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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

7:00 pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

7:45 pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League Milestones

Thursday, April 16

Birthdays: Amy Briggs, Charles Raap, Clark Gibbs, Connor Smith, Cooper Smith, Jeff Larson, Kristi Peterson, Leslie Dohman, Marvin Bonn, Rodney Boehmer, Tom Tietz

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, winter-mix vegetables, buttermilk biscuits, banana pudding with bananas.

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit,

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

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Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With Wash Brushes & Squeegees

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104 N. Main, Groton

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Classifieds

Help Wanted

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

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

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)

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Larson, Stange run state qualifying times

The Rob Luecke Invitational Track meet was held in Groton Tuesday with two Groton athletes running state qualifying times. Landon Larson placed first in the 100m dash and Harleigh Stange was third in the 100m dash as both ran times to qualify for the state tournament in those events.

Larson also took first in the 800m run and Nick Dalchow took first in the discus.

The girls 400m relay team and the 800m relay team both took first as did Aurdy Wanner in the long jump.

Larson was chosen as the Jay Swisher Running Events MVP.

Boy's Events

100m Dash: 1, Landon Larson, 10.89 (State qualifying time).

800m Run: 1, Landon Larson, 2:09.2; 8, Martin Rygg, 2:29.3.

110m Hurdles: 3, Jackson Doeden, 15.81.

300m Hurdles: 7, Bennett Shabazz, 47.89.

400m Relay: 5, Groton, 47.23.

800m Relay: 4, Groton, 1:42.5.

Medley Relay: 4, Groton, 4:19.1.

1600m Relay: 2, Groton, 3:53.9.

3200m Relay: 3, Groton, 9:20.3.

Long Jump: 6, Adam Herman, 19-1.

Shot Put: 3, Stevie Fey, 41-2.5; 4, McClain Lone, 41-0; 6, Nick Dalchow, 40-0.5.

Discus: 1, Nick Dalchow, 130-0; 3, McClain Lone, 121-4.

Jay Swisher Running Events MVP: Landon Larson, Groton.

Girls Events

100m Dash: 3, Harleigh Stange, 12.78 (state qualifying time); 6, Makenzie Menzia, 13.6.

200m Dash: 2, Gia Gengerke, 27.25; 4, Harleigh Stange, 27.8.

400m Dash: 4, Gia Gengerke, 1:05.4.

800m Run: 8, Hannah Lewandowski, 3:08.7.

3200m Run: 5, Jasmine Schaller, 14:01.7.

100m Hurdles: 2, Josie Doeden, 16.95; 3, Audrey Wanner, 17.16.

300m Hurdles: 5, Josie Doeden, 54.46; 6, Audrey Wanner, 55.94.

400m Relay: 1, Groton (Menzia, Kurtz, Lone, Stange), 54.36.

800m Relay: 1, Groton (Kurtz, Lone, Stange, Menzia), 1:56.0.

Medley Relay: 4, Groton, 4:58.2.

1600m Relay: 5, Groton, 4:57.6.

3200m Relay: 6, Groton, 12:04.1.

Long Jump: 1, Audrey Wanner, 15-9; 6, Katie Koehler, 14-1.15.

Triple Jump: 2, Audrey Wanner, 33-8.

High Jump: 3, Gia Gengerke, 4-9; 7, Taryn Rossow, 4-3.

Shot Put: 2, Tori Bjerke, 34-2.5; 5, Marlee Jones, 30-10; 8, Jessica Bjerke, 29-2.25.

Discus: 2, Alyssa Sippel, 100-9; 4, Carly Wheeting, 99-2; 8, Marlee Jones, 91-11.

Spring Flowering Shrubs to Try in Your Landscaping

Column by John Ball, SDSU Extension Professor & Forestry Specialist

Early spring flowering shrubs have a special place in our landscapes as they are the heralds of the warm weather yet to come.

While our home landscapes should have interest year around, from spring and summer flowers to summer fruit to brilliant autumn foliage, a space or two should be devoted to an early spring flowering shrub or two.

One of the most commonly planted early flowering shrubs is the forsythia (*Forsythia*) also known as golden bell for its bright yellow pendulous flowers that lace every cane. Unfortunately, the most commonly planted species in much of the country, the border forsythia (*F. x intermedia*) and its many cultivars, are not flower bud hardy in South Dakota.

While the canes of the border forsythia can survive our cold winters, its flower buds are often killed when the winter temperatures dip below 10 degrees Fahrenheit - a frequent event during our South Dakota winters. Therefore, it is common in the spring to see border forsythias blooming only along the lower canes, the ones that were beneath the insulating snow.

Fortunately, there exists forsythia cultivars that are flower bud hardy to the Northern Plains. Probably the best known is 'Meadowlark,' a joint release by North Dakota State University and South Dakota State University that is flower bud hardy to below 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

'Meadowlark' forsythias are now in bloom across much of South Dakota and, despite the recent cold weather, almost every cane can be found lined with brilliant yellow blossoms.

There are two other flower bud hardy forsythias for our region. One is 'Northern Sun', introduced by the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and is flower bud hardy to below 30 degrees Fahrenheit and 'Northern Gold' which is also flower bud hardy to below 30 degrees Fahrenheit.

Forsythias

Forsythias reach a mature height and spread of about 6 to 10 feet so they need plenty of room in the home landscape. They also will slowly sucker out so will need to be occasionally cut back from taking over an adjacent flower bed.

Forsythias thrive under most growing conditions, except wet sites and are tolerant of slightly alkaline soils.

Forsythias are truly a single-season shrub as they lack interesting fruit, bark or autumn foliage color. They have only about one or two weeks of landscape interest during the spring flowering, but it's a pretty week or two during April.

Corneliancherry

Another spring flower shrub that blooms at the same time as forsythia is the corneliancherry (*Cornus mas*) which despite the word "cherry" in the name, is actually a dogwood. This European native is prized for its mid-April yellow flowers that appear before the leaves veiling every branch with its blossoms. The flowers bloom for several weeks and withstand frosts.

The name corneliancherry comes from its cherry-like fruit. While the mid-summer fruit does resemble a cherry, bright red, though more pear-shaped than round, the taste will tell the two apart as corneliancherry fruit is very tart and a little too sour to eat right off the shrub.

The "cherry" is easy to harvest as you do not have to fight the birds for them but they should be picked fully ripe. The easiest way is to place a sheet beneath the shrub and collect the fruit as it falls. It is used for jams and preserves and even sherbet.

Corneliancherry is not hardy throughout the state and is best planted south of Highway 14 and east of the Missouri River. There are also a few nice specimens in the Black Hills.

The shrub almost becomes a tree when planted southeastern South Dakota where it reaches 10 feet or more. Corneliancherry is tolerant of most soils, though performs best on moist, well-drained sites that have neutral or only slightly alkaline soils. Protection from the north wind winds is necessary if planted near the northern limits of its range.

A few other notes from the school board meeting

Last day of school is May 19, 2015.

The spring middle/high school concert date will not change. It will be Monday, May 11, 7 p.m.

Emily Eichler, Anne Zoellner, Julie Erdmann and Lynette Grieve all completed their masters program at Northern State University.

Elementary Track and Field Day/Health Fair will be held May 8 with grades 3-5 in the morning and K-2 in the afternoon.

The high school food service inspection was held April 9 with a score of 96.

Appointed Grant Rix to review the banking fees with administrative staff.

The cross walk on Broadway will be moved to Fifth Avenue as part of the SD Highway 37 project. In addition, the school zone will be adjusted to run from Fifth Avenue to Ninth Avenue. There will be a switch at the elementary school to control the flashing light. Signage of 15 mph will be changed to "when lights are flashing" instead of "when children are present."

Officials Urge Seat Belt Use

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Department of Public Safety officials say so far in 2015, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of motor vehicle fatality victims who were not wearing seat belts.

Of the 18 fatalities reported in motor vehicles crashes as of April 9, 15 victims were not wearing seat belts. That is about an 83 percent average. The average in years past has been around 60 percent.

"Bottom line, not wearing a seat belt increases your risk of being thrown from a vehicle," said Department of Public Secretary Trevor Jones. "That heightens the chance of severe injury or death."

The Highway Patrol and the Office of Highway Safety continue their educational efforts to encourage motorists to wear seat belts.

Highway Patrol Superintendent Colonel Craig Price says state law requires drivers and front seat passengers to wear seat belts. But he says anyone in a motor vehicle should be properly restrained. All passengers under 18 years old must be properly restrained regardless of their seating position in the vehicle.

"We can never stress enough the importance of seat belts," Price said. "You can't put a value on someone who is seriously injured or loses their life."

Department officials also emphasize that it is not just the person who is not wearing the seat belt that is impacted. A new Office of Highway Safety commercial focuses on how not wearing a seat belt can bring suffering and sorrow to a crash victim's loved ones.

"It is not just family and loved ones who have to deal with the senseless tragedy," said Office of Highway Safety Director Lee Axdahl. "It is all the first responders, law enforcement, fire fighters and those who are the first on the scene. They see the results of people who didn't believe they had to wear a seat belt."

Jones said while motor vehicle crashes will happen, those involved can further protect themselves by wearing a seat belt. "Give yourself a chance by wearing a safety restraint," he said. "The numbers indicate that your odds of being killed or injured in a vehicle crash are reduced by half by when wearing a seat belt."

For more information on the state's seat belt laws, click onto https://dps.sd.gov/enforcement/highway_safety/safety_belt_use_law.aspx

To watch the commercial and find other facts about seatbelt use in South Dakota, visit <http://drivesafesd.com/buckleup/>

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Blood Drive is April 16th

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

Today in Weather History

April 15, 1896: A tornado, possible an F3 strength, moved northeast from Burkmere which is 10 miles West of Faulkton. About half dozen farms were torn apart. Two children were killed and the rest of the family critically injured as a home was leveled 6 miles Northwest of Faulkton, near Millard. Downburst damage was also noted at Cresbard.

April 15, 2011: A strong upper level low pressure area brought widespread heavy snowfall to central and parts of northeast South Dakota. This early spring storm brought 6 to 14 inches of heavy snow to the area. The heavy wet snow caused a lot of travel problems along with a few accidents. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Gann Valley, Kennebec, Ipswich, Turton, Mobridge, Roscoe, and McLaughlin; 7 inches at Pollock, Groton, McIntosh, Miller, Mission Ridge, and Mellette; 8 inches at Blunt, Onaka, Selby, Murdo, and Timber Lake; 9 inches at Claremont, Gettysburg, Bowdle, 9 NW Britton; 10 inches at Faulkton; 11 inches at Onida, Ree Heights, and Artas. Locations with a foot or more of snowfall included, 12 inches 12 SSW Harrold, 23 N Highmore, and Orient; 13 inches 14 NNE Isabel and Eureka with 14 inches at Eagle Butte.

1921 - Two mile high Silver Lake, CO, received 76 inches of snow in 24 hours, the heaviest 24 hour total of record for North America. The storm left a total of 87 inches in twenty-seven and a half hours. (David Ludlum)

1927 - New Orleans LA was drenched with 14.01 inches of rain, which established a 24 hour rainfall record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1949 - A hailstone five inches by five and a half inches in size, and weighing four pounds, was measured at Troy NY. (The Weather Channel)

1958 - A tornado 300 yards in width skipped along a five mile path near Frostproof FL. A 2500 gallon water tank was found one mile from its original position (it is not known how much water was in the tank at the time). (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in the Southern Atlantic Coast Region. A tornado killed one person and injured seven others near Mount Dora FL. Drifts of hail up to two feet deep were reported in Davidson and Rowan counties in North Carolina. Myrtle Beach SC was deluged with seven inches of rain in three hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Death Valley, CA, was soaked with 1.53 inches of rain in 24 hours. Snow fell in the mountains of southern California. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms soaked the eastern U.S. with heavy rain, pushing the rainfall total for the month at Cape Hatteras NC past their previous April record of 7.10 inches. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced severe weather from west central Texas to west central Arkansas during the late afternoon and evening. Thunderstorms spawned a tornado which caused more than half a million dollars damage at Fort Stockton TX, produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Dennison TX, produced baseball size hail at Silo OK and near Capps Corner TX, and drenched southeastern Oklahoma with up to 4 inches of rain in two hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Breezy	Slight Chc Showers 20%	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 71 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 67 °F

Very High to Extreme Fire Danger

This Afternoon & Evening

- Southerly winds ***gusting to 30 to 40 mph***
- Relative humidity 20% – 30%
- High temperatures 70 to 75 degrees

Improving Conditions on Thursday

- Northerly winds ***gusting to 20 mph***
- Relative humidity 30% - 40%
- High temperatures 60 to 70 degrees



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen |

Updated: 4/15/2015 5:13 AM Central

Published on: 04/15/2015 at 5:21AM

Very high to extreme fire danger can be expected through this afternoon due to dry and gusty southerly winds. Fire weather conditions will improve on Thursday thanks to light northerly winds and cooler temperatures.

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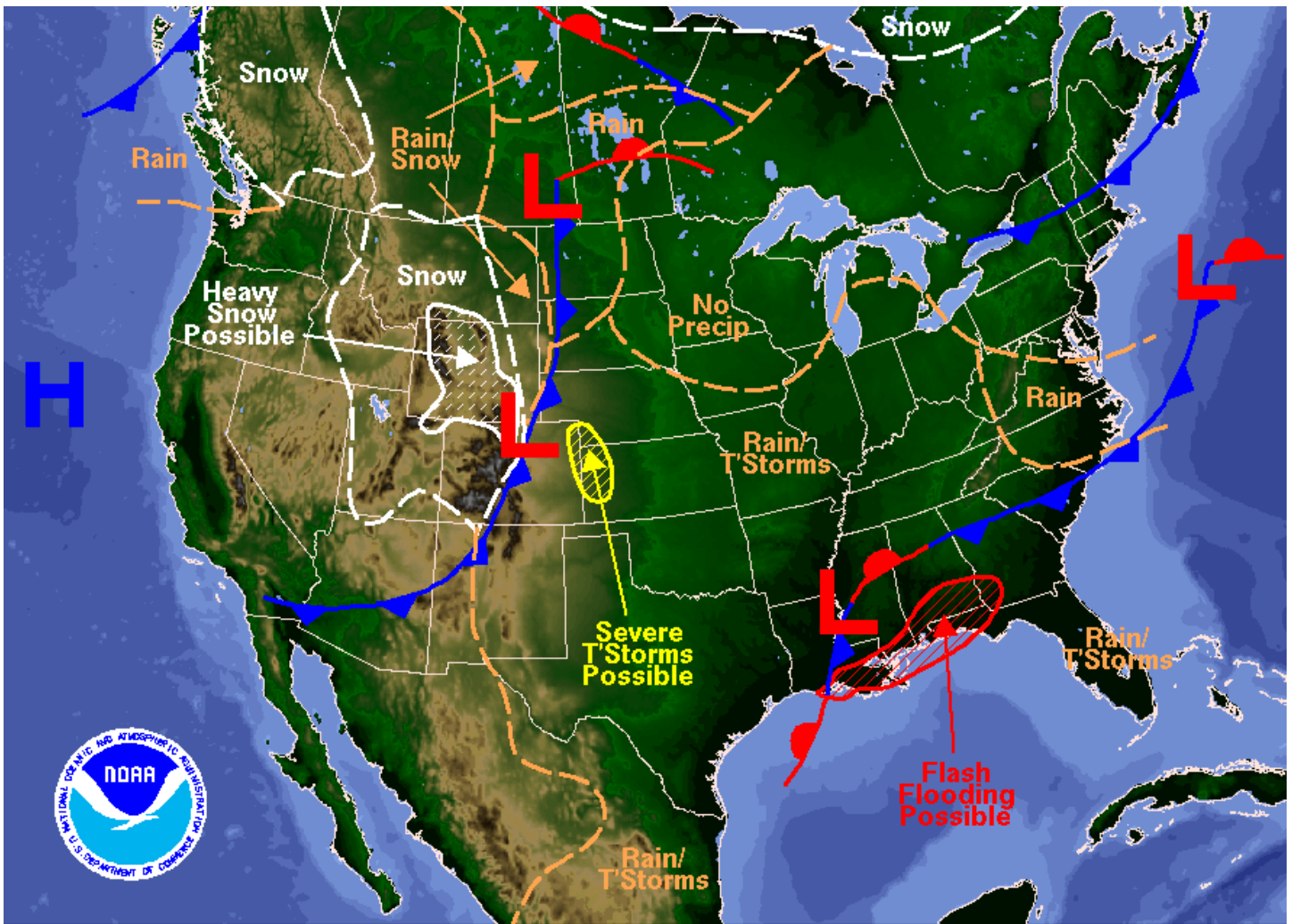
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 78.8 at 2:41 PM
Low: 30.6 at 4:32 AM
High Gust: 41 at 4:09 PM
Snow: 0.00
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 91° in 1926, 1913
Record Low: 8° in 2014
Average High: 57°F
Average Low: 32°F
Average Precip in April.: 0.69
Precip to date in April.: 0.01
Average Precip to date: 2.87
Precip Year to Date: 0.48
Sunset Tonight: 8:20 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:47 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Apr 15, 2015, issued 3:34 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



THE PEACE OF A CLEAN CONSCIENCE

"God's gonna' get you for that!"

Every time someone did something that Brenda thought was "unChristian" by her standards, she would wag her finger and repeat her warning that was known by everyone on campus. Ever since she arrived with her freshman class, and now about to graduate with honors, she served with distinction as the campus "conscience."

Perhaps we would make life better for others if we each had our own personal "conscience cop" - one who would go before us and alert or warn us before we did something sinful. Most of us can quote Paul's wise words about "no temptation without God's spirit giving us some way out." Most of us, however, think of that after we have "gone astray" or are overwhelmed by the temptation and plead for "grace and mercy" because we are only "too human and still growing in Christ."

Solomon knew the "peace that can come from a clean conscience." No doubt he had a few "skeletons" in his closet, as we all do, and wanted to share some of his "self-help" wisdom and insight on "worry-free" living. So he provides us with a warning that will work for all of us all of the time: "The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion."

The "key" is righteous living. Though easier said than done, we can free our minds from guilt and fear by living by and through the Word of God in the power of Christ. We all have a past that follows us wherever we go. But, we also have "Christ in us" who can protect us.

Prayer: Father, Your Word is before us but will do no good until it is within us. Fill our lives with Your power. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

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.

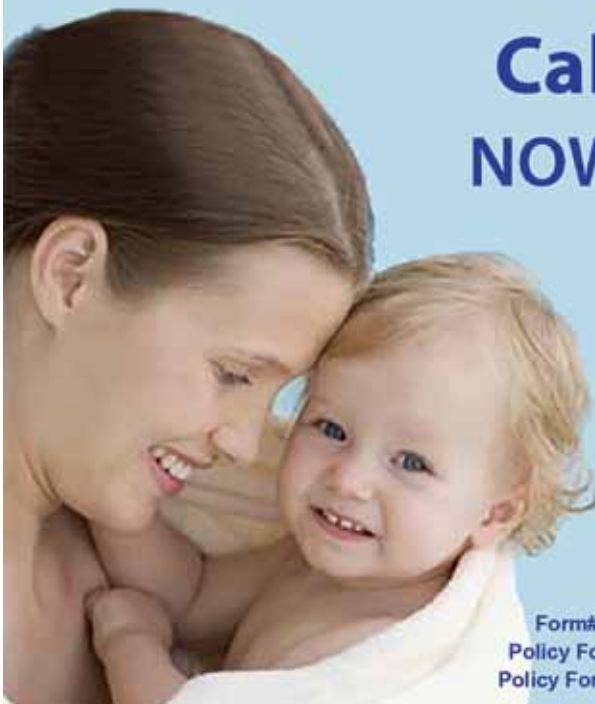
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Ballot measures decided in communities across South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Several communities around South Dakota decided ballot measures on Tuesday.

Sioux Falls residents voted to begin the school year after Labor Day. It was a close decision, with 52 percent of voters in favor of changing the school calendar.

There also was a close vote in Delmont, where an ordinance tightening rules on animals in town was overturned by just one vote. There might be a recount.

Voters in the Edmunds Central School District by a wide margin approved a \$9 million bond issue to upgrade the school in Roscoe.

In Centerville, school district residents voted overwhelmingly to extend an annual \$225,000 opt out of the state property tax freeze for another five years.

Wildfire in Wind Cave National Park now 30 percent contained

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A wildfire in Wind Cave National Park has grown to nearly 9 ½ square miles but is now 30 percent contained.

Authorities say the Cold Brook Fire has scorched 6,000 acres in the southwestern South Dakota park. About 80 people are on scene working to contain it, and they expect to have it fully contained Friday.

The blaze began Monday afternoon when a prescribed burn grew out of control in high winds. No injuries or damages to structures have been reported.

Park facilities remain open, though backcountry and hiking trails are closed, along with a couple of roads.

AG Jackley: SD residents targeted by telemarketing scams

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says South Dakota residents continue to be targeted by con artists who threaten individuals with fines and arrest.

Jackley says residents are being targeted by two telemarketing scams in which scammers purport to be with law enforcement and threaten residents for supposedly failing to report to jury duty.

The con artists typically ask residents for personal information, including Social Security numbers, and instruct victims to obtain pre-loaded cards to pay a fake penalty.

Jackley says the scammers “are banking on an individual’s sense of fear for financial gain.” He says court and law enforcement officials don’t call citizens asking them to pay fines for missing jury duty or other court hearings.

More information about the scams is available through the South Dakota Consumer Protection Division.

Safety officials highlight bump in un-belted driver deaths

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Public Safety says there has been a significant bump in the number of drivers who die because they crash while not wearing a seat belt this year.

Public Safety Department Secretary Trevor Jones said Tuesday that 83 percent of deaths from car crashes as of April 9 involved an un-belted victim.

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That's up from about 60 percent in previous years.

So far this year there have been 18 deaths reported from car crashes in South Dakota. Of those, 15 of the victims weren't restrained.

Jones says neglecting to wear a seat belt means drivers are more likely to be thrown from a car during a crash.

The Highway Patrol is reminding motorists that state law requires drivers and front seat passengers to buckle up.

3 winning student essays chosen for Arbor Day Essay Contest

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Three South Dakota students topped more than 1,500 others in the Arbor Day Essay Contest.

Matea Gordon, of Whitewood, Madison Hofer, of Dolton, and Kennedy Mayelin, of Mount Vernon, won awards and cash.

As the first place winner, Matea received a plaque, \$100 and a McDonald's lined jacket; her school, Sturgis Elementary, will receive \$150 for the purchase of supplies or equipment. Madison was the second place winner and received a plaque and \$75. Kennedy receives a plaque and \$50 for her third place essay.

The contest is sponsored by South Dakota's conservation districts, McDonald's restaurants of South Dakota and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. It provides fifth and sixth grade students the opportunity to write about the importance of tree planting.

Arbor Day is April 24.

FAA, Air Force completing final work for airspace expansion

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Federal officials are completing the final work required on a newly approved aerial training area over the northern Plains, and military bombers could begin roaring overhead as soon as September.

The U.S. Air Force could be able to begin using at least parts of the expanded Powder River Training Complex over the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming as soon as the Federal Aviation Administration completes mapping work on the training airspace, an Air Force spokeswoman said Tuesday. The FAA approved the plan last month to roughly quadruple the training airspace to span nearly 35,000 square miles, making it the largest over the continental U.S.

The airspace will be used by B-1 bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and B-52 bombers from Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. The Air Force says the expansion will significantly boost training opportunities for Ellsworth and Minot aircrews. It's expected to save Ellsworth up to \$23 million a year in fuel costs by reducing the number of training flights to other states.

But before aircrews can start practicing in the newly expanded training area, the FAA has to publish the airspace expansion in its aeronautical maps, Air Force Spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said in a statement.

That publication is expected in September, but it will only open up certain parts of the training area. The full airspace won't be open until an aircraft recall communications system is installed, said Qusi Al-Haj, who oversees the western part of the state for U.S. Sen. John Thune's office.

Thune has been pushing for the expansion since 2006.

Al-Haj said the system is necessary to help prevent inconveniences for other aviators in the area and

to ensure that aircraft can be recalled in an emergency.

Stefanek said the Air Force currently has no firm date for when the installation of the communications system will be complete but called the project's completion a "high priority."

Under the plan, any given location across the training area could experience up to nine low-altitude overflights annually. Supersonic flights would be limited to 10 days a year during large-scale exercises involving roughly 20 aircraft.

The Air Force has said as many as 88 civilian flights a day could be delayed when the large-scale exercises are conducted, but that number would likely be smaller.

Elected leaders in Montana have said the bombers would disrupt rural communities. Gov. Steve Bullock wrote in a mid-March letter to the FAA that the expansion "would be at the expense of the livelihoods and economic prosperity of Montanans."

Opponents could petition to have the FAA decision to allow the expansion reviewed by an appeals court.

Lawmakers and Air Force officials are also thinking longer-term. South Dakota U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem has been working to get funding for an expensive, specialized device used to electronically simulate enemy air defenses. Noem's office said a site in Belle Fourche is expected to get one of the training aids in fiscal year 2019, which would be an improvement over current capabilities.

A spokesman for the Air Force's Air Combat Command Airspace, Ranges, and Airfield Operations Division said in a written statement the Joint Threat Emitter "provides a wider array of simulated threats."

Donations continue to flow for new state fairgrounds hall

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Donations continue to flow in for a new 4-H exhibit hall at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds in Huron.

The state's Department of Agriculture says the South Dakota State University College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences, the SD 4-H Foundation and the state 4-H Leaders Association have donated \$40,000 combined for the new facility.

The proposed 49,000-square-foot hall will feature multiple classrooms, a large kitchen for 4-H special food competitions and a performance stage.

The building that used to host some of those events was demolished in 2013. It had been built in the 1950s.

The Agriculture Department on Tuesday said the foundation donated \$25,000, the college in Brookings gave \$10,000 and the leaders group contributed \$5,000.

Fair officials have so far raised \$3.83 million of their \$4.7 million goal.

Bird flu spreads to Iowa turkey flock; 6th Midwest state

DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A bird-flu strain that has already led to the deaths of nearly 2 million turkeys nationwide spread to an Iowa turkey farm, authorities said on Tuesday, bringing to six the number of states hit with the outbreak that was also confirmed at eight more farms in Minnesota.

The announcements on Tuesday came a day after confirmation of the first case of the virus in Wisconsin, the first case of a U.S. commercial chicken farm where the strain was detected, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Scientists believe domestic poultry are getting the highly-contagious H5N2 virus from wild migratory waterfowl but they are puzzled by the accelerating spread despite reinforced biosecurity measures at

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poultry production and processing facilities. The outbreak has prompted some 40 countries to impose import restrictions on U.S. poultry

The Iowa farm is in Buena Vista County housing some 27,000 turkeys, said Iowa Department of Agriculture spokesman Dustin Vande Hoef. The disease was suspected when an abnormally high number of turkeys began dying. The farm is under quarantine and the turkeys will be destroyed.

The confirmation at eight additional infected turkey farms in the nation's biggest producing state of Minnesota brings the state's total to 22 farms and nearly 1.5 million turkeys lost to the disease. Minnesota raises around 46 million turkeys a year. State Veterinarian Bill Hartmann said he expects more farms to be hit before the threat recedes.

Animal health officials have long said the virus is dangerous to all commercial poultry. Iowa has 130 turkey farms raising 11 million turkeys a year. The state also is the nation's leading egg producer with more than 59 million egg layers but no chicken flocks in Iowa have been infected.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture posted a notice on Monday that Canadian officials added Iowa to the list of states prohibited from exporting raw poultry products.

"I think it is important to note there's no human health consequence to any of the previously found avian influenza outbreaks in the upper Midwest nor do we expect that here," said Randy Olson, Iowa Poultry Association's executive director.

Iowa Turkey Federation executive Gretta Irwin said food is safe. No birds from infected farms make it into the food supply since they're destroyed and composted on the farm. Poultry is tested for influenza before it leaves the farm for slaughter, she said.

Commercial turkey flocks in Arkansas, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota have confirmed cases of the H5N2 strain in turkeys in addition to Iowa and Minnesota. Counting turkeys killed by the disease and those destroyed or soon to be killed to stop its spread, about 1.8 million birds have been lost in the Midwest or approaching 1 percent of the 235 million turkeys produced in the U.S. last year.

Seven of the newly affected Minnesota farms are contract growers for or owned by Jennie-O Turkey Store, a division of Hormel Foods Corp, the company said. The virus has now hit 14 Jennie-O facilities, costing the company over 1.1 million turkeys.

The virus was confirmed in a commercial chicken flock in Wisconsin on Monday affecting 200,000 birds. Cases also have been found in commercial poultry flocks in Ontario and British Columbia in Canada.

Scientists haven't found hard evidence yet of the link to wild fowl. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Landwehr said Tuesday that tests on fecal samples of wild birds his researchers have collected near infected farms have all come back negative so far.

The virus also has been found in backyard birds in several states including Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

A different strain of the virus, H5N8 has been identified in chickens and turkeys in California.

Bird flu viruses also have been confirmed in wild birds including falcons in Idaho, Missouri, Montana, and Washington.

Daugaard orders flags flown at half-staff in Lincoln's honor

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard is ordering flags on state property to be flown at half-staff Wednesday in honor of President Abraham Lincoln, who was assassinated 150 years ago.

Daugaard's order comes at the request of President Barack Obama. The president has declared Wednesday as a Day of Remembrance in Lincoln's honor.

The flags are to be flown at half-staff from 8 a.m. until sunset.

Lincoln was shot on the night of April 14, 1865, in Washington, D.C.

Wind Cave National Park wildfire burns over 7 square miles

BY KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, S.D. (AP) — A prescribed burn in the southern portion of Wind Cave National Park that turned into a wildfire had burned more than 7 square miles within the park as of midday Tuesday, park officials said.

More than 100 crew members were fighting the 4,500-acre blaze that began Monday afternoon after strong winds carried some embers across Highway 385 in the park, said Chief Interpreter Tom Farrell, of the National Park Service.

Local, state and federal crews had established a line around 80 percent of the fire by Tuesday morning, but Farrell said officially none of the blaze had been contained. There was no estimate as to when it would be fully contained.

Thick plumes of smoke drifted through the park on Tuesday and could be seen as far north as Rapid City. The park service closed all of its backcountry and hiking trails and two park roads were also closed due to heavy fire traffic.

The park service said three ranches on the eastern side of the park boundary were threatened, but Farrell said crews burned land near the structures Monday night to stop the fire from spreading. Two park structures were also in danger.

A wildfire of this size within the park is very rare, Farrell said and noted that the park service was "in prescription" on Tuesday, meaning the weather conditions were appropriate for a prescribed burn.

"There's always an element of risk anytime you put fire on the ground and we do everything we can to minimize risk but we can't control the weather," he said.

"Obviously looking back now, we wish we hadn't, but at the time we were in prescription" he said.

Farrell said the section of the park where they started the fire had never been burned since the park was established in 1903. He said they wanted to burn that section to reduce the chance of a catastrophic wildfire.

Officials expected the dangerous fire conditions that led to the wildfire to be reduced on Wednesday, allowing crews to better contain the fire.

Sioux Falls Police taking applications for 8 openings

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls Police Department is hiring.

Spokesman Sam Clemens says the department is looking to add eight officers to the force in October. Interested applicants have until May 4 to submit an application.

Clemens says candidates must have a high school diploma as well as some college or previous experience in law enforcement.

He says the eight individuals will fill positions that will open up because of retirements. Applicants will have to complete a written civil service exam, psychological and medical exams, a background check and a polygraph test.

Applications are available on the city's website.

Hunting lodge that hosted Hollywood stars destroyed in fire

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — An investigation is underway into a weekend fire that destroyed what some

considered an historic hunting lodge in Day County.

Authorities say the Sunday evening fire is considered suspicious. The Day County Sheriff's Office is asking for anyone with information to come forward.

The lodge near Pickerel Lake had been abandoned for decades. The family of Dianne Huggett of Roslyn once owned the building. She tells the American News that during its heyday as the Blue Goose Lodge, it hosted Hollywood actors including Clark Gable and Raymond Burr.

Deaths in Brandon house fire shake residents, firefighters

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — The death of a volunteer fireman and a homeowner in a Brandon house fire has shaken residents in the area as well as the firefighting community.

Steven Ackerman, 38, with the fire department in nearby Valley Springs, died late Sunday in the blaze that also killed homeowner David Smith, 47. The cause of the fire was not immediately determined but authorities do not consider it suspicious.

Firefighter deaths in South Dakota are uncommon. Ackerman is the 43rd firefighter to die in the line of duty in the state since 1924, and only the 22nd volunteer firefighter, according to the South Dakota Firefighters Association.

"Nobody is immune to this type of danger in this type of occupation," President Charlie Kludt told KDLT-TV. "Firefighters go into buildings that people are running out of."

Ackerman was a volunteer firefighter for 14 years, according to the Argus Leader newspaper. He worked with a family heating and cooling business and served on the town's planning and zoning commission.

"He was a good guy who cared a lot about his community," said Sadie Den Herder, who worked at a café and gas station that Ackerman frequented.

Members of Smith's family told KELO-TV that they are still in shock over his death.

"He was really fun, caring. He always had something to say that was funny," said 15-year-old daughter Makenzie Smith, who escaped the fire but couldn't save her father. "He was a really caring, loving dad. He'll be missed by a lot of people."

Smith, a husband and father of five, worked as a truck driver for a construction company. He was known throughout the community as a generous man.

"He'd give you the shirt off his back," resident Janie Olson told the Argus Leader.

Rapid City man facing murder charge in toddler's death

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has been charged with murder in the death of a toddler in his care.

Twenty-eight-year-old Thomas Pentecost was arrested last Thursday after emergency responders were called to a Black Hawk home. He initially was charged with aggravated assault and attempted murder, but Meade County States' Attorney Kevin Krull has upgraded the charge with the death of 21-month-old Bentley Bahr.

Police say Pentecost is the boyfriend of the child's mother and was watching the boy while she was away. Authorities say Bentley suffered severe head trauma and was declared brain dead on Saturday. Sheriff Ron Merwin tells the Rapid City Journal that the boy was kept on life support until Monday, when his organs were donated.

Pentecost was scheduled to make a court appearance on Tuesday.

Small grains seeding in South Dakota ahead of average pace

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Seeding of small grains crops in South Dakota remains ahead of last year's pace and the long-term average.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop progress report that 44 percent of the spring wheat, 43 percent of the oats and 14 percent of the barley crop is in the ground. Some of the oat crop has already begun to emerge.

The dry weather that's helping farmers get in the fields isn't helping with soil moisture. Topsoil moisture statewide is rated 69 percent short or very short, compared with 16 percent last year at the same time. Subsoil moisture is 65 percent short or very short, also compared to 16 percent a year ago.

Stock water supplies in South Dakota are rated 37 percent short or very short.

AP News in Brief

Cubans hail removal of their island from US government's list of state sponsors of terrorism

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban officials and ordinary citizens alike hailed the island's removal from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, saying the move by President Barack Obama heals a decades-old insult to national pride and clears the way to swiftly restore diplomatic relations.

"The Cuban government recognizes the president of the United States' just decision to take Cuba off a list in which it should never have been included," Josefina Vidal, Cuba's top diplomat for U.S. affairs, said Tuesday night.

Cuban and U.S. foreign-policy experts said the two governments appeared to have taken a major leap toward the reopening of embassies in Havana and Washington after four months of complex and occasionally frustrating negotiations.

"This is important because it speaks to Obama's desire to keep moving forward," said Esteban Morales, a political science professor at the University of Havana. "Now there are no political obstacles. What remains are organizational and technical problems, which can be resolved."

In a message to Congress, Obama said Tuesday that Cuba's government "has not provided any support for international terrorism" over the last six months and has given "assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future."

White House standoff with Congress over Iran deal clears hurdle, but is far from being over

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation empowering Congress to reject an emerging Iran nuclear pact is expected to sail through both houses of Congress, leaving President Barack Obama with the tough task of selling the deal to skeptical lawmakers.

"I don't know how you cut a deal with the devil and think the devil is going to keep his end of the deal," House Speaker John Boehner said Tuesday after Obama bowed to pressure from Republicans and Democrats and agreed to sign compromise legislation.

The legislation, unanimously approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, would give lawmakers a say on what could be a historic deal aimed at preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons. In exchange, the influential Islamic nation in the Middle East would get relief from economic sanctions stifling its economy.

The rare and reluctant agreement between the president and the Republican-led Congress came after

the White House maintained for weeks that congressional interference could jeopardize sensitive negotiations with Tehran. The United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China reached a preliminary agreement with Iran on April 2 to curb its nuclear program and hope to finalize a pact by June 30.

Despite the resistance from the White House, lawmakers from both parties insisted that Congress have a formal role in reviewing and possibly voting down any deal.

Conflicting Iran-US takes on informal agreement mean tough work ahead for final nuke deal

VIENNA (AP) — As negotiators prepare to start drafting a final deal to curb Iran's atomic activities, conflicting U.S.-Iran takes on key elements mean tough work ahead of a June 30 deadline.

Though six world powers remain at the bargaining table, the real negotiating is between the two nations.

Ahead of the resumption of expert-level negotiations early next week, here's a look at key areas of U.S.-Iran agreement and disagreement, based on fact sheets made available to the media by Tehran and Washington and comments from their officials.

EU Competition Commissioner expected to file complaint saying Google abuses dominant position

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's competition chief is expected to file a complaint on Wednesday alleging Google has been abusing its dominance in Internet searches.

After days of rising speculation, the EU said that EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager will debrief the media on the weekly Commission meeting where issues of antitrust are discussed.

Google's general counsel Kent Walker, wrote late Tuesday that a "statement of objections" to Google's business practices is to be released by Vestager.

Walker said that besides outlining their belief that Google has been illegally rigging its search results, European regulators also may announce they are opening an inquiry into whether Google uses its Android software to gain an unfair advantage.

Hillary Clinton tries again with Iowa voters, now with different approach

MONTICELLO, Iowa (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton is searching for a second chance in the state that delivered the first blow to her failed presidential campaign eight years ago.

In the midst of a two-day swing through Iowa, the opening act of her 2016 campaign, Clinton is trying to show Democratic voters that she's taking nothing for granted this time around. On Wednesday, Clinton tours a family-owned produce company and speaks with small-business leaders outside Des Moines, part of an effort by her campaign to focus on smaller, more personal interactions.

Speaking to students and teachers in Monticello on Tuesday, she sought to show a familiarity with Iowa issues, pointing to former Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin's work to help people with disabilities and noting that the average college student in the state carries nearly \$30,000 in debt after graduation.

The approach is starkly different than her previous effort in the state. In 2007, Clinton staged her major education, foreign policy, health care and energy rollouts in Iowa. She campaigned to big crowds across Iowa alongside members of the state Democratic establishment. She finished third.

This year, she made her Iowa debut at a coffee shop in the Mississippi River town of LeClaire, then on

to a community college event in Monticello.

In South Korea, many skeptical that public safety has improved a year after ferry tragedy

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A year ago, as South Korea writhed in grief and fury after more than 300 people, most of them school kids, drowned in a ferry sinking, it seemed things would never be the same. Yet not much has really changed as the first anniversary of the Sewol disaster is marked Thursday.

Experts believe it will be decades before any major shift is seen in widespread attitudes that make safety subservient to economic progress and convenience. Already there's growing fatigue and frustration among citizens who see their government sliding back to business as usual, and a lack of accountability at high levels.

"I'm tired of talking about the Sewol because it's obvious that nothing has changed because of it," said Choi Chul-su, a 36-year-old office worker in Seoul. "It wasn't supposed to be all about helping families overcome their grief. It was also about the government and society learning from the accident and executing those lessons. But nothing has been done there."

The government blamed the country's deadliest maritime disaster in decades on overloaded, poorly secured cargo and a botched rescue. But South Korea is divided over who's responsible, and a planned investigation by a special committee has stalled amid wrangling over money and personnel.

Authorities, meanwhile, have come up with measures they hope will prevent similar accidents, including replacing the coast guard with a new massive safety agency and transferring authority to regulate shipping from a body funded by the industry to a publicly funded agency.

Police: Community college shooting being investigated as a possible hate crime; victim was gay

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A former community college student dismissed from a work-study program for too many absences is accused of fatally shooting his former supervisor, who was gay, and police are investigating the campus slaying as a possible hate crime.

Kenneth Morgan Stancil III, 20, was arrested without incident early Tuesday while sleeping on a Florida beach, about 500 miles from Wayne Community College in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Stancil made his first court appearance later in the day, saying in a profanity-laced and unsubstantiated tirade that the man he killed had molested a relative.

Police say Stancil shot 44-year-old Ron Lane on Monday morning at the college. Lane, the school's print shop director, had been Stancil's supervisor in a work-study program before Stancil was let go in early March. It wasn't clear how long they had worked together.

Police have not released a motive in the shooting. Stancil's mother told The Associated Press that Lane made sexually laced comments to her son.

"He was verbally inappropriate with Morgan at school. Very much verbally inappropriate," Debbie Stancil said. "He would tell him to stop and he kept on."

Guam attorney general orders gay marriage license applications processed; official refuses

HAGATNA, Guam (AP) — Guam's attorney general on Wednesday directed officials to immediately

begin processing same-sex-marriage applications, putting the island on course to be the first U.S. territory to allow gay marriage.

Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson's instructions came two days after a lesbian couple filed a legal challenge to the territory's marriage laws after they were barred from submitting an application for a license to wed.

But Leo Casil, the acting director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services, told the Pacific Daily News that officials won't accept applications "until further notice."

Casil said he just received a letter from Barrett-Anderson, not a legal opinion.

Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo's office in a statement said, "While this current legal issue is being reviewed, if it is the will of the people of Guam to make same-sex marriage legal on Guam, then the Guam Legislature, the people of Guam's representatives, can take action to change the law, or a referendum can be held giving the people of Guam a direct voice in this issue."

'Entopreneurs' feed growing appetite for edible insects, promote bugs as eco-friendly protein

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — They hop. They crawl. They squirm. And they could be coming to a dinner plate near you.

An increasing number of "entopreneurs" are launching businesses to feed a growing appetite for crickets, mealworms and other edible insects.

These upstarts are trying to persuade more Americans to eat bugs, which can be produced with less land, food and water than other sources of animal protein.

The United Nations has been promoting edible insects as a way to improve nutrition, reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and create jobs in insect production. At least 2 billion people worldwide already eat insects as part of their diet, according to the 2013 report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

But it could be a tough sell for Westerners who are more likely to squash bugs than savor them.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 15, the 105th day of 2015. There are 260 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 15, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln died nine hours after being shot the night before by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington; Andrew Johnson became the nation's 17th president.

On this date:

In 1715, the Yamasee War began as members of the Yamasee tribe attacked English settlers in colonial South Carolina.

In 1850, the city of San Francisco was incorporated.

In 1912, the British luxury liner RMS Titanic foundered in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland more than 2 1/2 hours after hitting an iceberg; 1,514 people died, while less than half as many survived.

In 1945, during World War II, British and Canadian troops liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had died on April 12, was buried at the Roosevelt family home in Hyde Park, New York.

In 1955, Ray Kroc opened the first franchised McDonald's restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois.

Groton Daily Independent

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In 1960, a three-day conference to form the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) began at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. (The group's first chairman was Marion Barry.)

In 1974, members of the Symbionese Liberation Army held up a branch of the Hibernia Bank in San Francisco; a member of the group was SLA kidnap victim Patricia Hearst, who by this time was going by the name "Tania" (Hearst later said she'd been forced to participate).

In 1985, South Africa said it would repeal laws prohibiting sex and marriage between whites and non-whites.

In 1986, the United States launched an air raid against Libya in response to the bombing of a discotheque in Berlin on April 5; Libya said 37 people, mostly civilians, were killed.

In 1989, 96 people died in a crush of soccer fans at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, England. Students in Beijing launched a series of pro-democracy protests; the demonstrations culminated in a government crackdown at Tiananmen Square.

In 1990, legendary actress Greta Garbo died in New York at age 84. The comedy sketch show "In Living Color" premiered on Fox TV.

In 2013, two bombs packed with nails and other metal shards exploded at the Boston Marathon finish line, killing two women and an 8-year-old boy and injuring more than 260. (Suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv) is on trial; his brother and alleged accomplice, Tamerlan Tsarnaev (TAM'-ehr-luhn tsahr-NEYE'-ehv), died in a shootout with police.)

Ten years ago: A Paris hotel fire killed 24 people, many of them African immigrants. A Russian Soyuz rocket blasted off from the Central Asian steppes, catapulting three crew members on a two-day journey to the International Space Station. The final first-run episode of the situation comedy "8 Simple Rules" aired on ABC.

Five years ago: An ash cloud from an Icelandic volcano drifted over northern Europe, causing the largest disruption of flights since the 2001 terror attacks. President Barack Obama, visiting the Kennedy Space Center, predicted his new space exploration plans would lead American astronauts to Mars and back in his lifetime. Civil rights leader Benjamin Hooks, onetime executive director of the NAACP, died in Memphis, Tennessee, at age 85.

One year ago: Boko Haram terrorists kidnapped some 276 girls from a school in northeastern Nigeria. Survivors, first responders and relatives of those killed in the Boston Marathon bombing marked the first anniversary of the attack with tributes that combined sorrow over the loss of innocent victims with pride over the city's resilience. Five young people were stabbed to death in Calgary, Alberta, Canada; suspect Matthew Douglas de Groot has been charged.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Roy Clark is 82. Author and politician Jeffrey Archer is 75. Rock singer-guitarist Dave Edmunds is 72. Actor Michael Tucci is 69. Actress Lois Chiles is 68. Writer-producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason is 68. Actress Amy Wright is 65. Columnist Heloise is 64. Actor Sam McMurray is 63. Actress-screenwriter Emma Thompson is 56. Bluegrass musician Jeff Parker is 54. Singer Samantha Fox is 49. Olympic gold, silver and bronze medal swimmer Dara Torres is 48. Rock musician Ed O'Brien (Radiohead) is 47. Actor Flex Alexander is 45. Actor Danny Pino is 41. Actor Douglas Spain is 41. Actor Luke Evans is 36. Rock musician Patrick Carney (The Black Keys) is 35. Actor-writer Seth Rogen is 33. Actress Alice Braga is 32. Rock musician De'Mar Hamilton (Plain White T's) is 31. Actress Emma Watson is 25. Actress Maisie Williams (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 18.

Thought for Today: "We do not know what we want and yet we are responsible for what we are — that is the fact." — Jean-Paul Sartre, French philosopher (born 1905, died this date in 1980).