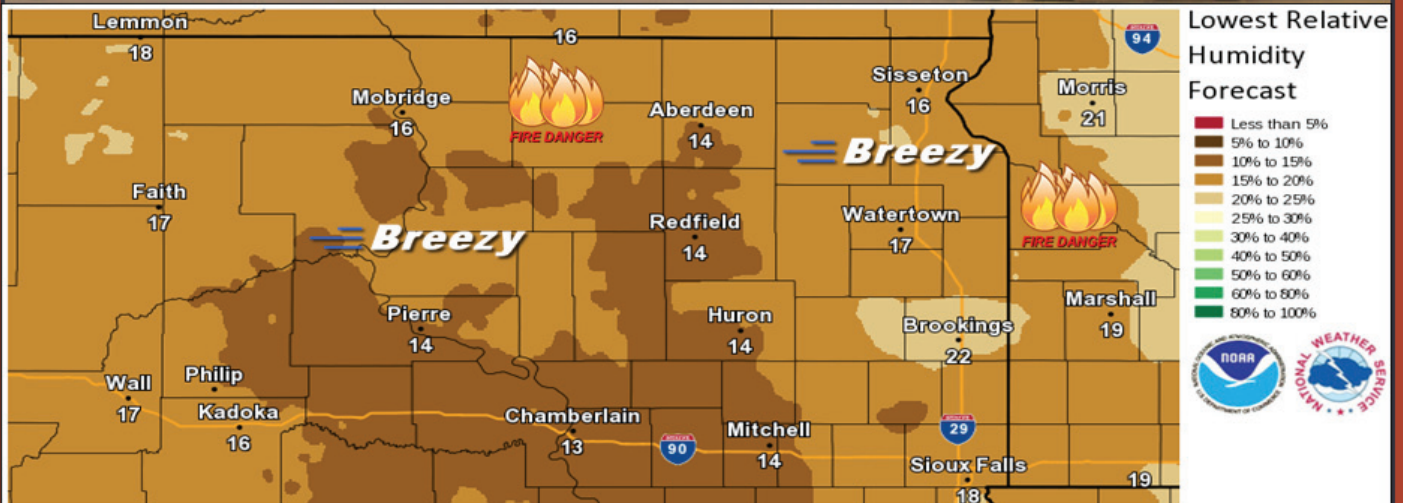
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 12 of 25

Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night
						
Breezy	Breezy	Mostly Clear	Breezy	Breezy	Slight Chc Showers	Slight Chc Showers
Low: 36 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 41 °F

Low Humidity on Monday, Strong Winds Tuesday

- Low humidity and breezy west winds Monday afternoon
- Wind switches to south Tuesday and becomes stronger, humidity stays low
- **Very high to extreme fire danger Monday and Tuesday**



Valid ending Tuesday April 14th, 2015 at 1 AM CDT

Created Sunday April 12th, 2015 at 3:37 PM CDT

weather.gov/Aberdeen National Weather Service Aberdeen @NWSAberdeen Updated: 4/12/2015 3:42 PM Central

Published on: 04/12/2015 at 3:47PM

Fire danger will remain very high to extreme right into Tuesday. For Monday, relative humidity values will drop into the teens for many places. Breezy west winds will range from 15 to 25 mph with higher gusts, especially for northern and eastern portions of the forecast area. Conditions will become even more critical on Tuesday as strong south winds develop. Speeds will range from 25 to 35 mph with gusts exceeding 45 mph at times. Humidity will remain low with readings dropping into the teens to low 20s.

Groton Daily Independent

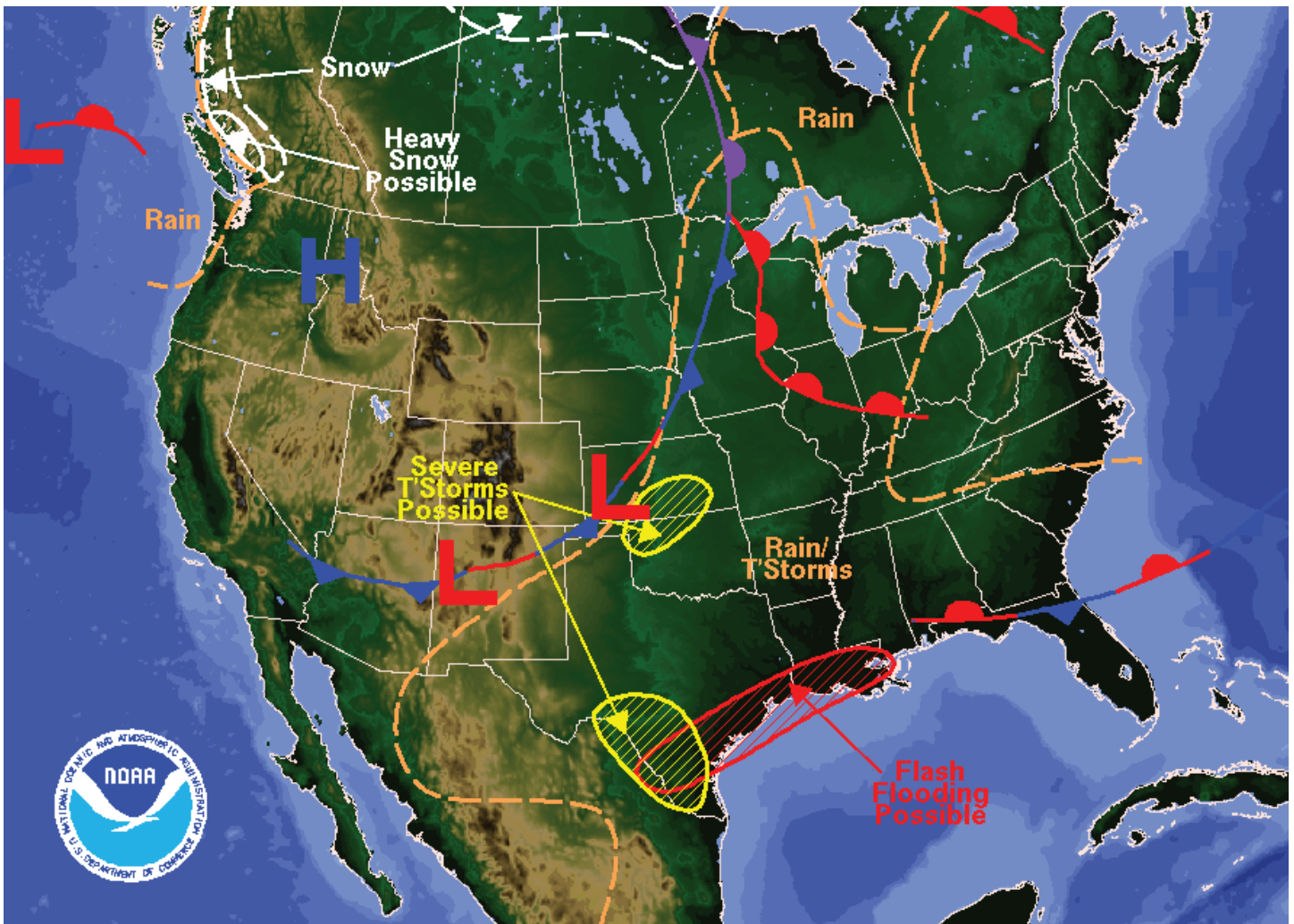
Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 13 of 25

Yesterday's Weather

High: 80.4 at 5:34 PM
Low: 36.5 at 12:31 AM
High Gust: 42 at 2:04 PM
Snow: 0.00
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 2003
Record Low: 9° in 2013
Average High: 56°F
Average Low: 31°F
Average Precip in April.: 0.57
Precip to date in April.: 0.01
Average Precip to date: 2.75
Precip Year to Date: 0.48
Sunset Tonight: 8:16 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:52 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Apr 12, 2015, issued 4:26 PM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 14 of 25



HOW WE ARE SEEN

Among the many photos I have collected over the years is one of a bridge in Yosemite Falls. Actually, it is the picture of a bridge and its reflection in still waters. When viewed, it appears to become an oval with water in between two bridges. The top of the photo is the actual bridge while the reflection in the water is an exact replica of the bridge. They both seem to be the same with the water dividing them.

Reflections are an interesting part of life. One psychologist believes that children who grow up without seeing their image in mirrors are at a disadvantage. He is convinced that they are unable to develop a picture of what they look like, who they are. As a result they cannot develop their identity and become mentally healthy people. Although this argument is open to debate, what we see when we look into a mirror may be much more than an image of ourselves: it is a reflection of our heart.

"As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man." Are we being encouraged to "look deep within ourselves" to discover who we are? Are we to sit and contemplate our identity? Are we to wonder who we are and where we are going without resolving the problem?

First, God's Word presents the best picture of who we are and where we are going without His Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. In Him we find our true identity. We also have the insights of those who speak on His behalf as they share His truth with us.

Prayer: Lord, may we see ourselves as You see us and change our ways and become worthy to bear Your name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 27:19 As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart.

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.

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News from the Associated Press

School of Mines hosting prospects camp and lineman clinic

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota School of Mines football program has scheduled a camp and clinic in Rapid City this summer for high school players.

The prospects camp will be June 4-6 and will include a lineman clinic on June 6 on Dunham Field at O'Harra Stadium in Rapid City.

Both programs are for grades 9-12 and the cost is \$20 per camper.

For more information contact the Hardrocker football office at 605-394-2604.

Gov't study: climate change could reduce sage grouse habitat

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A warming climate could significantly reduce the amount of greater sage grouse habitat in portions of Wyoming, a key stronghold for the troubled bird species, government scientists concluded in a new study.

The chicken-sized grouse has seen dramatic declines in recent decades due to disease, oil drilling, grazing and other changes across the bird's sagebrush habitat.

U.S. Geological Survey scientists said a warming climate could become an even greater risk, potentially reducing grouse nesting habitat in southwestern Wyoming by 12 percent by 2050.

The findings were published in the journal Ecological Indicators. Scientists analyzed past climate patterns across 3,200 square miles and compared that with rain and snowfall projections to predict future conditions.

As precipitation levels drop in coming years, the study said, sagebrush will become more vulnerable to fire, insects and disease. Some areas with the plants will convert to bare ground.

The study centered on an area of the sagebrush ecosystem that is considered among the least vulnerable to climate change. That suggests other areas occupied by sage grouse could see even greater change, the scientists said.

"Historic disturbances of fire, development and invasive species have altered the sagebrush landscape, but climate change may represent the habitat's greatest future risk," said Collin Homer, a USGS scientist based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and the lead author of the study.

The team of USGS researchers examined warming impacts on areas as small as a quarter of an acre, which Homer said could help land managers better plan for the future.

The U.S. Interior Department is to decide this fall if the birds should be protected under the Endangered Species Act. They occupy 290,000 square miles of sage brush habitat in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and portions of southern Canada.

Population estimates for greater sage grouse range from 100,000 to 500,000 birds.

Grouse numbers are down at least 30 percent since 1985.

South Dakota DOT looking for Hall of Fame nominations

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Transportation is looking for nominations of people to be inducted into the South Dakota Transportation Hall of Honor.

Department Secretary Darin Bergquist is also the committee chairman of the effort and says the panel's looking for people who have made a lasting or valuable contribution to the state's air, highway

or rail transportation.

The nomination form can be downloaded at www.sddot.com . The deadline is June 5.

Hankinson turkey farmer takes steps to avoid bird flu

WAHPETON, N.D. (AP) — A southeastern North Dakota turkey farmer is taking precautions to ensure his flock isn't hit with avian influenza after a dangerous strain of the virus surfaced in other Midwestern states.

Dave Muehler of rural Hankinson has become increasingly concerned amid a spike in cases confirmed in Minnesota. State and federal authorities said Friday that there were 13 farms affected in Minnesota. The virus already has led to the deaths of tens of thousands of turkeys on at least two farms in the western part of the neighboring state.

As of Friday, more than 1 million birds have been lost, with Minnesota heavily affected. Other states seeing cases include South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas.

Muehler told the Wahpeton Daily News (<http://bit.ly/1adf9a5>) that he's enforcing extra measures to protect 40,000 turkeys at Muehler Turkey Farms Inc. He said he's trying to limit the number of people allowed on the farm and cross-contamination from equipment between turkey barns.

Passersby aren't allowed in the turkey barns, and Muehler said workers have left coveralls and foot gear in separate barns to avoid moving the virus from one barn to another.

The disease can be spread through migratory waterfowl, and Muehler said they fly over his turkey barns every day. He said their droppings could get on equipment.

"You can do everything right and there are still certain things out of your control," Muehler said. "You've got that bird that flies over and leaves some droppings right behind them, and that opens the door."

Officials have said the risk to the public is low. There have been no reported U.S. cases of humans being infected by this particular bird flu strain.

Display in Pierre shows history of baseball in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An exhibit about the state's baseball tradition is on display for a year at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

"Play Ball! The National Pastime in South Dakota" will be housed in the Hogen Gallery of the museum through April 2016.

It traces the history of baseball in South Dakota from when it was a territory to the present through artifacts, images, video and hands-on activities geared for people of every age.

Museum director Jay Smith says baseball influenced community development and started community traditions statewide that are repeated every spring.

The museum and the exhibit are open during regular museum hours of 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CDT Monday through Saturday, and 1-4:30 p.m. on Sunday. There's an admission fee for adults, but kids are free.

Rapid City to hold annual week for litter pickup

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City is holding its annual week to clean up litter around the city April 20-25.

The city's Solid Waste Division says organizations, scouts, schools and residents are being asked to pick up litter in places such as parks, roadways and greenways. Trash bags will be provided and Dumpsters will be the former Food Bank parking lot at 814 Maple Ave. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 18 of 25

People can also dispose of heavy materials such as furniture and mattresses for free at the landfill during the cleanup week.

For groups interested in picking up litter April 25, call the Solid Waste Division at 605-355-3496.

Thune, ag leaders hope bill can keep rail service on track

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Sen. John Thune and some of the state's agriculture leaders hope new legislation will help to keep rail service in the state on track after a backlog last fall forced farmers to wait before taking their product to market.

Thune and leaders from the state's soybean, wheat and corn growers associations met Friday in Sioux Falls to discuss issues with rail transportation in South Dakota.

Two years of record harvests in South Dakota coupled with the increase in North Dakota oil production in part led to a lack of rail cars and high shipping costs.

"We rely so heavily out here on railroads to get our commodities to the marketplace that we just flat have to have a very sound, good, reliable, affordable form of transportation," Thune said.

That's why the senior Republican senator hopes his Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization bill, which was introduced in March, could alleviate some issues in the future.

He says the legislation would give the Surface Transportation Board more authority to investigate when there are issues like the ones producers saw this fall.

Lisa Richardson, the executive director for South Dakota Corn Growers Association, said the bill and Thune's negotiation with railroads are what's going to allow the state's agriculture industry to flourish.

Thune's bill has been passed by the Commerce Committee and is headed to the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Dry, windy conditions prompt weather service fire warning

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Dangerously dry and windy conditions have prompted the National Weather Service to issue a warning for much of North Dakota and South Dakota.

The federal agency issued the Red Flag Warning in response to strong winds and low relative humidity in the region. It stays in effect until 8 p.m. CDT.

Fargo Fire Battalion Chief Dane Carley says no open burning is allowed while the warning is in effect. That includes recreational fires.

The region has been unseasonably dry lately. Much of South Dakota saw rain this this week, but meteorologists cautioned it might not last.

A red flag warning means that critical fire weather conditions are either happening or will be shortly. A combination of strong winds, low relative humidity and warm temperatures can contribute to "extreme fire behavior."

Bird flu hurting turkey processor; exports unaffected

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The highly pathogenic strain of bird flu that has prompted the destruction of more than 1.2 million turkeys in the Midwest has taken a toll on South Dakota's only commercial turkey processing plant, but its CEO said his export business is virtually unaffected.

Ken Rutledge said Dakota Provisions has lost about 5 percent of its total production due to the H5N2 strain of avian influenza that has infected farms that sell live birds to the Huron plant.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed this week that three more South Dakota farms had

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 19 of 25

been hit with the highly contagious strain, one week after tests also showed it at a Beadle County operation. And North Dakota State Veterinarian Susan Keller said Friday the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Iowa confirmed the H5N2 strain in a flock of 40,000 turkeys in Dickey County, which borders South Dakota in the southeast.

Once an infection is confirmed at a farm, all surviving birds on the property are typically killed to prevent it from spreading. More than 1.2 million birds in the Midwest have had to be destroyed since early March on at least 23 farms.

The USDA does not compensate farmers for birds killed by the disease itself but does reimburse them for birds that have to be destroyed as a precaution.

Rutledge said Dakota Provisions processes birds from the farms that have been impacted in both South Dakota and North Dakota. Its Minnesota farms haven't been affected yet.

"It probably will not impact our ability to service our customers but is a serious impact in terms of lost volume at our plant and, obviously, is a severe impact to the growers themselves," Rutledge said.

"In terms of sales revenue, it's going to have impact on us. No question."

Some countries have banned turkey exports from certain U.S. states, like Minnesota, and other countries, including China and Russia, have banned imports from the entire U.S., said Dr. Dustin Oedekoven, South Dakota's state veterinarian.

Rutledge said his export business is almost fully intact because his trading partners that have banned imports — Hong Kong, Thailand and China — receive mostly smaller parts of the bird like gizzards, livers and hearts.

"We have some minor parts that we do routinely send to the Far East, and those items are banned and we're not able to ship those," he said. "Our major trade partner for Dakota Provisions — I mean our overwhelming trade partner — is Mexico."

Mexico is among the countries scaling back bans on imports to just include affected counties in Minnesota, which is huge because it's by far the biggest foreign customer for U.S. turkey, said Jim Sumner, president of the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council.

"If Mexico were doing the same thing that the countries in the Far East are doing, then we would have a serious problem," Rutledge said.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota said this week she wants to make it clear to federal officials that other countries should not use the outbreak as an excuse to block U.S. turkey imports.

Police say Rapid City man badly hurt girlfriend's young son

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man is charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault after a child suffered severe head trauma in a Black Hawk home.

Meade County Sheriff Ron Merwin says deputies arrested 28-year-old Thomas Pentecost for allegedly hitting a toddler.

Police say Pentecost is the boyfriend of the child's mother and was watching her son while she was gone. Police were called to the home Thursday afternoon.

The boy was taken to a local hospital where he ended up dying.

Pentecost is in the Meade County Jail. He will make his initial appearance before a judge Tuesday.

It's unclear whether he has an attorney.

AP News in Brief

Hillary Clinton jumps back into 2016 presidential race, wants to be country's 'champion'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton jumped back into presidential politics on Sunday, announcing her much-awaited second campaign for the White House. "Everyday Americans need a champion. I want to be that champion," she said.

As she did in 2007, Clinton began her campaign for the 2016 Democratic nomination with a video. But rather than follow it with a splashy rally, she instead plans to head to the early-voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire, looking to connect with voters directly at coffee shops, day care centers and some private homes.

"So I'm hitting the road to earn your vote. Because it's your time. And I hope you'll join me on this journey," Clinton said at the end of a video, which features a series of men, women and children describing their aspirations.

This voter-centric approach was picked with a purpose, to show that Clinton is not taking the nomination for granted. Only after about a month of such events will Clinton will give a broader speech outlining more specifics about her rationale for running.

The former secretary of state, senator and first lady enters the race in a strong position to succeed her rival from the 2008 campaign, President Barack Obama.

Fatal shooting drew together ordinary lives of driver, police officer, man who recorded video

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — But for a series of split-second decisions that followed a traffic stop, Walter Scott might still be alive and police officer Michael Slager still patrolling the streets.

When the two men's lives intersected on April 4, Scott had just purchased a used car from a neighbor. Slager was starting a routine weekend shift on a warm spring day. In a matter of minutes, one man was dead. Within days, the other was charged with murder.

A third man on his way to work captured the encounter on cellphone video that shocked the world and added fuel to the national debate about race and aggressive police tactics that began in August with the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

Family members say Scott was so fearful of returning to jail over late child-support payments that he tried to outrun the law. And the officer, amid the adrenaline of a short foot chase, fired a fatal volley of eight bullets at the back of a fleeing suspect who appeared to pose no immediate threat.

Sharpton leads service vigil at site where black man fatally shot by SC police officer

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The Rev. Al Sharpton thanked the mayor and police chief in North Charleston on Sunday for their response to the fatal shooting of Walter Scott.

Sharpton gave the sermon at Charity Missionary Baptist Church, where Mayor Keith Summey and Police Chief Eddie Driggers were among those in the congregation. Later, he led a vigil for a small crowd in the grassy, fenced-in area where Scott, 50, was fatally shot after fleeing a traffic stop April 4.

Then-officer Michael Slager initially said Scott was shot after a tussle over his Taser, but witness video later surfaced showing Scott being shot as he ran away. Slager was fired and has been charged with

murder.

Scott's death was criticized as another police shooting of an unarmed black man by a white officer under questionable circumstances. In Sharpton's commendation of the city's response, he said the mayor and police chief's swift action could set the tone for handling future questions of police misconduct across the country.

Despite the city's response and Sharpton's praise, there's still a lingering sense of skepticism about whether Scott's death would have been thoroughly investigated without the witness video.

Turkey recalls Vatican ambassador after pope calls Armenian killings "genocide" on centenary

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis on Sunday marked the 100th anniversary of the slaughter of Armenians by calling the massacre by Ottoman Turks "the first genocide of the 20th century" and urging the international community to recognize it as such. Turkey immediately responded by recalling its ambassador and accusing Francis of spreading hatred and "unfounded claims."

Francis issued the pronouncement during a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica commemorating the centenary that was attended by Armenian church leaders and President Serge Sarkisian, who praised the pope for calling a spade a spade and "delivering a powerful message to the international community."

"The words of the leader of a church with 1 billion followers cannot but have a strong impact," he told The Associated Press.

Historians estimate that up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks around the time of World War I, an event widely viewed by scholars as the first genocide of the 20th century.

Turkey, however, denies a genocide took place. It has insisted that the toll has been inflated and that those killed were victims of civil war and unrest.

Obama's foreign policy moves: Breakthroughs on Iran, Cuba, now hard sell to skeptics at home

WASHINGTON (AP) — After breakthroughs abroad, President Barack Obama is finding stern challenges at home to his foreign policy, facing hard sells to skeptics over U.S. shifts, first on Iran and now Cuba.

Obama returned to Washington early Sunday still basking in the attention from his historic meeting with Cuban President Raul Castro at a summit of Western Hemisphere leaders. But Obama is certain to find a less appreciative crowd in Congress than the one he left behind at the Summit of the Americas in Panama.

To complete a nuclear agreement with Iran, Obama must deal with resistance in Congress and the unpredictability of the Iranian leadership, which has a distinctly different interpretation of what the sides have settled on so far.

Cuba and Iran offer Obama, whose term ends in early 2017, the potential for legacy-crowning achievements. Iran may prove a greater challenge than Cuba, but together they are subjecting Obama's foreign policy to the kind of scrutiny that most international issues, short of war, rarely draw.

Obama made clear in a closing news conference late Saturday in Panama City that he believes he can handle the twin trials. The American public is on his side on Cuba, the president said, and he had tough words for Republicans defying him on Iran.

Video purports to show Islamic State militants bombing ruins at ancient Iraqi city of Nimrud

BAGHDAD (AP) — Islamic State militants hammered, bulldozed and ultimately blew up parts of the ancient Iraqi Assyrian city of Nimrud, destroying a site dating back to the 13th century B.C., an online militant video purportedly shows.

The destruction at Nimrud, located near the militant-held city of Mosul, came amid other attacks on antiquity carried out by the group now holding a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria in its self-declared caliphate. The attacks have horrified archaeologists and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who last month called the destruction at Nimrud “a war crime.”

The seven-minute video, posted late Saturday, shows bearded militants using sledgehammers, jackhammers and saws to take down huge alabaster reliefs depicting Assyrian kings and deities. A bulldozer brings down walls, while militants fill barrels with explosives and later destroy three separate areas of the site in massive explosions.

“God has honored us in the Islamic State to remove all of these idols and statutes worshipped instead of Allah in the past days,” one militant says in the video. Another militant vows that “whenever we seize a piece of land, we will remove signs of idolatry and spread monotheism.”

The militants have been destroying ancient relics they say promote idolatry that violate their fundamentalist interpretation of Islamic law, including the ancient Iraqi city of Hatra, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Authorities also believe they’ve sold others on the black market to fund their atrocities.

Ex-security guards convicted in Iraq shooting face long punishments; sentencing set for Monday

WASHINGTON (AP) — A yearslong legal fight over a deadly shooting of civilians in an Iraq war zone reaches its reckoning point with the sentencing this week of four former Blackwater security guards.

Dustin Heard, Evan Liberty and Paul Slough face mandatory, decadeslong sentences because of firearms convictions. A fourth defendant, Nicholas Slatten, faces life in prison after being found guilty of first-degree murder.

At the hearing Monday in U.S. District Court, defense lawyers intend to appeal for mercy by arguing that their clients acted in self-defense during a chaotic firefight in Baghdad. They also plan to argue that sending the defendants to prison for decades would be an unfairly harsh outcome for men who have close family ties and proud military careers, and who were operating in stressful conditions in a war-torn country.

The men were charged in the deaths of 14 Iraqis at Nisoor Square, a crowded traffic circle in downtown Baghdad. The killings caused an international uproar and became a dark episode of contractor violence during the Iraq war. Defense lawyers argued that the contractors, who arrived there after a car bomb exploded, were targeted with gunfire from insurgents and Iraqi police, and shot back in self-defense. Prosecutors contended that there was no incoming fire and that the shooting was unprovoked.

The defendants — who were in Iraq to protect American diplomats — were convicted in October after a trial that stretched months and featured testimony from Iraqi witnesses and from other Blackwater guards who cooperated with the government.

Architectural treasure or modernist nightmare? Planned renovation of NY building stirs debate

GOSHEN, N.Y. (AP) — From the time it was built in this quaint village 45 years ago, the county building has stirred strong opinions for its modernism-meets-Mayberry look: a geometric jumble of irregularly stacked concrete-and-glass boxes.

While the Orange County Government Center has been hailed by architectural experts as a modernist treasure, many residents have viewed it as just an odd, ugly place to apply for a driver's license.

As crews prepare to renovate and partially demolish the sprawling building in this suburban and rural county 50 miles northwest of Manhattan, local preservationists are fighting in court to halt a project they say will permanently disfigure the landmark.

Many locals have more mixed feelings.

"From the outside, it's a horrible-looking building," said resident Arnie Weintraub.

Alabama college students suspended after being charged in sex assault on Florida beach

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Two Alabama college students have been suspended after authorities discovered a cellphone video that allegedly shows them sexually assaulting a woman at a Florida beach while a large crowd of spring-break revelers watches.

Bay County Sheriff Frank McKeithen described the video as "very, very graphic" and called it the "most disgusting, sickening thing" he had ever seen. He said the footage shows several men surrounding an incapacitated woman on a beach chair.

The victim told authorities that she thought she had been drugged at the time, and she did not remember the incident well enough to report it.

Both students attended Troy University.

Delonte Martistee, a 22-year-old senior from Bainbridge, Georgia, and Ryan Calhoun, a 23-year-old sophomore from Mobile, Alabama, were arrested Thursday in Alabama on Florida warrants. Martistee remained in jail Sunday in Panama City. Calhoun was released on bond.

Father says his proposal on affordable housing prompted Little League to demote his son

DARIEN, Conn. (AP) — In one of the country's richest towns — where Mercedes, BMWs and Land Rovers cruise tree-lined streets of multimillion-dollar homes — a man who proposed building more accessible housing says angry neighbors took out their frustration on his son: a 9-year-old boy who was demoted to a lower-level Little League team.

Christopher Stefanoni says in a federal lawsuit that residents of Darien are so worried that affordable housing will draw black people to town that they'll do just about anything to stop it, including using his son to retaliate against him. Town and Little League officials say that's completely false.

"Darien is a little white enclave, sort of a holdout segregated town," said Stefanoni, 50, a Harvard-educated father of five who has lived in town since 2000. "The attitudes that people in Darien have are very exclusionary, demeaning. When they go after your kids, they've crossed the line."

The town of nearly 21,000 people on Connecticut's Gold Coast consistently appears in Top 10 lists of America's wealthiest towns, with a per-capita income around \$95,000. About 94 percent of the population is white, with about 620 Hispanics and 70 blacks, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 24 of 25

The lawsuit and a federal housing investigation reopened old wounds in Darien, a New York City suburb depicted in the 1947 Oscar-winning movie "Gentleman's Agreement" starring Gregory Peck where residents conspired not to sell their homes to Jews.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, April 12, the 102nd day of 2015. There are 263 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 12, 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Georgia, at age 63; he was succeeded by Vice President Harry S. Truman.

On this date:

In 1606, England's King James I decreed the design of the original Union Flag, which combined the flags of England and Scotland.

In 1776, North Carolina's Fourth Provincial Congress authorized the colony's delegates to the Continental Congress to support independence from Britain.

In 1861, the American Civil War began as Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

In 1912, Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, died in Glen Echo, Maryland, at age 90.

In 1934, "Tender Is the Night," by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was first published in book form after being serialized in Scribner's Magazine.

In 1955, the Salk vaccine against polio was declared safe and effective.

In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to fly in space, orbiting the earth once before making a safe landing.

In 1963, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. was arrested and jailed in Birmingham, Alabama, charged with contempt of court and parading without a permit. (During his time behind bars, King wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail.")

In 1975, singer, dancer and civil rights activist Josephine Baker, 68, died in Paris.

In 1981, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off from Cape Canaveral on its first test flight. Former world heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, 66, died in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In 1985, Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, became the first sitting member of Congress to fly in space as the shuttle Discovery lifted off.

In 1990, in its first meeting, East Germany's first democratically elected parliament acknowledged responsibility for the Nazi Holocaust, and asked the forgiveness of Jews and others who had suffered.

Ten years ago: Three men with suspected al-Qaida ties, already in British custody, were charged with a years-long plot to attack the New York Stock Exchange and other East Coast financial institutions. (Seven men were eventually convicted in British court and received sentences ranging up to 26 years; the leader of the group, Dhiren Barot, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder and received life in prison.) President George W. Bush visited soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas, marking the two-year anniversary of the end of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama opened a 47-nation nuclear summit in Washington, boosted by Ukraine's announcement that it would give up its weapons-grade uranium. The Bristol Herald Courier won the Pulitzer Prize for public service for uncovering a scandal in which Virginia landowners were deprived of millions in natural gas royalties. The musical "Next to Normal" won the Pulitzer for drama; Paul Harding's "Tinkers" was the surprise fiction winner.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, April 12, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 257 ♦ 25 of 25

One year ago: The policy-setting panel of the 188-nation International Monetary Fund concluded a meeting in Washington by expressing confidence that the global economy finally had turned the corner to stronger growth. Devastating wildfires erupted in the hills of Valparaiso, Chile, killing 15 people and destroying nearly 3,000 homes.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Ned Miller is 90. Actress Jane Withers is 89. Opera singer Montserrat Caballe is 82. Playwright Alan Ayckbourn (AYK'-bohrn) is 76. Jazz musician Herbie Hancock is 75. Rock singer John Kay (Steppenwolf) is 71. Actor Ed O'Neill is 69. Actor Dan Lauria is 68. Talk show host David Letterman is 68. Author Scott Turow is 66. Singer David Cassidy is 65. Actor-playwright Tom Noonan is 64. Rhythm-and-blues singer JD Nicholas (The Commodores) is 63. Singer Pat Travers is 61. Actor Andy Garcia is 59. Movie director Walter Salles (SAL'-ihs) is 59. Country singer Vince Gill is 58. Actress Suzzanne (cq) Douglas is 58. Rock musician Will Sergeant (Echo & the Bunnymen) is 57. Rock singer Art Alexakis (al-ex-AH'-kis) (Everclear) is 53. Country singer Deryl Dodd is 51. Folk-pop singer Amy Ray (Indigo Girls) is 51. Actress Alicia Coppola is 47. Rock singer Nicholas Hexum (311) is 45. Actor Nicholas Brendon is 44. Actress Shannen Doherty is 44. Actress Marley Shelton is 41. Actress Sarah Jane Morris is 38. Actress Jordana Spiro is 38. Rock musician Guy Berryman (Coldplay) is 37. Actress Claire Danes is 36. Actress Jennifer Morrison is 36. Actor Matt McGorry is 29. Contemporary Christian musician Joe Rickard (Red) is 28. Rock singer-musician Brendon Urie (Panic at the Disco) is 28. Actress Saoirse (SUR'-shuh) Ronan is 21.

Thought for Today: "It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something." - Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945).