

Groton Daily Independent

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Friday, April 17

Birthdays: Bernice Flihs, Dan Felkey, Morghan Waage, Aaron Delzer

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend vegetables, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

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

School Lunch: Chicken patty, baked chips, romaine salad, fruit.

Saturday, April 18

Birthdays: Dylan Vogel, Emily Sippel, Merrie Atherton, Tammie Hanson

ACT Testing at GHS

DI Run for Globals starts at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

10:00 am: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Rosewood Court

6:00pm: LSS Benefit at the DEC

8:00 pm: GHS Prom

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

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



DAKOTA TREE COMPANY

Friends . . . Near and Far

Editor's Note: This is the 14th in a series featuring your friends, near and far.

Chris Lilla



Tiffany pictured with Chris Lilla

JobWise what are you doing today? I am currently the Deputy Director of Equalization for Brookings County.

How long have you been working at the current job? 10 years

How did you get your current job? After returning from Iraq, I needed a civilian career change. I discovered this job in an online job search and it seemed like a good fit for me. I applied and was fortunate to be selected to the position.

If you have previous employments list them and how long you were there. I worked for Larson Mfg. of Brookings for 11 years prior to deployment. I am also a retired member of the 2/147th FA and 196th MEB.

What high school did you attend and what year did you graduate? I attended Hecla-Houghton High School and graduated in 1991

Where did you attend college and what was your degree? I attended SDSU, but did not complete a degree.

What advice would you give the high school students today? Study hard, especially in the areas of math, science and computers. Give it as much effort as you would for anything else in life that may be more appealing and fun. The rewards will come in the future.

List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life. Deploying to Iraq and leading my platoon through 14 months and bringing everyone home with no combat related injuries.

If you are not married proceed to the last question. Divorced, but have a wonderful woman in my life named Tiffany.

Do you have any children? If so what's their names and ages and if they are no longer staying at home where are they at and what are they doing today. I currently have two sons Tate (16) and Ty (11) and also A boy Tavian to be here any day.

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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)

Senator Thune coming to Groton today

US Senator John Thune will be at the Groton American Legion Clubroom (12 N Main, Groton) at 4pm on Friday, April 17.

A brief meeting will be held to discuss current events, projects and citizen concerns. Please come and meet your senator.

Today in Weather History

April 17, 2006: A strong spring storm moved across the Northern and Central Plains, bringing precipitation and very strong northwest winds. Sustained winds of 30 to 50 mph, with gusts around 70 mph, were felt across a large portion of western South Dakota for more than 24 hours as the storm slowly crossed the region.

1942: West Palm Beach, FL was soaked by 8.35 inches of rain in just two hours.

2002: The heat wave continued across the east as high pressure off the Carolina blocked a frontal boundary across the Plains. Records for the date included:

Newark, New Jersey: 97

NYC Central Park: 96

Hartford, Connecticut: 95

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 95

Reagan National Airport, DC: 95 (Tied monthly high)

Lynchburg, Virginia: 94

Atlantic City, New Jersey: 94

Norfolk, Virginia: 93

Providence, Rhode Island: 93

Boston, Massachusetts: 93

Portland, Maine: 80

1922 - A family of at least six tornadoes caused death and destruction along parts of a 210 mile path from north of Ogden IL to Allen County OH, killing sixteen persons. A post card, picked up in Madison County IN, was found 124 miles away near Mount Cory OH. (The Weather Channel)

1953 - One of the few severe hailstorms accompanied by snow, sleet, glaze, and rain, pelted parts of Kay, Osage, Creek, Tulsa, Washington, and Rogers Counties in northeastern Oklahoma late in the day. Nearly 10,000 insurance claims were filed. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - The Mississippi River reached a flood crest at Saint Paul MN four feet higher than any previous mark. During the next two weeks record levels were reached along the Mississippi between Saint Paul and Hannibal MO. Flooding caused more than 100 million dollars damage, but timely warnings kept the death toll down to just twelve persons. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Twenty-two cities in the central U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. Temperatures warmed into the 70s and 80s from the High Plains Region to the Mississippi Valley, with readings in the low 90s reported in the Southern Plains Region. Tulsa OK hit 92 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Heavy snow blanketed northern Arizona. Snowfall totals ranged up to 16 inches at Pinetop, with 10 inches reported at Flagstaff. Afternoon thunderstorms spawned a couple of tornadoes in Idaho. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Arctic cold invaded the north central U.S. Missoula MT was blanketed with four inches of snow, and Glasgow MT reported a record cold morning low of 14 degrees above zero. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - High winds in northern Utah, gusting to 90 mph in Weber County, blew a trampoline through a living room window, and strong winds associated with a cold front crossing the Middle Atlantic Coast Region gusted to 75 mph in the Chesapeake Bay area of Virginia. Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Valentine NE was the cold spot in the nation with a record low of 10 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Showers Likely	Showers Likely	Chance Showers	Breezy	Slight Chc Rain/Snow
High: 73 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 65 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 56 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 51 °F

Showers Possible for the Weekend

5 Day Outlook - Mobridge, SD					5 Day Outlook - Aberdeen, SD				
Today	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Today	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
									
73° 42° 10% E 10	61° 41° 70% N 17	57° 32° 60% NW 34	53° 30° 10% NW 22	57° 29° 5% NW 13	74° 42° 10% N 11	65° 45° 75% E 19	57° 33° 65% NW 31	51° 29° 15% NW 21	55° 28° 5% NW 15

5 Day Outlook - Pierre, SD					5 Day Outlook - Watertown, SD				
Today	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Today	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
									
71° 49° 60% NE 12	64° 42° 70% N 13	58° 34° 50% NW 36	56° 31° 5% NW 21	61° 32° 5% N 13	71° 46° 15% N 12	63° 46° 80% E 23	56° 33° 70% NW 31	49° 30° 20% NW 21	51° 28° 10% NW 17

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  Like National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen

Published on: 04/17/2015 at 5:34AM

Today will feature partly to mostly sunny skies along with high temperatures in the 70s for most locations. A large upper level low pressure area over the desert southwest will lift slowly northeast and into our region tonight through Sunday. This will spread showers into the area late this afternoon in south central South Dakota. Chances for decent rainfall amounts are best Saturday afternoon through Saturday night.



ON BEING BLAMELESS

What happens when life turns ugly and there is no reason to get out of bed and face life? Do we give up and give in? Do we surrender our principals and live a life of compromise? Do we forget where we were or what made us different from others? Do we live a life filled with anger and resentment?

"Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse" provides some sound advice. This verse tells the story of a man who "had it all" and "lost it all." He was "riding high" and then "life turned ugly." But the events of life did not change him: he changed the events of life. He remained faithful to God, turned his back on evil and continued to live a life controlled by God. He was a man of character!

We often confuse personality with character. It's easy. Personality is who people think we are. Character is who God knows us to be. Personality changes over time and is temporary. Character is deep rooted and flows from our relationship with God. Personality is on the outside. Character is from God and is deep inside our hearts. Personality often comes from a smile to hide the pain and struggle we are dealing with. Character weeps openly, honestly and freely when the going gets difficult, the nights long and the days dark, the sun is hidden and the clouds heavy. Personality changes to meet the needs of the moment. Character meets the moment without changing - being confident that we can meet the challenge and endure the struggle with God.

Prayer: We pray, Lord, that we will submit our will and ways to You and live lives that are blameless. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 28:6 Better the poor whose walk is blameless than the rich whose ways are perverse.

ATTENTION

Parents and Grandparents:

Help give your child a head start for just pennies a day with individual whole life insurance from the

Gerber Life Grow-Up[®] Plan

A Plan that Grows

Affordable premiums that never increase, guaranteed cash value* and coverage that doubles over time.

A Gift that Doubles

The Grow-Up[®] Plan provides up to \$50,000 of whole life insurance that automatically doubles during age 18 at no extra cost!

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Policy Form# ICC12-GPP
Policy Form Series GPP-12

News from the Associated Press

Fallen firefighter funeral expected to draw thousands

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — The number of people in Brandon this weekend is expected to increase by one-fourth as thousands turn out for the funeral and burial of a fallen firefighter.

Thirty-eight-year-old Steven Ackerman died Sunday while fighting a house fire in Brandon that also killed 47-year-old homeowner David Smith. Ackerman is the 43rd firefighter to die in the line of duty in South Dakota since 1924, and the 22nd volunteer firefighter to be killed.

His funeral is Sunday at the Brandon Valley High School gymnasium. Fire trucks will line the route from the gym to the cemetery, and Minnehaha County Emergency Manager Lynn DeYoung says the number could surpass 100 as officials from fire departments around the country make plans to attend the services.

Bagpipe groups and ladder truck towers also are planned.

11-year-old Sioux Falls boy arrested in BB gun incident

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An 11-year-old boy was arrested on aggravated assault and drug charges after allegedly pointing a BB gun at a girl outside a Sioux Falls middle school.

Police say the boy showed the gun to a friend Wednesday afternoon, then pointed it toward the 12-year-old girl and threatened to shoot her.

The boy ran away from a teacher who tried to take the gun and was later arrested at his home. Police say they found marijuana in his room while searching for the gun.

The boy's 13-year-old brother also was arrested on drug charges because he shares the room.

The two boys were taken to a juvenile detention center and then released to their parents.

Aberdeen, Brown County to start using drug-sniffing dogs

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The Aberdeen Police Department and Brown County Sheriff's Office have been awarded funding to cover the costs of implementing a drug-sniffing canine unit.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says the \$17,000 comes from the Drug Control Fund, which uses money seized from drug arrests to fund local law enforcement programs aimed at curbing drug abuse.

Aberdeen police Chief Dave McNeil says dogs are "instrumental" in the detection and prohibition of drugs. He says his department looks forward in deploying their new assets.

The plan is to have a canine and handler to work with both the city and county.

Game department seeks comments on goose and turkey plans

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakotans who want to weigh in on five-year goose and turkey management plans have a month to submit comments.

Game, Fish and Parks is looking for input on the 2010-2014 resident Canada goose management plan prior to drafting the next five-year plan for 2015-2019. GFP is also seeking comments on the 2001-2010 wild turkey management plan before drafting a five-year outline for 2015-2019.

The agency says the current resident Canada goose management plan focused on harvest management tools to reduce crop damage caused by geese while trying to maintain hunting and viewing opportunities.

Written comments can be emailed to canadagooseplan@state.sd.us and turkeyplan@state.sd.us or sent to GFP in Pierre. They're due by May 15.

Wind Cave fire to be fully contained by noon on Friday

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, S.D. (AP) — A wildfire in Wind Cave National Park is expected to be fully contained by noon on Friday.

Authorities say the Cold Brook Fire remains at 10 square miles and is still 90 percent contained.

Park Chief Interpreter Tom Farrell says the fire has scorched 6,500 acres in the southwestern South Dakota park. That's about 20 percent of the park's surface area.

Farrell says firefighters have been aided by the rain that fell on portions of the fire Wednesday night.

The park will again take over management of the fire but some crews will remain on scene to monitor and patrol.

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

Thune says park service should accept liability for wildfire

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Sen. John Thune says the National Park Service should change its prescribed burn policies and accept full liability for damages and expenses related to the wildfire at Wind Cave National Park.

Thune made the comments in a letter to U.S. Secretary of the Department of Interior Sally Jewell after strong winds caused a prescribed burn to scorch about 6,500 acres of park land.

Tom Farrell, the park's chief of interpretation, says the park has performed thousands of prescribed burns over the past decades and successfully burned millions of acres to prevent more catastrophic wildfires. He says the park service will review what happened and will share its findings with the state's congressional delegation.

Farrell didn't say whether the park service was considering Thune's call for liability.

Common Core testing problems continue with money at stake

SALLY HO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Federal funding could be at stake as Common Core testing problems continued in Nevada, Montana and North Dakota, state and U.S. officials said.

The three states contract with New Hampshire-based Measured Progress to administer the tests that are linked to hotly disputed, federally backed education standards.

"We expect states to hold Measured Progress accountable, just like we expect the states to hold the districts accountable" for testing, said Dorie Nolt, a Department of Education spokeswoman.

On Tuesday, the company's server crashed due to capacity, causing spotty access and logistical frustrations before testing stopped. It also cost some schools money in the form of substitute teachers.

The state of Montana offered waivers Wednesday to the mandatory assessment for this year, which could put millions of dollars in federal funding at risk.

"I think it was best for those schools to make that decision for themselves knowing that the assessment is still important," said State Superintendent Denise Juneau.

Most have not announced their decisions, although a small number have already declared that they will not test or will only partially test students. So far, about 20 percent of the state's school districts committed to full testing.

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Juneau said she expected most schools to finish the tests but the federal mandate may not be met. "We don't know — until everyone's done testing — what the participating rate will be, but it will be high," she said.

The U.S. Department of Education said in a statement: "The department has not had to withhold money — yet — over this requirement because states have either complied or have appropriately addressed this with schools or districts that assessed less than 95 percent of students."

North Dakota said it is prepared for any consequences, given that some districts are ending the school year in as few as 20 days.

Officials encouraged finishing the computer test or ordering the paper test. Any school system that can't get it done will document attempts in what could be a plea for leniency later.

"I think the Department of (Education) will look at the effort we give in," said Kirsten Baesler, North Dakota's state superintendent. "Did they give up the second week of April or was it a substantial effort?"

This week's debacle was the second technical problem Measured Progress has had in recent weeks with the computerized English language arts and math tests for selected grades. In March, testing was delayed because of a coding issue.

The company said its servers couldn't handle the number of students even though it increased capacity beyond what was indicated by the tests' creator, Smarter Balanced.

Nevada likely overloaded the system because it has 210,000 of the 345,000 total students expected to take the test across the three states.

The state was put on its own server to do limited testing Thursday, which will continue Friday.

But problems appeared again as early as Thursday morning and led Nevada's largest school system to cancel plans for the day.

"We can't keep putting our kids in front of an error screen," said Leslie Arnold, an assistant superintendent with the Las Vegas-based Clark County School District.

The country's fifth largest school system said it expects all 150,000 kids to complete the test this year.

Meanwhile, Montana's limited testing Thursday was successful and full testing begins again Friday. The state also defended Measure Progress, calling it a victim to the initial coding problems.

North Dakota said it's not clear how it will deal with the company. Its three-year contract started this year and cost \$4.68 million.

"When the dust settles and our students are taken care of and the school year concludes, then we'll begin to look at what happened here," Baesler said.

High court rules 2 child sex abuse cases should go to trial

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Supreme Court has ruled that two cases of plaintiffs who say they were abused decades ago by a former staffer at a Catholic mission on the Rosebud Indian Reservation should go to trial.

The high court reversed a lower court's ruling this week on the two cases, but affirmed the circuit court's judgment against other individuals who had sued.

A handful of plaintiffs sued several Catholic organizations that oversaw the St. Francis Mission, saying they failed to safeguard children from abuse. The circuit court said the suits were barred by a 2010 law change.

But the Supreme Court ruled these two cases are different because the women only recently recalled or understood their abuse.

Plaintiffs' Attorney Michael Shubeck says the ruling could spur entities to better report abuse.

USDA veterinarian: Bird flu outbreak could be 'devastating'

STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The nation's poultry industry may have to live with a deadly bird flu strain for several years, which would be "devastating," the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief veterinary officer said Thursday.

Dr. John Clifford also said that while new cases should drop to close to zero once the weather warms up and kills off the virus, there's "very likely" to be a resurgence this fall when the wild waterfowl that are natural carriers of avian influenza fly south for the winter.

Clifford spoke on a visit to Minnesota, the state hit hardest by outbreaks that have led to the death of over 2.5 million turkeys and chickens in the Midwest since early March. He said the fact that the highly pathogenic H5N2 virus has already appeared as far east as southern Ontario means there's an uncomfortable risk of it spreading to the East Coast where much of the U.S. broiler chicken industry is based.

"If it sticks around and continues it's going to be very devastating to our poultry industry and our international markets, trade markets, as well as the loss domestically," Clifford said in an interview with The Associated Press. "That's why we have to really use this time appropriately to do all that we can to determine how best we can address and prevent introductions in the future."

Authorities have confirmed H5N2 outbreaks at nearly 40 commercial poultry farms in the Midwest, including 26 in Minnesota. All were turkey operations except for one chicken farm in Wisconsin. On Thursday, officials said four more Minnesota farms and two more in Wisconsin had been struck.

Officials say there's no risk to public health or the food supply. Economists don't expect the outbreaks to affect retail prices much because the birds that have been killed by the virus itself or euthanized to stop its spread represent just over 1 percent of the 235 million turkeys produced in the U.S. last year.

While some USDA officials have told Minnesota officials the virus could be a problem for three to five years, Clifford said it's impossible to be certain.

"It could be around that long, and there's just no way to know for sure," he said.

Experts believe Minnesota is the epicenter because it's the top turkey producing state — raising around 46 million turkeys a year — and its thousands of lakes and wetlands naturally attract large numbers of migrating ducks and other waterfowl. Turkeys are most susceptible, but chickens also die from the virus. While waterfowl can carry avian influenza viruses and spread them through their droppings and oral secretions, they don't usually become sick from them.

The ducks blamed for bringing H5N2 to Minnesota and other Midwestern states migrate through the country's midsection.

The broiler chicken industry, which produces chickens for meat, is clustered along the East Coast in states such as Georgia, North and South Carolina, Virginia, Delaware and Maryland. Clifford said the waterfowl that brought the virus to an infected farm in southern Ontario are likely from flocks that either migrate along the East Coast or intermingle with flocks that do.

The USDA has sent about 60 people to Minnesota to reinforce the state's response. State officials have asked U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to ensure that enough funding remains available. Clifford estimated that the USDA has already spent \$20 million to \$30 million to reimburse farmers for birds that were euthanized and on other costs. He also said the secretary has the authority to provide additional emergency funding, and it's been requested as the agency gears up for a new round this fall.

The federal government is also working to limit the harm from export bans imposed by around 40 countries that are already hurting both the turkey and chicken industries, which combined export more

than \$5 billion worth of products annually, Clifford said.

"We've already lost hundreds of millions of dollars in those markets," he said

GOP Sen. Thune, Rep. Noem report strong fundraising quarters

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republican Sen. John Thune and Rep. Kristi Noem reported successful fundraising hauls over the last three months, but South Dakota's Democratic leader said Thursday that she hopes neither will get a "free pass" next year in their bids for another term in Washington.

Noem brought in roughly \$367,000 from January through March, pushing her campaign bank account above \$1 million. But even that pales in comparison to Thune, whose first quarter haul was roughly \$793,000, and his war chest is now roughly \$10.4 million.

Still, state Democratic Chairwoman Ann Tornberg said the party wants to field viable candidates for as many races as possible. Thune last appeared on the ballot in 2010, when he won a second term without a challenger, and Noem beat Democrat Corinna Robinson by roughly 33 points in winning a third two-year term last year.

"Those war chests are formidable for anyone approaching a race, but that's no reason to give them a free pass," Tornberg said. "It's important for voters to have an election."

Democrats are rebuilding from the bleak 2014 elections. Republicans in South Dakota now hold every statewide office and supermajorities in the state Legislature.

Noem campaign consultant Justin Brasell said he's pleased with the fundraising pace for the quarter and that the congresswoman's cash on hand total "puts her far and away in the best position she's ever been in to start a new election cycle." Brasell said Noem has done a solid job of increasing her fundraising abilities and margin of victory each election since she defeated incumbent Democrat Stephanie Herseth Sandlin in 2010.

Kyle Kondik, managing editor at Sabato's Crystal Ball, said Noem had a solid haul and noted South Dakota is relatively inexpensive for media buys.

"Hypothetically, Noem would be the easier one to challenge, but I think they're both in pretty good shape," Kondik said. "They're not slacking off in the fundraising department."

Minnehaha County Commissioner Jeff Barth, a Democrat and veteran South Dakota political observer, said Noem is "absolutely" an easier target for Democrats than Thune. He said the party should announce its candidates for both races at Saturday's McGovern Day 2015, which is the largest annual gathering for South Dakota Democrats and this year features an appearance from Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

South Dakota telecom CEO recognized in international story

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The CEO of a South Dakota company owned by 17 independent telephone companies in the state has picked up an international honor.

The telecommunications trade magazine OSP named Mark Shlanta of SDN Communications a progressive rural network evolutionary. He and other honorees are featured on the cover of the print publication released this week.

SDN's owners include cooperatives, municipal, family and tribal-owned companies covering 80 percent of South Dakota's geography with a 30,000-mile fiber optic network that reaches into seven other states.

Shlanta has been at SDN 17 years, 15 of those as CEO. The company has since grown from 14 em-

ployees to 185.

Wildfire 25 miles north of Wall has consumed 200 acres

WALL, S.D. (AP) — Emergency crews in western South Dakota are fighting a wildfire that has consumed more than 200 acres north of Wall.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office says deputies were called to the "Denke Fire" around 10:30 a.m. on Thursday morning.

Fire units and first responders from several Pennington County agencies are on scene in addition to units from Phillip, Elm Springs and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Wildfires around South Dakota have sprung up in recent weeks as the state has seen unseasonably dry and windy conditions.

Survey suggests economy slowing in rural areas of 10 states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The economic outlook for rural areas of 10 states in the Plains and the West remained negative in April even though it improved slightly from the previous month.

Creighton University's Rural Mainstreet index grew to 46 in April from March's 43.6, but any score below 50 suggests a decline. The indexes range between 0 and 100.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says the strong U.S. dollar continues to hurt exports of agriculture and energy products. And demand for farmland remains weak, so land prices are declining.

The farm equipment sales index sits at 15.6, up slightly from March's 15.2, but well below the neutral level of 50.

Bankers from rural areas of Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

Firefighters honoring fallen brother with 24-hour vigil

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — Volunteer firefighters are keeping an around-the-clock vigil outside the funeral home handling the remains of a Valley Springs fireman who died in the line of duty.

Firefighters will take turns standing watch in a fire truck in eight-hour shifts outside George Boom Funeral Home in Sioux Falls until weekend services in Brandon for Steven Ackerman.

"It's about our brother, our fellow firefighter, not being alone," Valley Springs volunteer firefighter Rick Mitchell told KELO-TV.

Ackerman, 38, died Sunday while fighting a house fire in Brandon that also killed 47-year-old homeowner David Smith. Ackerman is the 43rd firefighter to die in the line of duty in South Dakota since 1924, and only the 22nd volunteer firefighter to be killed, according to the South Dakota Firefighters Association.

Ackerman was a volunteer firefighter for 14 years, while also working with a family heating and cooling business and serving on the Valley Springs planning and zoning commission.

"He was always the first one on a call, the first one in the engine and the first one on the hose," Mitchell told the Argus Leader newspaper. "He thought of others first and his needs second."

Visitation for Ackerman is 12-5 p.m. Saturday at the George Boom Funeral Chapel in Brandon. His funeral is 2 p.m. Sunday at the Brandon Valley High School gymnasium. Gov. Dennis Daugaard has ordered that flags be flown at half-staff Sunday to honor him.

There will be a large turnout of firefighters at both the visitation and the funeral, Firefighters Associa-

tion President Charlie Kludt told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan newspaper.

"The memorial for Steve Ackerman is going to be huge," he said.

Officials are planning for 2,500 people, including officials from 65 fire departments, according to Minnehaha County Emergency Manager Lynn DeYoung.

Smith's funeral was being held Thursday night at the Heartland Funeral Home in Brandon.

Suspect in BIA official stabbing accused of attempted murder

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A man accused of stabbing the Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendent on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation in South Dakota last month will stand trial in June on upgraded charges including attempted murder.

Brian Iron Boulder, 51, on April 8 pleaded not guilty to attempted murder of a federal employee, assault on a federal employee and assault resulting in serious bodily injury. If convicted he could be sentenced to 50 years in prison.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange scheduled the trial to begin June 2.

Iron Boulder, who also is known as Brian Ironboulder, initially had faced only an assault charge that carried a maximum sentence of 20 years. The new charges resulted from a grand jury indictment.

Authorities allege that Iron Boulder stabbed Superintendent Patrick F. Duffy in the back with a knife on March 25, penetrating Duffy's chest wall. Duffy was in critical condition for a time but was released from a hospital on April 1. He has yet to return to work.

Court documents don't indicate a motive for the stabbing. BIA special Agent Tino Lopez said in an affidavit that a witness told him Iron Boulder often talked with Duffy at his office, and that the stabbing occurred while Iron Boulder and Duffy were walking and "talking in conversational tones." Lopez said Iron Boulder admitted to him that he had stabbed Duffy.

Defense attorney Douglas A. Abraham said he does not comment on pending cases.

Duffy oversees BIA facilities in Fort Thompson and manages tribal land in his role as superintendent.

73-year-old state prison inmate dies after lengthy illness

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A state prison inmate has died after what state corrections officials say was a lengthy illness.

Seventy-three-year-old Ronald Rodden died Wednesday at a Yankton hospital.

Rodden was serving three consecutive 15-year sentences for second-degree rape in Pennington County.

An autopsy is being conducted.

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. WHAT ITALIAN LEADER, OBAMA WILL DISCUSS

Matteo Renzi and the U.S. president will be comparing notes on a range of issues, including Libya, the migrant issues stemming from the chaos there, Islamic State militants and Ukraine. UNITED STATES-ITALY

2. THIS IS (NOT) YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING

AP's Scott Mayerowitz finds that after the intentional crashing of Germanwings Flight 9525 by the

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co-pilot, one way for airlines to improve safety is to remove the pilots — a radical idea that is decades away. PLANES WITHOUT PILOTS

3. WHO IS MULLING A CUBAN DETOUR

Pope Francis is considering adding a stop in Cuba to his U.S. trip in September, but no decision has been made. VATICAN-CUBA

4. FINDING DIFFERENT METHODS TO HELP CHILDREN WITH AMBIGUOUS GENITALIA

Families of intersex kids — those born with reproductive anatomy that does not conform to standard definitions of male or female — are weighing other non-surgical options. INTERSEX CHILDREN

5. FAMILIES MAKE VIDEOS TO REASSURE PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA

Using an idea from the Adam Sandler movie “50 First Dates,” families make videos to reassure patients dealing with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of forgetfulness. DEMENTIA-FAMILY VIDEOS

6. WHAT GOOGLE’S CHANGES MEAN FOR YOU

The search engine giant is changing its algorithms so that mobile-friendly sites show up first on smartphones. GOOGLE-SEARCH SHAKE-UP

7. G-20 CONFRONTING ECONOMIC WEAKNESS

Finance officials from the world’s major economies are searching for the right mix of policies to bolster a still-weak global recovery while confronting a big drop in oil prices. GLOBAL FINANCE

8. WHY POOCHES ARE SNIFFLING IN THE HEARTLAND

Experts say doggie day care contributed to an epidemic of dog flu in Chicago that is spreading in the Midwest. DOG FLU-THINGS TO KNOW

9. IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL STANDS BY MEHMET OZ

Columbia University won’t remove the TV celebrity doctor from his faculty position as a group of top doctors has demanded, citing his “lack of integrity” for promoting “quack treatments.” MEHMET OZ-COLUMBIA

10. BASKETBALL GALAXY MISSING BIGGEST STARS

No Kobe Bryant, no Dwyane Wade and no Carmelo Anthony. The NBA playoffs will be missing some of the game’s biggest stars.

AP News in Brief

Obama, Italian PM Matteo Renzi to discuss Ukraine, Libya, Islamic State, other issues

WASHINGTON (AP) — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi is getting an audience with President Barack Obama.

Obama is hosting Renzi at the White House on Friday to compare notes on a range of issues, including Ukraine, Libya and Islamic State militants.

The leaders are also expected to discuss Europe’s economy, a pending trade pact between the U.S. and Europe, climate change and energy security.

With Italy mired in a recession, Renzi also comes seeking Obama’s support for his economic program, though it has yet to significantly improve the country’s fiscal outlook.

Obama and Renzi plan to brief reporters at an East Room news conference after their Oval Office meeting and before they retire to the Cabinet Room for a working lunch.

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Police say 5 adults found dead in Phoenix home; woman says it was family situation gone wrong

PHOENIX (AP) — Five adults were found dead inside a Phoenix home after a shooting in a suspected dispute over the family's business, police said.

Police said Thursday the three men were brothers and the dead women apparently were the men's mother and a spouse of one of the brothers. Two other women and two children managed to escape the home unharmed.

One of those women told officers that the shooting stemmed from a family dispute gone wrong, police spokesman Sgt. Trent Crump said.

"Our dispatcher could hear shots fired in the background while that call was coming in," Crump said. "A caller had been able to escape the home at that point, get out and start to give us information."

Crump said the family had origins in Morocco. During an hours-long standoff before the bodies were found, police used a megaphone to try to communicate with the occupants of the home, addressing the family in Arabic.

Following Germanwings crash, aviation safety experts weigh ground functions to override pilots

NEW YORK (AP) — To improve airline safety, maybe we need to remove the pilots.

That radical idea is decades away, if it ever becomes a reality. But following the intentional crashing of Germanwings Flight 9525 by the co-pilot, a long-running debate over autonomous jets is resurfacing. At the very least, some have suggested allowing authorities on the ground to take control of a plane if there is a rogue pilot in the cockpit.

The head of Germany's air traffic control agency on Wednesday became the latest to raise such a prospect.

Such moves might seem logical in the aftermath of this crash, but industry experts warn that the technology is fraught with problems. Besides, no matter how tragic the deaths of the 149 other passengers and crew were, it was an anomaly. Each year, more than 3 billion people around the globe step aboard some 34 million flights. The number of crashes purposely caused by commercial pilots in the last three decades: fewer than 10.

"Would this really be the wisest investment of our air safety dollars?" asks Patrick Smith, a commercial airline pilot for 25 years and author of "Cockpit Confidential."

Intersex kids' surgeries spark move to more acceptance, less drastic treatments

CHICAGO (AP) — She was born to a young Chicago couple, named Jennifer, and grew into a beautiful long-lashed child with wavy dark hair, big brown eyes and a yearning, youthful desire to be just like all the other girls.

Only she wasn't. Doctors first noticed her slightly enlarged genitals, and then discovered she had testes inside her abdomen and male chromosomes. And so began a series of surgeries to make things "right."

Jennifer Pagonis was born intersex, an umbrella term for several conditions in which an infant's reproductive anatomy doesn't conform to standard definitions of male or female. The physical effects can be subtle, or very obvious.

A century ago, intersex adults were top draws at circus sideshows. Then, as surgical techniques for ambiguous genitals evolved, doctors began performing surgeries on affected infants and encouraged parents to raise children as the sex they visibly resembled. Many families kept the conditions hidden, fearing stigma and shame.

Pagonis' parents knew nothing about the conditions — or about the surgeries' troubling risks, including damage to sexual function, satisfaction and psyche later on.

'Bad boy' Nigel Farage battling for seat in Parliament as UKIP tries to build on recent gains

DOVER, England (AP) — Saul Webster enjoys a good tipple, and nobody begrudges him one. But that doesn't make it good politics for the retired schoolteacher to pose for a campaign event with Nigel Farage, the U.K. Independence Party leader, while carrying a bottle of hard cider and a half-drained glass.

He looks crestfallen as a UKIP functionary discretely removes the drink from his hands before the gathered media horde starts snapping away at Farage and his backers in front of an anti-immigration billboard at the foot of the White Cliffs of Dover.

Farage — the bad boy of British politics — is trying to clean up his image ahead of the May 7 general election. His once surging party has started to languish in the polls and Farage himself admits he is in a dog-fight to try to win his first seat in the British Parliament.

So the UKIP leader is running a tightly focused campaign that relentlessly pushes a single message: Opposition to continued membership in the European Union and the increased immigration that membership has brought. It's a nationalist theme that is gaining momentum in other major European nations including France and Germany.

Webster is on Farage's side. After a lifetime supporting the Labour Party, with its socialist roots, the 68-year-old is jumping to UKIP. He agrees that Britain is hosting far too many immigrants from countries like Romania and Bulgaria, both poor EU newcomers whose people have the right to live and work in Britain.

In idea from movie '50 First Dates,' families make videos to calm, reassure dementia patients

NEW YORK (AP) — For 94-year-old Louise Irving, who suffers from dementia, waking up every day to a video with a familiar face and a familiar voice seems to spark a flicker of recognition.

"Good morning, merry sunshine, how did you wake so soon?" Irving's daughter, Tamara Rusoff-Hoen, sings in a video playing from a laptop wheeled to her mother's nursing home bedside.

As the five-minute video plays, with stories of happy memories and get-togethers, Irving beams a bright smile before repeating the traditional family send-off.

"Kiss, kiss ... I love you."

Such prerecorded messages from family members are part of an apparently unique pilot program at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale aimed at helping victims of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia break through the morning fog of forgetfulness that can often cause them agitation and fear.

India touts 30 percent rise in tiger numbers, but scientists say victory may be only on paper

SUNDARBAN TIGER RESERVE, India (AP) — At first, the numbers seem impressive: India's tiger population has gone up 30 percent in just four years. The government lauded the news as astonishing evidence of victory in conservation.

But independent scientists say such an increase — to 2,226 big cats — in so short a time doesn't make sense.

They worry an enthusiastic new government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is misinterpreting the numbers, trumpeting false claims of a thriving tiger population that could hurt conservation in the long run.

"The circus is not necessary," said tiger expert K. Ullas Karanth, science director for the Wildlife Conservation Society in Asia. "All of this tom-tom'ing and arm-waving, claiming we've had stupendous success, is ridiculous and unscientific."

The first numbers were released in January. Last week, the government offered details of the data.

Google's new search formula for mobile devices to favor sites easier to read on smartphones

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google is about to change the way its influential search engine recommends websites on smartphones and tablets in a shift that's expected to sway where millions of people shop, eat and find information.

The revised formula, scheduled to be released Tuesday, will favor websites that Google defines as "mobile-friendly." Websites that don't fit the description will be demoted in Google's search results on smartphones and tablets while those meeting the criteria will be more likely to appear at the top of the rankings — a prized position that can translate into more visitors and money.

Although Google's new formula won't affect searches on desktop and laptop computers, it will have a huge influence on how and where people spend their money, given that more people are relying on their smartphones to compare products in stores and look for restaurants. That's why Google's new rating system is being billed by some search experts as "Mobile-geddon."

"Some sites are going to be in for a big surprise when they find a drastic change in the amount of people visiting them from mobile devices," said Itai Sadan, CEO of website-building service Duda.

It's probably the most significant change that Google Inc. has ever made to its mobile search rankings, according to Matt McGee, editor-in-chief for Search Engine Land, a trade publication that follows every tweak that the company makes to its closely guarded algorithms.

AP PHOTOS: Images of Oklahoma City bombing of federal building ahead of 20th anniversary

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A cargo truck laden with more than two tons of explosives was detonated in front of Oklahoma City's nine-story federal building on April 19, 1995 — an act of terrorism that at the time was the worst such attack ever committed on U.S. soil.

The blast killed 168 people, including 19 children, injured hundreds more and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage to structures and vehicles in the downtown area.

President Bill Clinton led a memorial service for the victims as the FBI launched a nationwide investigation to find those responsible.

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Within days, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were arrested and accused of conspiring to destroy the federal building in retribution for the government's handling of the siege of the Branch Davidian religious group at their compound in Waco, Texas, two years earlier.

McVeigh and Nichols were tried and convicted on federal charges, and Nichols was convicted of murder following a separate trial in Oklahoma. McVeigh was sentenced to death and executed and Nichols received multiple life prison sentences.

No Kobe, no D-Wade, no Melo and more: NBA playoffs will be missing some of the game's best

MIAMI (AP) — No Kobe. No D-Wade.

Not even any wild Russell Westbrook outfits.

New standouts might emerge during these playoffs, but there's no arguing that there's plenty of star power missing.

If jersey sales are a true measure of a player's popularity, then four of the NBA's top nine stars — the Lakers' Kobe Bryant, Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant, New York's Carmelo Anthony and Miami's Dwyane Wade — have already seen their seasons come to an end.

So has Westbrook, the league's first scoring champion to miss the playoffs since Tracy McGrady in 2004. And that means his collection of "what was he wearing" shirts won't be on display in those post-game news conferences this year.

Today in History **The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, April 17, the 107th day of 2015. There are 258 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 17, 1975, Cambodia's five-year war ended as the capital Phnom Penh fell to the Khmer Rouge, which instituted brutal, radical policies that claimed an estimated 1.7 million lives until the regime was overthrown in 1979.

On this date:

In 1492, a contract was signed by Christopher Columbus and a representative of Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, giving Columbus a commission to seek a westward ocean passage to Asia.

In 1861, the Virginia State Convention voted to secede from the Union.

In 1905, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Lochner v. New York*, struck down, 5-4, a New York State law limiting the number of hours that bakers could be made to work. (This ruling was effectively overturned in 1937 by the high court's *West Coast Hotel Co. v. Parrish* decision.)

In 1924, the motion picture studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer was founded, the result of a merger of Metro Pictures, Goldwyn Pictures, and the Louis B. Mayer Co.

In 1937, Daffy Duck made his debut in the Warner Bros. animated cartoon "Porky's Duck Hunt," directed by Tex Avery.

In 1941, Yugoslavia surrendered to Germany during World War II.

In 1961, some 1,500 CIA-trained Cuban exiles launched the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in an attempt to topple Fidel Castro, whose forces crushed the incursion by the third day.

In 1964, Geraldine "Jerrie" Mock became the first woman to complete a solo airplane trip around the world as she returned to Columbus, Ohio, after 29 1/2 days in her Cessna 180. Ford Motor Co. unveiled the Mustang at the New York World's Fair. The first game was played at New York's Shea Stadium; the

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Pittsburgh Pirates defeated the Mets, 4-3.

In 1970, Apollo 13 astronauts James A. Lovell, Fred W. Haise and Jack Swigert splashed down safely in the Pacific, four days after a ruptured oxygen tank crippled their spacecraft while en route to the moon.

In 1984, an 11-day police siege began at Libya's embassy in London when an unidentified shooter inside the building fired on a crowd of protesters, killing police officer Yvonne Fletcher. (The Libyans in the embassy were eventually allowed to leave the country as Britain and Libya severed relations.)

In 1990, the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, the civil rights activist and top aide to Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., died in Atlanta at age 64.

In 1993, a federal jury in Los Angeles convicted two former police officers of violating the civil rights of beaten motorist Rodney King; two other officers were acquitted. Turkish President Turgut Ozal died at age 66.

Ten years ago: Registered sex offender David Lee Onstott was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Sarah Michelle Lunde (LUHN'-dee), the 13-year-old Florida girl whose body had been found the day before. (Onstott was later convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.) A Swiss tourist bus plunged into an Alpine ravine, killing 12 people.

Five years ago: Some 100,000 Poles filled Warsaw's biggest public square, joining together for a memorial and funeral Mass for the 96 people killed in a plane crash a week earlier. (A thickening cloud of volcanic ash over Europe caused some world leaders - including President Barack Obama - to cancel plans to attend a state funeral the next day.) Pope Benedict XVI began a pilgrimage in Malta, a Catholic nation buffeted by the worldwide clerical sex abuse scandal. Ubaldo Jimenez pitched the first no-hitter in the Colorado Rockies' 18-year history, dominating the Atlanta Braves in a 4-0 victory.

One year ago: Ukraine and Russia agreed on a tentative halt to violence and to calm tensions along their shared border after more than a month of Cold-War style military posturing triggered by Moscow's annexation of Crimea. Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez, 87, died in Mexico City.

Today's Birthdays: Actor David Bradley is 73. Composer-musician Jan Hammer (yahn HAH'-mur) is 67. Actress Olivia Hussey is 64. Actor Clarke Peters is 63. Rock singer-musician Pete Shelley (Buzzcocks) is 60. Actor Sean Bean is 56. Former NFL quarterback Boomer Esiason is 54. Actor Joel Murray is 53. Rock singer Maynard James Keenan is 51. Actress Lela Rochon (LEE'-lah rohn-SHAHN') is 51. Actor William Mapother is 50. Actress Leslie Bega is 48. Actor Henry Ian Cusick is 48. Actress Kimberly Elise is 48. Singer Liz Phair is 48. Rapper-actor Redman is 45. Actress Jennifer Garner is 43. Country musician Craig Anderson (Heartland) is 42. Singer Victoria Adams Beckham is 41. Actress-singer Lindsay Korman is 37. Actress Rooney Mara is 30. Actress Jacqueline MacInnes Wood is 28. Actor Paulie Litt is 20. Actress Dee Dee Davis is 19.

Thought for Today: "I think America is richer in intelligence than any other country in the world; and that its intelligence is more scattered than in any country of the world." - Will Durant, American historian (1885-1981).