

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 1 of 27

- 1- Rix Apartments for Rent
- 1- Dakota Outdoors
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Classifieds
- 3- Friends: Michael A. Schmit
- 5- Johnson resigns as band teacher
- 7- SEAS Youth present Living Stations photo
- 8- Groton Robotics teams advance in national tour-
ney
- 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

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.

School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans, carrots and dip, fresh fruit, apple sauce.

Noon: Track Meet in Groton

7:00 pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Council

Wednesday, April 15

Birthday: Brady Graf, Wayne Wienk, Sam Thorson

Senior Menu: Tater tot hotdish, green beans, grape juice, sour cream and apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic toast, green beans, fruit.

10:00am: NSU Math Contest

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

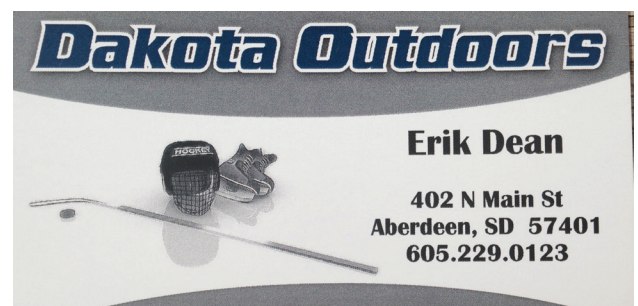
FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118



Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean

402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 2 of 27

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)

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.

Bridal Showers

Open House Bridal Shower honoring Jessica Hoscheid, bride-to-be of Zach Harry, April 25, 2015, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. The couple is registered at Target, Inspire and Menards.

Bridal Shower for Ashley Larson, bride-to-be of Austin Fordham, Saturday, April 25th, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton, S.D. Registered at Target and Herbergers. (2t)

Friends . . . Near and Far

Editor's Note: This is the 12th in a series featuring your friends, near and far.



**Heidi and Michael Schmit
Austin, Landon and Kenley**

Michael A. Schmit

JobWise what are you doing today? I am a Project Engineer at Helms and Associates in Aberdeen, SD.

How long have you been working at the current job? I've been here for 7 Years

How did you get your current job? After I graduated from SDSM&T, my wife and I wanted to move back to the Aberdeen area to raise our family here. I interviewed with local Engineering firms and agencies ultimately accepting a position with Helms and Associates.

If you have previous employments list them and how long you were there. I was a Combat Engineer in the U.S. Army for 4 years from 2000-2004 which included a year in Korea and an 11 month deployment to Iraq. I was also a Student Engineer with

the Pennington County Highway Department for 2 years from 2006-2008 while attending SDSM&T.

What high school did you attend and what year did you graduate? I graduated from Frederick High School in 2000.

Where did you attend college and what was your degree? I received a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in May 2008.

What advice would you give the high school students today? Don't take the easy way out. Set goals for your future and keep a steady path. The only roadblock in achieving those goals is usually yourself. It may not be instantaneous, but the rewards for your hard work and sacrifices will come.

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

1. Operation Iraqi Freedom Combat Veteran.
2. I'm the first one in my immediate family to receive a Bachelor's Degree.
3. Receiving my Professional Engineering License.
4. Designing and overseeing the Realignment of the Runway at the Brookings Regional Airport. This project involved land purchases, re-routing a creek, extensive grading, paving, relocating the instrument Landing System, new airport electrical system, etc.). This was a very complex project that was over 8 years in the making with the planning, environmental clearance, engineering, and construction.
5. Most importantly, I have been blessed with my wife who followed me through my time in the U.S. Army (including a 11 month Deployment to Iraq), supported me through college, and today we raise our three kids in the very place we've always called "home".

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 4 of 27

Are you married? If so what is your spouses name and where was she from? I am married to my wife, Heidi, who is from Ipswich, SD.

How did the two of you meet? Heidi and I met at a street dance in Columbia in 1999.

Do you have any children? Heidi and I have 2 boys (Austin – 7 yrs. & Landon – 4 yrs.) and and 1 girl (Kenley – 3 months)

Last question: do you feel that your high school and college education prepared you adequately for post education life? Yes and No. Academically, the level of education at the High School level provided at a small school like Frederick Area High School was exceptional. The student to teacher ratio ensures kids have access to teachers if they are struggling ultimately preparing them for the next level. The South Dakota School of Mines & Technology is continuously listed as one of the nation's best college buys and the average starting salary of the graduates exceeds that of the graduates of Harvard. However, my experiences found that once you entered the work force, that is where you "really" learn how to do your job. Don't get me wrong. There is absolutely no way I could do my job without the education I received; however, they cannot possibly teach you everything you need to know at the High School or College levels. The moral of the story is that you can never stop learning. Every day is a learning process as jobs and tasks evolve and change.

Teacher pay having a direct impact on music department as Johnson submits his resignation

Deb Jensen had first submitted her resignation/retirement notice, then the music department took a double blow as Reid Johnson submitted his resignation. "I know this may be a surprise to many people," Johnson wrote in his letter to the board. "I believe we have a great school and I'm proud to have been affiliated with the district." Johnson has been the band director for eight years and has been instrumental in bringing the Festival of Bands to Groton. Johnson stated in his letter that he had been offered a job with a different company and felt he had to do what was best for his family.

Melinda Eikamp, Beth Gustafson and Paul Kosel all spoke about the music department and hoped the board would continue to keep the same level of music education. Eikamp said, "As a wife of a band director (the late Leonard Eikamp was a band director in Groton) and a parent of two daughters, I have seen the strength in the music department." She emphasized that the high rates in parades and musicians in all state band and all state orchestra is made possible with the private lessons that the district has offered over the years. "You may not see a difference right away if you make a cut," she said, "but you will in four to five years. The students and staff did a tremendous job with the POPS Concert. I urge you to continue with the level we have right now." Both of Eikamp's daughters were in All State Band and one was in All State Orchestra.

Beth Gustafson echoed much of the same thoughts as she has two girls in band. "I've paid for a trumpet and a trombone. My kids are getting the lessons to excel. She said that students are taking lessons in the summer so they can get better. "You can't ask for a teacher better than Reid Johnson," she said. "The man loves music. It's his heart and soul and he's leaving because of money. It's heart wrenching to see the program take a hit like this. We want you to know how we feel."

Kosel also talked about the future of the program. "I have a daughter that is playing flute. We're making payments on her flute, but if the lessons are no longer going to be available, we will have to take a second look at the investment. Groton has had many students make it to middle school All State Band and high school All State Band. I sure would hate to see that change."

Board President Steve Smith said he doesn't want to see a change in the music department either. "No decisions have been made, but we have to look at applicants." Board member Kelly Kjelden said that he appreciated hearing the input very much.

The issue facing Groton isn't that they want to make any cuts. It's the availability of applicants. "It's a real issue," said Superintendent Joe Schwan. "The teacher shortage is for real. The state legislature need stop address this." Schwann said he has seen four educators leave the profession that they love and went on to do something else because of the money issue. There was only one applicant for Jensen's position.

In a report recently published in the Independent, The latest collection of data from South Dakota's higher education institutions by the South Dakota School Administrators (SASD) revealed 260 of the more than 770 graduates who obtained an education related degree were placed in a position out-of-state.

SASD's latest survey comes after a study in November found the number of South Dakota teachers eligible for retirement exceeds the number of students enrolled in teacher education programs.

"This information is scary," SASD Executive Director Rob Monson said. "We suspected this to be true, but now the data shows we're losing potential teachers to other states. We already know we don't have enough candidates to replace retirees. When you look at over 1,100 educators eligible for re-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 6 of 27

tirement, 726 in the teacher pipeline, and 1/3 of those being placed out of state, we are in trouble in preparing our K-12 students here in South Dakota for their future, and the future of the South Dakota workforce.”

Business Manager Mike Weber said, “It’s the same thing every year. Just a different name.” Schwan said that Groton is better off than many other schools in the state. Former Senator Chuck Welke of Warner echoed the same thoughts. “It is a terrible crisis that they (the legislature) continue to ignore,” Welke said. “Maybe this will be the year they do something. The Blue Ribbon Task Force is their answer but they should have done something years ago. Groton has had their share of lost teachers due to this problem but they are better off than most of our schools.”

There was a long pause before the board accepted Johnson’s resignation. “I’d rather skip this,” Smith said when the agenda item came up. “If we vote nay, does this mean he has to stay?” asked board member Lars Hanson, who of course knew they could not force Johnson to stay, but expressed his reluctance to see Johnson go.

The board also approved the resignation/retirement for Connie Stauch.

Then to add fuel to fire, Schwan reported on the Health Care Plan that the district is enrolled in. He reported that the current Health Fund program is, well, a big mess. It is currently \$8 million in debt with another \$4 million in outstanding bills that have not been submitted yet. A big part of the administrative costs comes from managing 268 plans among 68 entities in South Dakota that have start times in various months. To get out of debt, the Health Care Fund is making some drastic changes. The first is to reduce the total number of plans down to six. Another is to set the rates and there will be no room to negotiate. The Health Care Plan is going to be enrolled in Wellmark. Had it stayed with the Avera plan, the premiums would have gone up 30 percent. Sanford did not offer a plan. Under Wellmark, the premiums would go up 11 percent.

All entities will have a start time of July 1 and all plans will have to be prepaid. Currently, the district pays for April’s premium at the end of April. The premiums will need to be paid at the beginning of the month.

Weber said that is going to be a problem for some people. “Some staff are working for their insurance. Some on the family plan are paying \$900 out of their check for premiums. In June, we’re suppose to draw that twice. Some will not see a paycheck at all in June.” Weber suggested spreading the second payment over two or even three months to help with the transition.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 7 of 27



The youth of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton church performed the Living Stations on April 1. They include front row: Hannah Lewandowski, Sydney Thorson, Sean Shuring, Nicole Lewandowski and Erin Smith. Middle Row: Jessica Bjerke, Erika Herr, Emily Locke, Jackson Oliver, Shane Simon, Landon Marzahn and Katie Groeblichhoff. Top row: Sheldon Herr, Tori Bjerke, Michaela Cutler, Rachel Blackmun, Luke Thorson, Breanna Marzahn, Maggie Simon, Joe Groeblichhoff. Dylan Miles, Luke Smith and Gabe Dohman. (Courtesy Photo by Renee Marzahn)

Groton Robotics teams advance in national tourney

G.A.T. Wrenches (middle school) ranked 35th of about 70 at the end of the qualification round. There was a separate middle school division.

The high school teams were split into two divisions. Our two teams were in different divisions. The divisions were split will no regard to skill. Just number off, 1, 2, 1, 2, etc

Geek Squad (high school, Jacob, Nick, Ethan, Devon) ranked 32nd of about 80 at the end of the qualification round.

G-Force (high school, Logan, Landon, Hunter, Alex, Chris, Garrett) 19th of about 80 at the end of the qualification round.

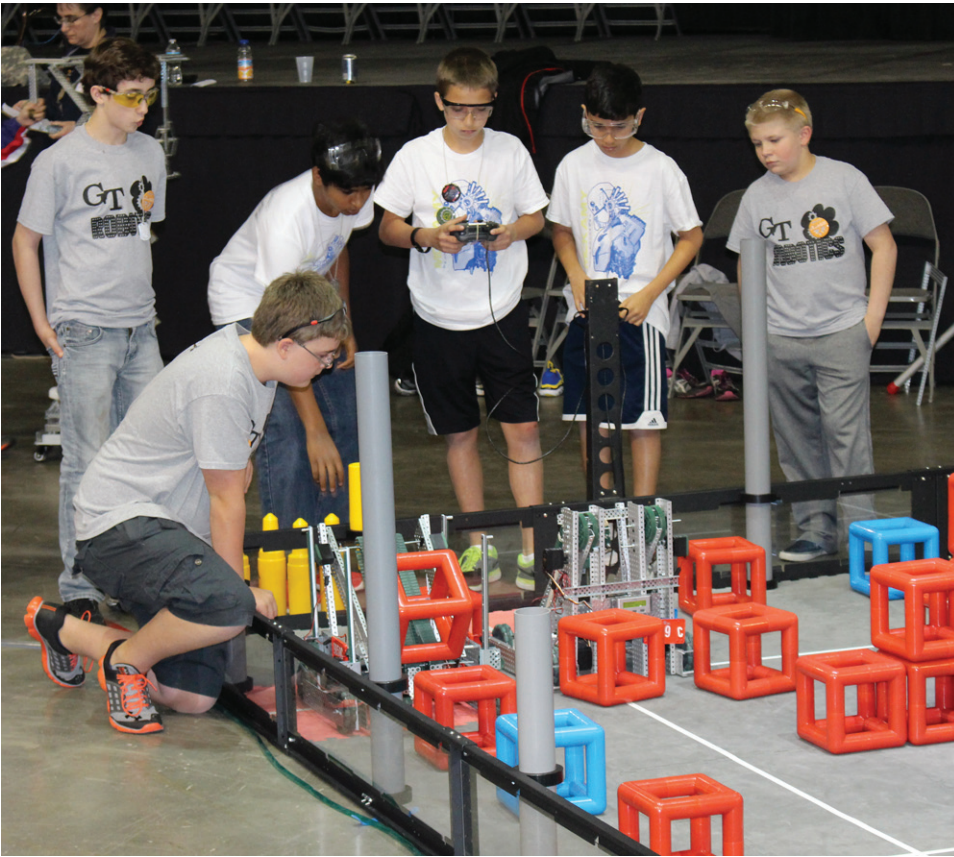
All three of the GT Robotics teams were selected to be in the elimination rounds (like playoffs, only about 1/2 of the teams made the elimination rounds) The elimination rounds are played with 16, 3 team alliances. 48 teams played during the elimination rounds within each division.



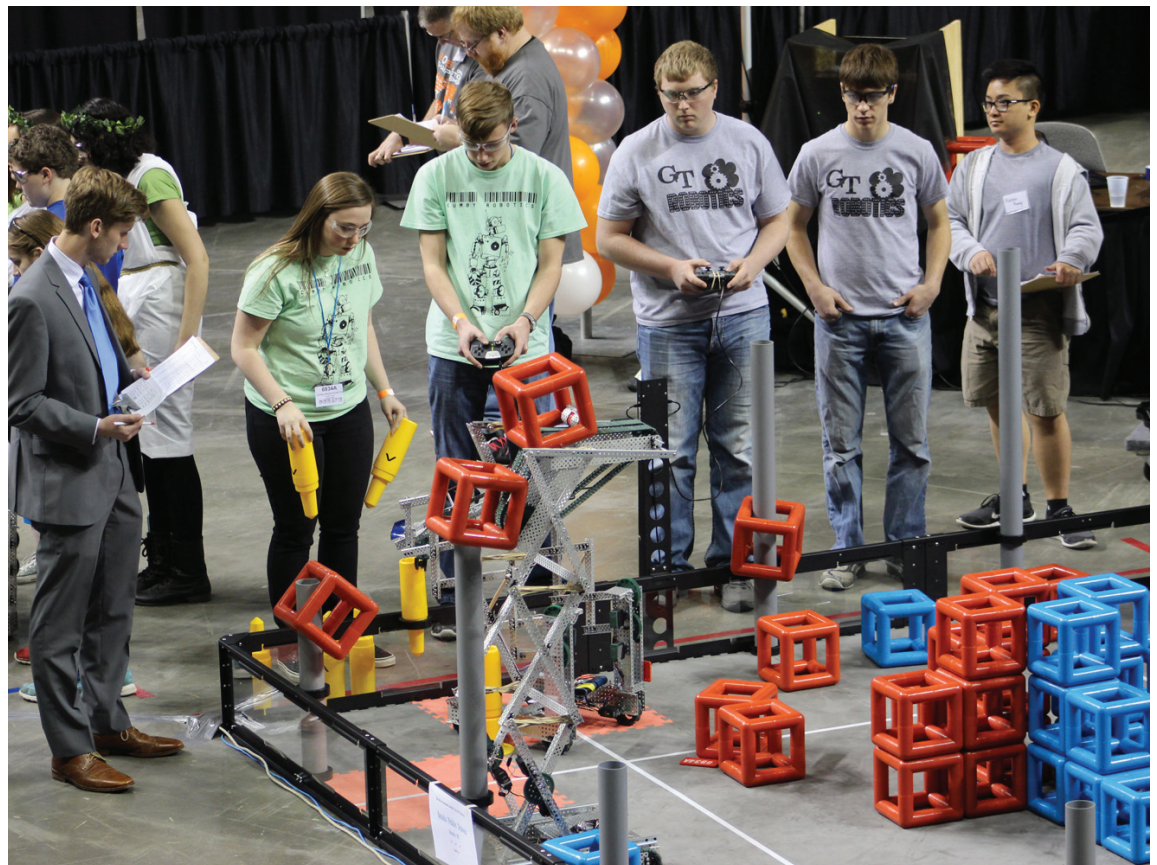
Groton Robotics Team: Hunter Monson, Landon Marzahn, Alex Morris, Logan Lane, Tomas Cranford, Micah Poor, Noah Tullis, Nick Dalchow, Dragr Monson, Ethan Braun, Jacob Milbrandt, and Devon Poppen. (Courtesy Photo by Renee Marzahn)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 9 of 27



The GAT Wrenches during a match. (Courtesy Photo by Renee Marzahn)



The Geek Squad competing in a match. (Courtesy Photo by Renee Marzahn)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 10 of 27



The G-Force competing in a match. (Courtesy Photo by Renee Marzahn)

G-Force preparing their robot for competition - Logan Lane, Landon Marzhan and Hunter Monson. (Courtesy Photo by Renee Marzahn)



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 11 of 27

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

1873 - A famous Easter blizzard raged across Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota. Gale force winds blew the wet snow into massive drifts, however there were few deaths due to the sparse population and due to the gradual increase of the storm. (David Ludlum)

1886 - A devastating tornado, 800 yards in width at times, cut a twenty mile path through Saint Cloud MN killing 74 persons. The bottom of the Mississippi River was said to have been seen during the tornado's crossing. Eleven persons were killed at a wedding party near the town of Rice. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm system moving slowly northeastward across the Middle Mississippi Valley produced severe thunderstorms which spawned three tornadoes around Ottumwa IA, and produced up to four inches of rain in southeastern Nebraska, flooding rivers and streams. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - A weather disturbance off the southern coast of California brought parts of southern California their first rain in six weeks. Rain-slickened roads resulted in numerous accidents in southern California, including a ten car pile-up at Riverside. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Late afternoon thunderstorms in northern Florida soaked the town of Golden Gate with 4.37 inches of rain in about two hours, resulting in local flooding. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

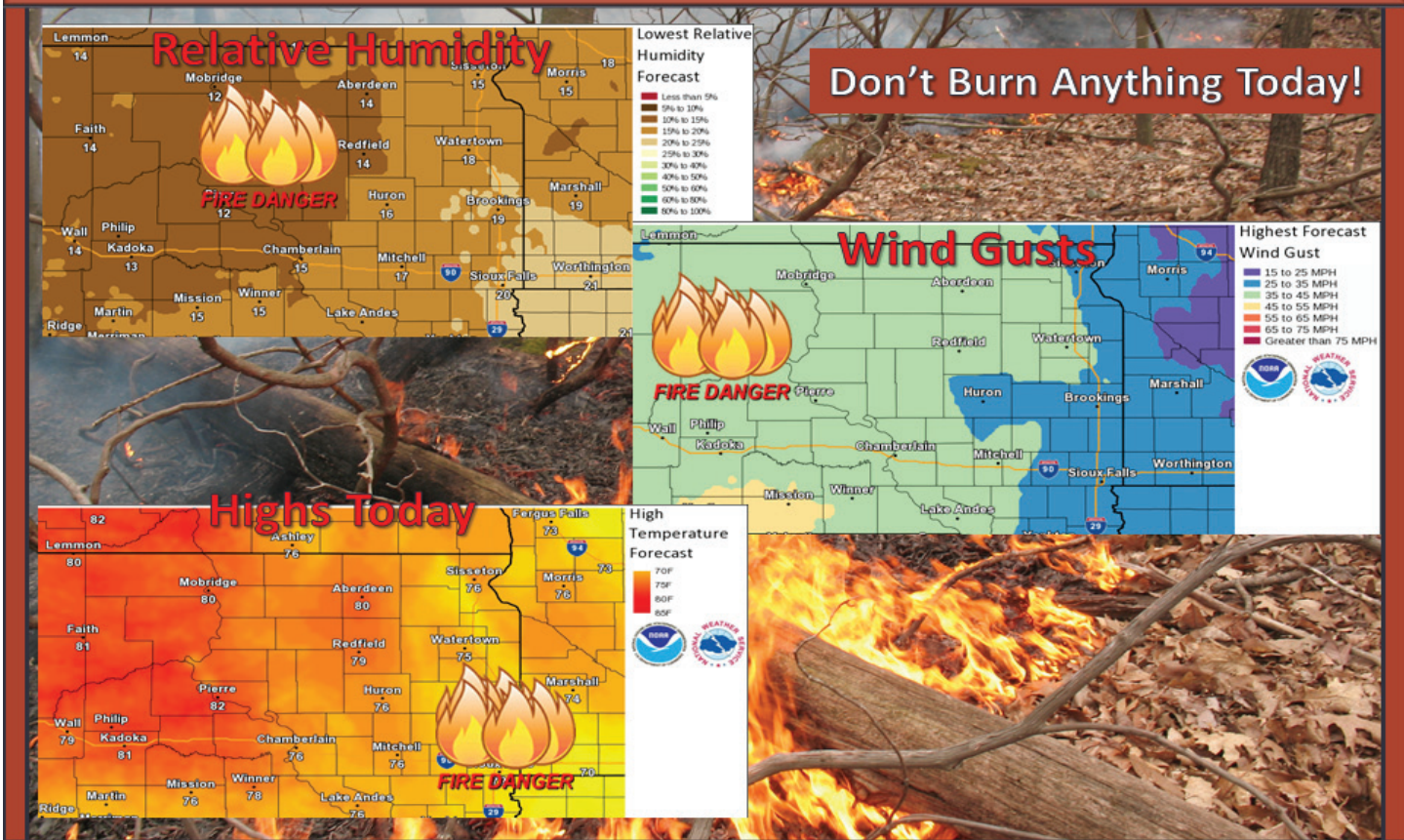
1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in southeastern Texas during the mid morning hours. Thunderstorms produced dime size hail at Galveston, and wind gusts to 59 mph at Port Arthur. Afternoon thunderstorms over southeast Louisiana spawned tornadoes south of Bogalusa and at Rio. (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 12 of 27

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Breezy	Breezy	Breezy	Slight Chc Showers	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 79 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 64 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 69 °F

Warm ... Windy & Dry Conditions Today!



weather.gov/Aberdeen National Weather Service Aberdeen @NWSAberdeen Updated: 4/14/2015 5:23 AM Central

Published on: 04/14/2015 at 5:29AM

Extreme Fire Danger will continue across the area today with Red Flag warnings in effect for much of the region. Please refrain from burning anything, especially if you are under a burn ban where you live.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 13 of 27

Yesterday's Weather

High: 63.5 at 5:27 PM

Low: 33.9 at 7:25 AM

High Gust: 30 at 1:41 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 86° in 1942, 1913

Record Low: 9° in 1928

Average High: 57°F

Average Low: 31°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.63

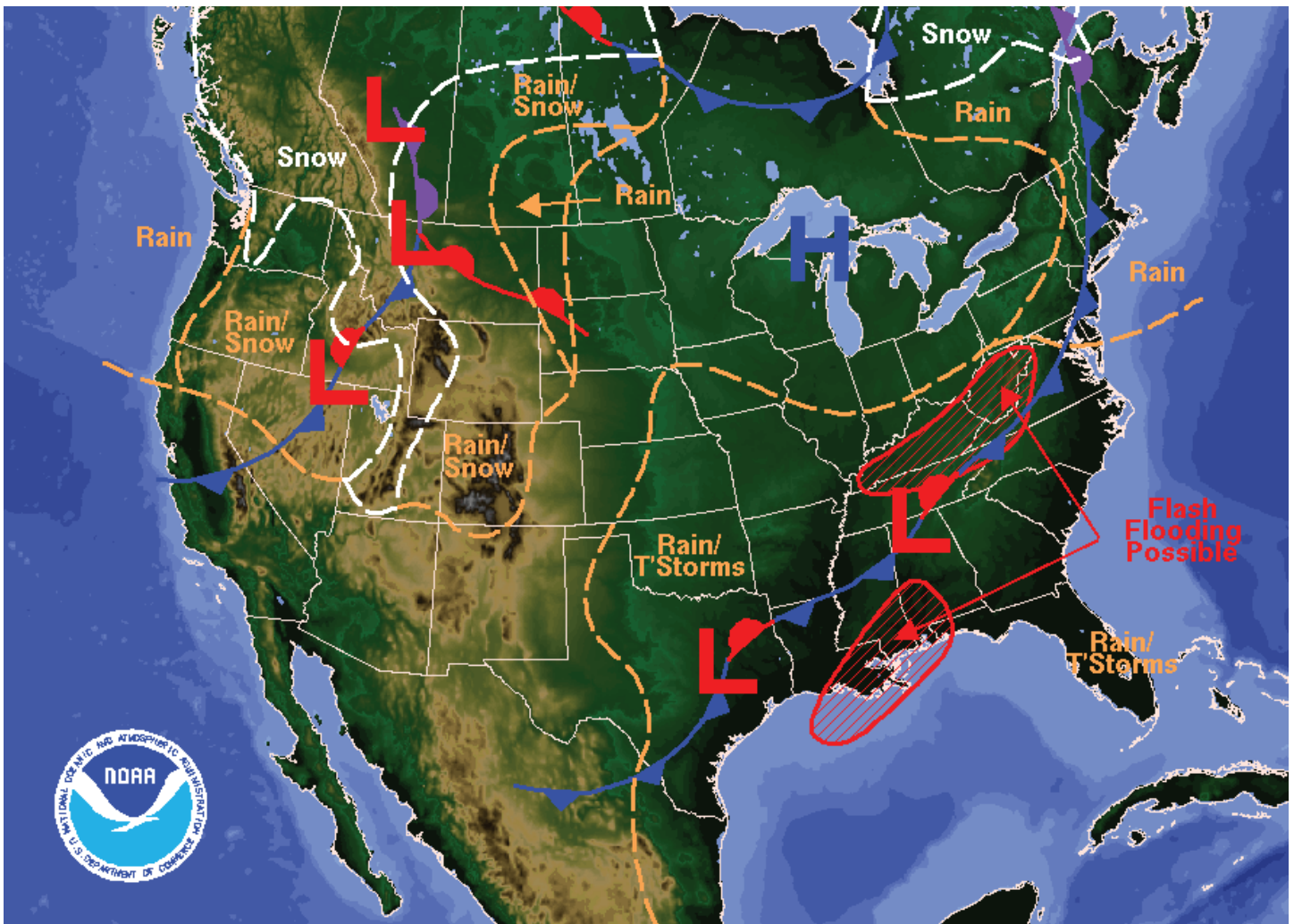
Precip to date in April.: 0.01

Average Precip to date: 2.81

Precip Year to Date: 0.48

Sunset Tonight: 8:18 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:49 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Apr 14, 2015, issued 3:14 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 14 of 27



MAKING HISTORY

There is a vast difference between a legacy and an inheritance. An inheritance is a collection of "things" that are passed on from one generation to another. It is usually considered to be wealth or the things that can be bought with money or negotiated by "deals" between individuals or sometimes items that are "traded."

A "legacy" is much different. It is composed of the opinions and observations of others who watch us as we make our way through life. It is a result of what we do, the things we say, and how well we serve or do not serve others and our attitudes about the material things and temporal things in life. Unfortunately, for most, it is more important to leave an inheritance for others than a legacy that inspires and challenges others. Most want to be remembered for the balance sheet of life than the good they do for God and others.

"For riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations," wrote the wisest and one of the wealthiest men of history. His net worth exceeded one hundred-sixty billion dollars. Obviously, he knew how to "make a dollar" but was wise enough to know that it was impossible to keep.

Now, as we look at his-story we see what he "left behind" that has meaning and enduring value was not his wealth, but his legacy. Year after year and century after century people look to his writings for God's wisdom and guidance, God's insights and promises, God's values and the blessings that come from honoring Him.

Prayer: Lord, grant us Your insight, wisdom and courage to leave a legacy of service to others as You did. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 27:24 for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.

ATTENTION

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Policy Form Series GPP-12

News from the Associated Press

Driver arrested after car crashes into Sioux Falls home

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The driver of a car that crashed into a Sioux Falls home escaped injury but will face charges.

Police say the 30-year-old male driver from Brookings was arrested about midnight Monday for reckless driving and drunken driving.

Authorities say the car was traveling at a high speed when it went off a curve, struck a tree and launched into the front of a home. No one inside the home was hurt, but a 21-year-old passenger in the car was taken to a hospital to be treated for what police said were minor injuries.

Game, Fish and Parks antler auction scheduled for Rapid City

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The ultimate auction to outfit a man cave is coming up.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks will host its annual antler auction Saturday, May 2, at the agency's Rapid City regional office shop.

Items up for auction include antelope, deer and elk antlers on skull plates; deer and elk bulk antlers; deer and elk shoulder mounts; bobcat pelts as well as mountain lion skulls and hides.

Other miscellaneous items will also be on the auction such as tree stands, goose decoys and elk ivories.

Auction items might change and are limited in quantities. More details are available on the GFP's Facebook page: <http://on.fb.me/1CI4qLz> .

Doors open at 9 a.m. MDT and the auction starts an hour later.

The shop is located at 4130 Adventure Trail in Rapid City.

Yankton police: Hurley boy, 6, accidentally drowned in river

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say they don't suspect foul play in the death of a 6-year-old southeastern South Dakota boy whose body was recovered from the Missouri River after he went missing on Easter.

The Yankton Police Department announced Monday that preliminary autopsy results for Lincoln Hilt indicate accidental drowning caused his death.

The Hurley boy went missing April 5 while fishing with his family from the docks at a Yankton city park. He had received a fishing pole earlier that day as an Easter gift.

Family members last saw Hilt sitting on the dock about 100 yards away from where his body was found last Friday.

It took search crews several days to recover his body due to inclement weather.

Hilt was a kindergarten student at Viborg-Hurley Elementary School.

Obama to give commencement speech at Watertown tech school

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — President Barack Obama will have visited all 50 states when he tours a northeastern South Dakota community college next month.

South Dakota is the only state Obama has not been to as president. During an interview with KSFY-TV

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 17 of 27

anchor Nancy Naeve, Obama on Monday announced that he will give the commencement speech at Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown. Naeve was among a number of anchors from TV stations from various states who met with Obama at the White House.

When Naeve asked the president whether he planned a trip to the state, Obama responded that he would be visiting May 8.

"I can't let my South Dakota friends feel neglected," he said.

Lake Area Technical Institute President Mike Cartney in December was among the attendees at the White House College Opportunity Summit. The school has been a top 10 national finalist for the Aspen Community College Excellence Award three consecutive times and has one of the highest graduation and placement rates in the nation.

The summit drew colleges and universities, business leaders, nonprofit groups and others who support expanding college opportunities for students.

Obama did stop in the state in 2008 when he was a senator campaigning for the Democratic Party's nomination for president. He spoke last year in North Dakota on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, which straddles that state's border with South Dakota.

Obama had made it to just 46 states by the start of the year. That left Idaho, South Carolina, Utah and South Dakota without a presidential sighting. The White House quickly scheduled presidential appearances in Idaho and South Carolina, and Obama stopped in Utah earlier this month.

When Obama does make it to South Dakota, the White House Historical Association says he will be only the fourth president to have touched down in every state.

Obama announces May visit to his 50th state: South Dakota

DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama will complete a rare presidential run through all 50 states when he delivers the commencement address at a South Dakota community college next month.

Amid much speculation over when he'd finally make it to South Dakota, Obama used an interview Monday with KSFY, the ABC-affiliated TV station in Sioux Falls, to break the news himself.

South Dakota is the only state still waiting for Obama to visit — but only for a few more weeks.

"I can't let my South Dakota friends feel neglected," he told station anchor Nancy Naeve.

Obama will travel to Watertown, in the state's northeastern corner, to deliver the commencement address at Lake Area Technical Institute on May 8.

The White House says Lake Area Tech is one of the nation's top community colleges, recognized for rigorously preparing its students and for having a two-year graduation rate that's more than twice the national average.

Obama has advocated for community colleges during his presidency. Earlier this year he announced a multibillion-dollar proposal to pay community college tuition for eligible students, but the plan has not picked up any traction in the Republican-controlled Congress.

Obama had made it to just 46 states when Jan. 1 rolled in, leaving just Idaho, South Carolina, Utah and South Dakota yearning for a presidential sighting.

Aides quickly scheduled appearances in Idaho the day after his State of the Union speech in January, followed by a stop in South Carolina in March.

He slept in Utah on April 2 before a public appearance at Hill Air Force Base, near Salt Lake City, the next morning.

That left South Dakota with the distinction of being the only state awaiting an Obama visit.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 18 of 27

The wait ends in four weeks, and Obama will have completed a rare presidential run through all 50 of the United States.

He will be just the fourth president to do so, according to the White House Historical Association.

Richard Nixon was first, followed by George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Ronald Reagan fell four states short of the goal.

George W. Bush never made it to Vermont.

Obama's most recent South Dakota visit was in 2008 while campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination. He spoke last year in North Dakota on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, which straddles that state's border with South Dakota.

Impoverished tribe struggles to stop surge in teen suicides

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation are no strangers to hardship or to the risk of lives being cut short. But a string of seven suicides by adolescents in recent months has shaken this impoverished community and sent school and tribal leaders on an urgent mission to stop the deaths.

On Dec. 12, a 14-year-old boy hanged himself at his home on the reservation, a sprawling expanse of badlands on the South Dakota-Nebraska border. On Christmas Day, a 15-year-old girl was found dead, followed weeks later by a high school cheerleader. Two more young people took their lives in February and two more in March, along with several more attempts. The youngest to die was 12.

Students in the reservation's high school and middle school grades have been posting Facebook messages wondering who might be next, with some even seeming to encourage new attempts by hanging nooses near homes. Worried parents recently met at a community hall to discuss what's happening. And the U.S. Public Health Service has dispatched teams of mental health counselors to talk to students.

"The situation has turned into an epidemic," said Thomas Poor Bear, vice president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, whose 24-year-old niece was among two adults who also committed suicide this winter. "There are a lot of reasons behind it. The bullying at schools, the high unemployment rate. Parents need to discipline the children."

Somewhere between 16,000 and 40,000 members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe live on the reservation, which at over 2 million acres is among the nation's largest. Famous as the site of the Wounded Knee massacre, in which the 7th Cavalry slaughtered about 300 tribe members in 1890, it includes the county with the highest poverty rate in the U.S., and some of the worst rates of alcoholism and drug abuse, violence and unemployment.

Suicide has been a persistent problem, a fact that is hardly surprising considering the grim prospects for a better life on the remote grasslands, say tribal officials.

Most people live in clusters of mobile homes, some so dilapidated that the insulation is visible from outside. At night, trailers are surrounded by seven or eight rusting cars, not because someone is hosting a party, but because 20 or 25 people live inside. Horses wander on the seemingly endless pastures, some with their rib bones showing.

Nearly 1,000 suicide attempts were recorded on the reservation between 2004 and 2013. Few weeks go by without a suicide, said Yvonne "Tiny" DeCory, a suicide-prevention outreach worker at Pine Ridge.

But the deaths of the young people are especially shattering.

"Why so young?" she said. "Why do these kids think there is no hope? Well, look around," DeCory, who has worked on the reservation for almost 30 years.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 19 of 27

"The economic structure here does not support the population. You have a gas station, a little boutique, a big grocery store, Taco John's, Pizza Hut and Subway. You have people of all ages vying for those jobs. People that are 50 and 60 years old are competing against the teenagers who want to work."

Federal experts say that some reservation children experience a form of post-traumatic stress from exposure to family turmoil. The symptoms are comparable to those of military veterans returning from war zones.

Friends of Alanie Martin, a 14-year-old who hanged herself on Jan. 31, are still trying to understand her death. The cheerleader at Pine Ridge High School traveled to basketball games and, by various accounts, had lots of friends and was all smiles.

"She was very active. She knew everybody," Ieisha Lefthand, 17, said, choking back tears. "In the locker, they had pictures of her, candles and people stopping by her locker crying."

Some students say the suicide urge can come on reservation kids who are in a bad spell.

"While I was at my old school, I actually went through a hard time and tried to commit suicide and I ended up in the hospital," said Shyla Cottier, a sophomore at Pine Ridge High School. "I got bullied, and then I had family troubles and it all just kind of built up to the point of that. My mom went to my counselor, and that really helped me."

But not all the suasion is positive.

In February, Poor Bear said, a parent came to him with an alarming Facebook post: Nooses hanging in trees near Porcupine, a community of about 1,000 people. Tribal police later took down four nooses, apparently left there as an invitation, but could not determine who was responsible.

"A lot of the older teenagers are encouraging the younger ones on Facebook, leaving messages that say you know, 'You need to end your life and go to a different life,' and that's encouraging them to go commit suicide," Poor Bear said.

At the community meeting, many parents said the causes of the suicides included the decimation of their Oglala Lakota culture. The Sioux were forced onto the reservation in 1868. Tribal members for years were steered into boarding schools where only English was allowed. Religious ceremonies were discouraged.

"We need to do something. We need to take action" to build the children's pride in their identity, said Sheila Slow Bear, Ieisha Lefthand's mother. The parents agreed to hold a ceremony to give interested students an Oglala Lakota name.

After the tribe appealed for help in February, volunteer federal mental health professionals began two-week rotations at the reservation to supplement the nine full-time counselors at the Indian Health Service hospital who were overwhelmed. They encourage students to come forward if a friend is considering suicide.

"They have to understand that they are not snitching on their friends," said Angie Sam, the director of the tribe's suicide-prevention initiative.

Teachers recently foiled a plan by several high school girls to take their lives simultaneously.

Pine Ridge School, which offers kindergarten through high school, is seeking federal money to keep its dormitory open during the weekends so students don't have to go home, where most of the suicides happen. Many students spend the school week on the campus, in the reservation's largest town, to avoid long daily bus rides.

"Before cellphones and everything, a kid could get away from bullying at school by going home and they felt safe," DeCory said. But no more. "You're no longer safe in your own home. These kids feel that."

Homeowner and firefighter die in Brandon house fire

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — A homeowner and a volunteer firefighter died after a blaze engulfed a home in the southeast South Dakota city of Brandon.

The homeowner was pronounced dead at a hospital after firefighters rescued him from his one-story home Sunday night, minutes after his daughter was woken up by the fire alarm and sought help. The body of the firefighter was discovered hours later in the home's basement, where authorities suspect the blaze began.

Brandon Police Chief David Kull identified the homeowner as 47-year-old David Smith. The firefighter was 38-year-old Steven Ackerman with the Valley Springs Fire Department.

Firefighters responded to the scene shortly after 10 p.m. Sunday and encountered heavy smoke coming from the garage. Smith was taken from the home around 10:35 p.m., and five minutes later, all firefighters were ordered out of the burning home.

Ackerman was reported missing about 11 p.m. His body was found in the basement about 1:30 a.m. Monday and recovered around 10:30 a.m., when it was transported to the coroner's office. The cause of death of both men has not been determined.

"This is going to have ripples throughout the whole area; this is going to affect firefighters in the state and the area pretty hard," Brandon Fire Chief Gary Lembcke said of Ackerman's passing. "Unfortunately, this is sometimes what it takes to bring people together, but there will be quite a gathering of firefighters coming together to give this brother the respect he deserves."

The fire marshal inspected part of the garage late Monday morning. The cause of the fire will be determined over the next few weeks, but authorities say they do not believe it is suspicious.

Forecasters warn of wildfire dangers across Northern Plains

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) Forecasters say dangerous fire weather is in store for much of the Northern Plains over the next several days, with gusting winds and low humidity levels that could lead to explosive wildfires.

The National Weather Service said a cold front will push into the region late Tuesday, generating strong winds and isolated thunderstorms.

As a result, red flag warnings and fire watches have been issued for North and South Dakota, southeast Montana, most of Wyoming and western Nebraska.

The agency advised people who have conducted recent controlled burns to make sure they are completely out to reduce the risk of sparking a wildfire.

Tuesday's cold front was expected to be followed by wet snow in areas of Montana and Wyoming into Wednesday.

Former assistant at Mines, USD lands head coaching spot

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A former assistant football coach at two universities in South Dakota has been named the new head football coach at Alfred State College in New York state.

Jarod Dodson most recently has served as the defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Dodson was an assistant at the University of South Dakota from 2004-2008. He was a finalist in both 2007 and 2008 for the American Football Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year Award.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 21 of 27

Dodson also was a standout cornerback at USD in the late 1990s. At Alfred State, Dodson will take over for the retired Mick Caba.

Lower Brule man sent to federal prison for attack on woman

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Lower Brule man has been sentenced to nearly two years in prison for an attack on a woman that authorities say left her begging for her life.

Thirty-seven-year-old Cameron LaRoche was accused of attacking the woman after drinking at a relative's house last August. Authorities say he hit the woman repeatedly with his fists, tried to smother her by pushing her face into a mattress then choked her until she couldn't breathe.

The woman suffered a wrist injury that required a cast.

LaRoche pleaded guilty in January in federal court to assault by strangulation and suffocation. Acting U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says LaRoche was recently sentenced to 20 months in custody to be followed by two years of supervised release.

6 arrested after sex trafficking probe in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Six people have been arrested after an investigation into sex trafficking in Sioux Falls.

Attorney General Marty Jackley, Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead and Sioux Falls Police Chief Doug Barthel announced the arrests on Monday. Jackley says they resulted from a probe by the state Division of Criminal Investigation and the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

The suspects are from South Dakota, Iowa and Guatemala. They all face a felony charge of solicitation of a minor that carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. One suspect also is accused of assault on a police officer and could face another 25 years if convicted.

Kennebec time-lapse photographer's new project: 'Trails End'

KENNEBEC, S.D. (AP) — A farmer who creates time-lapse photos and videos of Western skies calls his latest project "Trails End" because of the number of times he parked his truck and camper at the end of a trail to get away from artificial lights.

Randy Halverson, of Kennebec, sells his work through his business, DakotaLapse.

The videos are comprised of still photos made with long exposures that bring out features from the sky not visible to the naked eye.

"Trails End" was shot in South Dakota, Wyoming and Utah. It includes streaks of airplanes, satellites and meteors, an owl sitting in a tree and rare effects known as sprites and gravity waves.

Halverson is also holding two workshops this summer in the Badlands for people interested in doing time-lapse photography.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. CLINTON STARTS IOWA CAMPAIGN

The big rallies can wait for now as the presidential hopeful opts for a small-town gathering with Iowans reminiscent of her Senate "listening tour."

2. WHO'S CHALLENGING OBAMA ON IRAN DEAL

A Senate committee will vote on a bill giving Congress a chance to weigh in on any final nuclear agree-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 22 of 27

ment that can be reached with the Iranian leaders.

3. NEXT STEP FOR EX-GUARDS SENTENCED FOR IRAQ SHOOTINGS

Attorneys identify several issues as likely forming the basis of an appeal they intend to file, including vindictive prosecution.

4. IRAQI PM MAKING IN-PERSON APPEAL TO OBAMA FOR HELP

Haider al-Abadi says added international military support could help "finish" the Islamic State group.

5. U.S. VETERANS RETURN TO MIDEAST TO FIGHT EXTREMISTS

They are making their way back to the battlefields of the Middle East to fight a still unvanquished enemy and wrestle with the demons of their past.

6. FADING HOPES TO FIND NIGERIA GIRLS

Activists are marking the anniversary of the mass abduction that outraged the world with a change in their slogan from "Bring Back Our Girls — Now and Alive" to "Never to be Forgotten."

7. USE OF POLICE RESERVE OFFICERS IS COMMON

Typically unpaid volunteers, many reservists are authorized to carry firearms, even though they generally undergo far less training than regular officers.

8. HOW MOTHER OF SOUTH KOREA FERRY VICTIM COPES WITH GRIEF

Shin Jumja uses rituals — visiting her son's empty desk at school and gardening — to deal with her rage over his death.

9. WHY YOUR RENT WILL RISE AGAIN THIS YEAR

The main reason: More people than ever are apartment hunting.

10. AIRPORT WORKER FINDS HIMSELF TRAPPED

An Alaska Airlines flight is forced to return to Seattle when a pilot hears banging after a baggage handler fell asleep in the plane's cargo hold.

AP News in Brief

Clinton's campaign opens with 'conversations' with Iowans, small-dollar fundraising

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — The big rallies and massive fundraising blitzes can wait for now. Fresh from a two-day road trip, Hillary Rodham Clinton is making her 2016 campaign debut in Iowa at a small-town gathering reminiscent of her Senate "listening tour."

Clinton was touring a community college and holding a roundtable discussion with students and teachers in Monticello, Iowa, on Tuesday, part of a concerted effort by her campaign to tamp down big expectations and hold personal "conversations" with voters.

"I won't take anything for granted. I'm going to work my heart out to earn every single vote," Clinton said in a fundraising email to supporters Monday.

Clinton is taking that same low-key approach to fundraising, forgoing the celebrity-studded fundraisers that marked her husband's presidency, as well as the high-dollar private events put on this year by former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, a potential GOP rival. Instead, Clinton's initial appeals for money will be for small-dollar donations collected over the Internet instead of in swanky fundraising blowouts in New York, Los Angeles and Silicon Valley.

Advisers have set a modest goal of raising \$100 million for the primary campaign and will not initially accept donations for the general election.

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In challenge to Obama, Senate committee to vote on bill to give Congress role on Iran deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a direct challenge to the White House, a Senate committee is to vote on a bill that would give Congress a chance to weigh in on any final nuclear agreement that can be reached with Iran.

Despite a veto threat from President Barack Obama, there is strong bipartisan support on Capitol Hill for Congress to have a say in any deal that the U.S. and five other nations are able to negotiate to keep Iran from being able to develop nuclear weapons in exchange for easing sanctions crippling the economy of the influential nation in the Middle East.

The White House doesn't want Congress to take any action that could upset the delicate negotiations that are supposed to wrap up with a final agreement by the end of June.

Sen. Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said a vote is likely on Tuesday, possibly on a new version still being crafted Monday night.

"There have been some tweaks," said Corker, R-Tenn. "I'm hopeful that we're going to be successful tomorrow."

American veterans return to Mideast to fight IS group in unfinished war

BAGHDAD (AP) — A decade after his first Iraq tour, former U.S. Marine Jamie Lane has returned to the battlefields of the Middle East to fight a still unvanquished enemy and wrestle with the demons of his past.

The 29-year old from Mt. Pleasant, Michigan served as a machine gunner from 2004 to 2008, mainly in the western Anbar province, where he saw fierce fighting against al-Qaida in Iraq. Now, as a private citizen suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, he is back in the region to battle its successor, the Islamic State group.

"In order to aid my recovery from PTSD, I have taken it upon myself to fight on my terms, against an enemy I know is evil," said Lane, who joined Kurdish militiamen in Syria. "It is redemption, in a sense."

He is one of a small but growing number of Iraq war veterans who are making their way back to the Middle East, not as uniformed soldiers, but as individuals waging their own personal battles.

Many describe feeling a sense of unfinished business as they watched the Islamic State group rampage across the country last summer, seizing territory they had fought and bled for during the U.S.-led intervention. Some express remorse for taking part in that war, while others say they are driven by the same sense of moral obligation that brought them here in the first place, joining their fate to that of a deeply troubled country.

Nigeria's president elect: I cannot promise to find abducted Chibok girls, whereabouts unknown

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — President-elect Muhammadu Buhari says he cannot promise to find the 219 Chibok schoolgirls abducted by Islamic extremists one year ago from a school in northeastern Nigeria. But he promised his administration will do everything in its power to do so.

"We do not know if the Chibok girls can be rescued. Their whereabouts remain unknown. As much as I wish to, I cannot promise that we can find them," Buhari said in a statement Tuesday marking the anniversary of the April 14-15 mass abduction that brought international outrage.

The failure to rescue the girls also elicited condemnation of Jonathan's government and the Nigerian

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 24 of 27

military, which has repeatedly made false statements about the girls and continues to make hollow promises to bring them home.

Those failures contributed to Jonathan's thrashing at the polls March 28 by Buhari, a former military dictator who says he is a convert to democracy and promised a new approach Tuesday.

"We hear the anguish of our citizens and intend to respond accordingly," Buhari's statement said. "This new approach must also begin with honesty."

Despite occasional problems, use of volunteer police reserve officers remains common across US

By the thousands, volunteers across the United States sign up to assist their local law enforcement agencies as reserve police officers and sheriff's deputies. Most perform routine duties in unpaid anonymity. A few become known as heroes or rogues.

Among that vast contingent of reservists was Robert Bates, a 73-year-old insurance executive, who was charged Monday with manslaughter in the death of a man shot as he lay on the ground in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A police investigator said Bates, who is white, thought he drew a stun gun, not his handgun, when he fired at Eric Harris, who was black, in the April 2 incident.

A video shot by deputies and released Friday at the request of the victim's family shows a deputy chase and tackle Harris, whom they said tried to sell an illegal gun to an undercover officer.

The incident rekindled discussion about the widespread use of reserve officers, including many authorized to carry firearms even though they generally undergo far less training than regular officers. While there's no current official tally, an article in the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin in 2006 estimated the national total of reserve officers at 400,000.

In Oklahoma, every reserve deputy is required to complete a minimum of 240 hours of training on legal basics, investigative procedures and use of firearms. Reserve deputies in Tulsa County get even more training — 320 hours — but that is still only half the requirement for a regular full-time officer.

Ex-Blackwater guards plan appeal after judge hands down sentences in Iraq shooting deaths

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense lawyers are vowing to appeal the convictions of four former Blackwater security guards after a federal judge handed down lengthy prison terms for their roles in a 2007 shooting of unarmed civilians in Iraq.

Attorneys identified several issues Monday as likely forming the basis of an appeal, including vindictive prosecution and whether State Department contractors could be charged under a federal law that covers the overseas crimes of Defense Department civilian employees.

The move comes after U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth sentenced former guard Nicholas Slatten to life in prison and three others to 30-year terms for their roles in the shootings that killed 14 Iraqi civilians and wounded 17 others.

Slatten, who witnesses said was the first to fire shots in the melee, was sentenced to life after being convicted last October of first-degree murder. The three other guards — Paul Slough, Evan Liberty and Dustin Heard — were each sentenced to 30 years and one day in prison for charges that included manslaughter, attempted manslaughter and using firearms while committing a felony.

The incident in Baghdad's Nisoor Square strained U.S.-Iraq relations and caused an international uproar over the use of private security guards in a war zone.

Mother of S. Korea ferry victim visits son's desk at school to cope with grief, rage

ANSAN, South Korea (AP) — Once or twice a week, a mother's ritual begins.

Shin Jumja applies pink lipstick and face powder, gets in her car and drives to the high school her oldest son attended before his death. Sometimes she brings a colorful plant.

She passes students running in the hallways and steps into his quiet, empty classroom. As the outside noises fade, she walks to the front right corner where a framed picture of her 17-year-old son, Jeong Hwi-bum, smiles back at her from his desk.

He and 249 other students from Danwon High School died a year ago in the sinking of the ferry Sewol. All told, more than 300 people were killed.

Shin gazes at the picture of her son in his dark gray school uniform. As she wipes several of the desks and chairs with tissues, her eyes moisten. Sunlight pours in from the windows onto the potted plants, many with yellow or orange flowers, which sit on nearly all the desks in memory of the children.

New candidates mount challenge as Spain's leading parties feel voter anger seen across Europe

MADRID (AP) — Europe's political upheavals are knocking on Spain's door. Two upstart parties that hardly registered one year ago are mounting an unprecedented challenge to the governing Popular Party and the main opposition Socialist Party — which for four decades have dominated Spanish politics.

A poll published Sunday in El Pais placed the radical-left Podemos ("We Can") and the grass-roots movement Ciudadanos ("Citizens") roughly neck-and-neck with their established rivals ahead of next month's local and regional elections. The four were separated by less than three percentage points.

It's the latest in a political sea change seen across Europe — from Greece to Britain — as voters express frustration with traditional parties struggling to reverse economic hard times brought on by the continent's financial crisis.

"The political effects of the crisis are going to be long-lasting," said Antonio Roldan of think-tank Eurasia Group. "There is definitely a deep transformation."

Greece's Syriza government — a new coalition of the radical left and nationalist right — was elected in January on promises to scrap the austerity measures imposed in return for Greece's two international bailouts, worth a total of 240 billion euros (\$253 billion). Hard bargaining with Greece's creditors has made Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' government popular, with many Greeks saying they have regained a sense of national pride.

Even with surge in new apartment construction, most US renters can expect rent hikes this year

Living in an apartment? Expect your rent to go up again.

Renting has gotten increasingly expensive over the last five years. The average U.S. rent has climbed 14 percent to \$1,124 since 2010, according to commercial property tracker Reis Inc. That's four percentage points faster than inflation, and more than double the rise in U.S. home prices over the same period.

Now, despite a surge in apartment construction, rents are projected to rise yet another 3.3 percent

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 26 of 27

this year, to an average \$1,161, according to Reis. While that's slower than last year's 3.6 percent increase, the broader upward trend isn't going away.

"The only relief in sight is rents in the hottest markets are going to go up at a slower pace, but they're still going to go up," says Hessam Nadji, chief strategy officer at Marcus & Millichap, a commercial real estate services firm.

The main reason: More people than ever are apartment hunting.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 14, the 104th day of 2015. There are 261 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth during a performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington.

On this date:

In 1775, the first American society for the abolition of slavery was formed in Philadelphia.

In 1828, the first edition of Noah Webster's "American Dictionary of the English Language" was published.

In 1890, the First International Conference of American States, meeting in Washington D.C., agreed to form the International Union of American Republics, a forerunner of the Organization of American States.

In 1912, the British liner RMS Titanic collided with an iceberg in the North Atlantic at 11:40 p.m. ship's time and began sinking. (The ship went under two hours and 40 minutes later with the loss of 1,514 lives.)

In 1935, the "Black Sunday" dust storm descended upon the central Plains, turning a sunny afternoon into total darkness.

In 1939, the John Steinbeck novel "The Grapes of Wrath" was first published by Viking Press.

In 1949, the "Wilhelmstrasse Trial" in Nuremberg ended with 19 former Nazi Foreign Office officials sentenced by an American tribunal to prison terms ranging from four to 25 years.

In 1956, Ampex Corp. demonstrated the first practical videotape recorder at the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters Convention in Chicago.

In 1965, the state of Kansas hanged Richard Hickock and Perry Smith for the 1959 murders of Herbert Clutter, his wife, Bonnie, and two of their children, Nancy and Kenyon.

In 1975, Academy Award-winning actor Fredric March, 77, died in Los Angeles.

In 1981, the first test flight of America's first operational space shuttle, the Columbia, ended successfully with a landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1995, Oscar-winning actor-singer Burl Ives died in Anacortes, Washington, at age 85.

Ten years ago: The House passed and sent to President George W. Bush legislation making it tougher to erase obligations through bankruptcy (Bush signed the measure six days later). The Oregon Supreme Court nullified nearly 3,000 marriage licenses issued to gay couples a year earlier by Portland's Multnomah County. Yankees right fielder Gary Sheffield got into a brief scuffle with a fan at Fenway Park during New York's 8-5 loss to the Boston Red Sox.

Five years ago: A magnitude-7 earthquake in a remote Tibetan region of China killed some 2,700 people and injured more than 10,000. The Eyjafjallajökull (ay-yah-FYAH'-lah-yer-kuhl) volcano in Iceland erupted, sending out an ash plume that led most northern European countries to close their air-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 259 ♦ 27 of 27

space between April 15 and 20, grounding about 10 million travelers worldwide. Ultra marathoner and amputee Amy Palmiero-Winters won the Sullivan Award as America's top amateur athlete.

One year ago: Speaking for the first time in more than two weeks, President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin showed little sign of agreement during a telephone call initiated by Putin, with Obama urging pro-Russian forces to de-escalate the situation in eastern Ukraine and Putin denying that Moscow was interfering in the region. Suspected Islamic militants struck in the heart of Nigeria with a massive rush-hour bomb blast that killed 75 people in Abuja, the capital. The Washington Post and The Guardian won the Pulitzer Prize in public service for revealing the U.S. government's sweeping surveillance efforts. Donna Tartt's "The Goldfinch" won the Pulitzer for fiction; Annie Baker's "The Flick" won for drama.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bradford Dillman is 85. Country singer Loretta Lynn is 83. Actress Julie Christie is 75. Retired MLB All-Star Pete Rose is 74. Rock musician Ritchie Blackmore is 70. Actor John Shea is 66. Actor-turned-race car driver Brian Forster is 55. Actor Brad Garrett is 55. Actor Robert Carlyle is 54. Rock singer-musician John Bell (Widespread Panic) is 53. Actor Robert Clendenin is 51. Actress Catherine Dent is 50. Actor Lloyd Owen is 49. Baseball Hall of Famer Greg Maddux is 49. Rock musician Barrett Martin is 48. Actor Anthony Michael Hall is 47. Actor Adrien Brody is 42. Classical singer David Miller is 42. Rapper DaBrat is 41. Actor Antwon Tanner is 40. Actress Sarah Michelle Gellar is 38. Actor-producer Rob McElhenney is 38. Roots singer JD McPherson is 38. Rock singer Win Butler (Arcade Fire) is 35. Actress Claire Coffee is 35. Actor Christian Alexander is 25. Actor Nick Krause is 23. Actress Vivien Cardone is 22. Actor Graham Phillips is 22. Actress Abigail Breslin is 19.

Thought for Today: "Change your life today. Don't gamble on the future, act now, without delay."
- Simone de Beauvoir, French author (born 1908; died this date in 1986).