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Monday, April 20

Anniv: Chuck & Marcia Blumhardt

Birthdays: Blake Harris, Cole Lewandowski, JoAnn Flihs, Karen Leonhardt, Marlys Rodman

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Italian dunkers, tater tots, carrots, fruit.

Senior Menu: Goulash, green beans, apple crisp, whole wheat bread.

6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

3:45 pm: Junior high track at Milbank

7:00 pm: City Council meeting

Tuesday, April 21

Birthdays: Jean Tastad, LeeRoy Weisenberger, Justin Hanson

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

School Lunch: Hamburgers, French fries, romaine salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, tomato spoon salad, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

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



605.290.1535

custom homes | remodels | additions

Friends . . . Near and Far

Editor's Note: This is the 16th in a series featuring your friends, near and far.

Ross Flemmer



**Ross and Cristy Flemmer in back
Lucas and Jacob in front.**

How did you get your current job? I applied, interviewed, got offered it, and have been at Dell Rapids St. Mary ever since.

What high school did you attend and what year did you graduate? Groton High School, graduating in 1993

Where did you attend college and what was your degree? I attended SDSU majoring in Education and History, with a minor in Sociology

What advice would you give the high school students today? With High School Students having more pressure on them to "know what they want to do" after high school, my advice is relax and figure out what you think you'd like to do and head in that direction.

List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life. I graduated college, I married my wife Cristy, I've had 2 great kids Lucas and Jacob, I've taught and coached for 16 years at Dell Rapids St. Mary Schools.

Are you married? If so what is your spouses name and where was she from? I've been married for the last (almost) 12 years to my wonderful wife Cristy. She was originally from Presho, South Dakota.

How did the two of you meet? We met through a mutual friend.

Do you have any children? Lucas age 9 and Jacob age 6.

Last question: do you feel that your high school and college education prepared you adequately for post education life? I think the education we got at Groton High School prepared me well for college and I think that my education at South Dakota State University prepared me well for life after College.

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Classifieds

CARD OF THANKS

I want to thank everyone for their visits, phone calls and cards after my surgery. All of these helped with my recovery.

Donald Walter

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has helped me since I broke my leg. I appreciate the visits, cards, phone calls, gifts, and prayers. I can never say thank you enough for everything! Your help means so much to me! What a great community we live in!

Gordie Nelson

Help Wanted

Andover Bar & Grill is looking for a cook. Contact Stacy at 605/298-5252 or Randy at 605/216-2595.

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

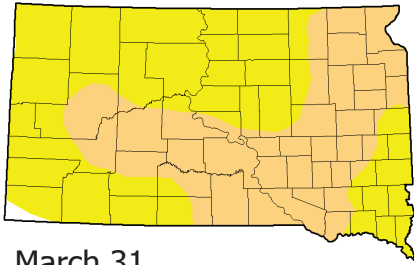
Open House Bridal Shower honoring Jessica Hoscheid, bride-to-be of Zach Harry, April 25, 2015, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. The couple is registered at Target, Inspire and Menards.

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)

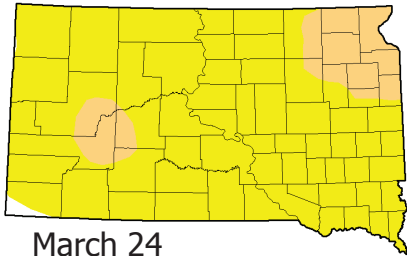
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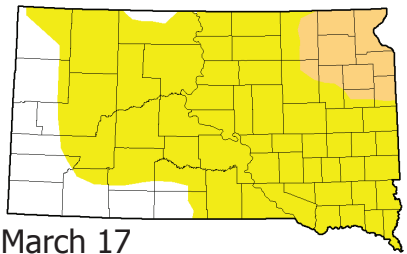
Drought Monitor



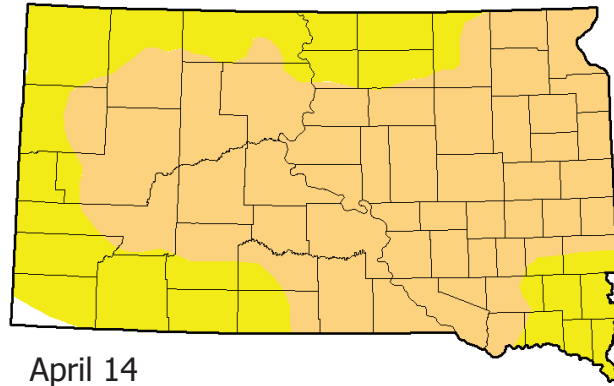
March 31



March 24



March 17



April 14

April 14, 2015

(Released Thursday April 16, 2015)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Statistics type: Traditional (D0-D4, D1-D4, etc.) Categorical (D0, D1, etc.)

Drought Condition (Percent Area):

Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	2015-04-14	0.53	99.47	65.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week	2015-04-07	0.57	99.43	42.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago	2015-01-13	48.53	51.47	4.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year	2014-12-30	48.53	51.47	4.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year	2014-09-30	97.46	2.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago	2014-04-15	79.09	20.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Population Affected by Drought: **463,716**

[View More Statistics](#)

Intensity:

■ D0 - Abnormally Dry
■ D1 - Moderate Drought
■ D2 - Severe Drought

■ D3 - Extreme Drought
■ D4 - Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying [text summary](#) for forecast statements.

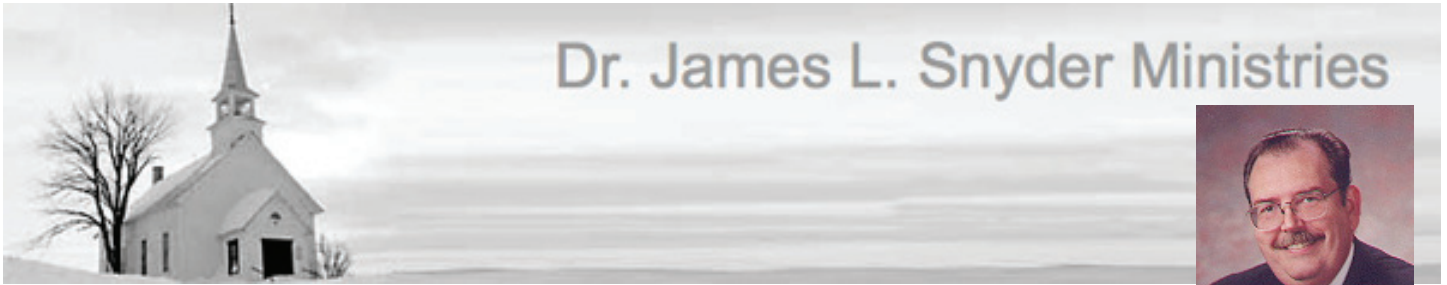
Author(s):

Michael Brewer, NOAA/NCDC

The Southern Plains experienced another week with relatively wet conditions. There were minor improvements in all drought categories in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and southeast Kansas. The Northern Plains experienced a mixed bag of changes. In western North Dakota, precipitation improved Abnormal Dryness (D0) while in South Dakota Moderate Drought (D1) expanded northward.

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Why Grin When You Can Laugh out Loud

I am of the opinion that standing in line is not a career although I have been so employed in my life. If it is a career, I am not applying for any employment.

I have searched colleges and universities and have yet to find any of them offering a PhD in Standing in Line. I believe there is no such thing, although I stood in line for so long now I probably have earned a PhD.

This past week I had this brought to my attention in an interesting manner. I had ordered a printing job at Staples and went in to pick it up. Walking in the door I noticed that at the printing department there was a long line of people waiting. My heart sank.

Nothing seems to be more of a waste of time than standing in line waiting for service or to pick up something. The woman behind the counter was doing the best she could, but the line did not seem to shrink very much. In fact, it seemed to grow.

As I stood there, I noticed the people in line were getting a little grouchy. You could tell by the grimace on their face that they were not in one of their "happy moods." At the time, most of the people in line were women. Nobody was talking to anybody, just staring or should I say glaring at the woman behind the counter trying to move the customers through as fast as possible.

It is always true that when you are in a hurry, things go rather slow. I try to pretend I am not in a hurry and whistle, usually, "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer." If it is this time of year people look at me as though I am crazy. Looks can be deceiving, but not in my case.

If you pretend that you have all the time in the world, things seem to go by quicker. It is like your computer. If you are in a hurry, the computer will run as slow as possible. On the other hand, if while you are waiting for the computer to get up and running you have many other things to do the computer is up and running before you know it.

I was thinking all these things as I was standing in line because I was not really walking in line. I thought of Johnny Cash's song, "I walk the line," and was tempted to start singing it, but I did not think it would be appropriate.

Then things began to take another turn. A woman came behind the counter, saw me and asked very loudly, "Are you here to pick up?"

There are times when something happens inside my head that makes me say things that I have not really prepared. I do not know what it is, maybe it is my upbringing but I am still not all the way up.

Without hardly a thought, I said in my outdoor voice, "No, I'm married, but thanks for the offer. It's not often an old geezer like me get such an invitation."

Then the whole atmosphere changed. Most of the people in line broke out in hilarious laughter. They never heard such a line in all their life. One woman looked at me and said, "Thanks, I needed that." Another said, "You've made my day."

Everybody was laughing and talking and the time seemed to go by very quickly and soon I was on my way out.

My observation is that most people are too serious, but too serious about the wrong things. Everybody seems to be uptight particularly when they are in the store standing in line.

One rule I have in life and that is, I do not take myself very seriously. After all, I do own a mirror! If

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what I see in the mirror is what other people see when they encounter me, I better start laughing now and join the crowd.

There are things that we need to take seriously. Most people do not take the serious things seriously, but they take instead, the hilarious things seriously. We live in an upside down world.

A time comes when you have to really laugh out loud. I have noticed that when one person starts laughing pretty soon everybody in the surrounding area will join in the laughing. Laughing seems to be rather contagious.

If you get up in the morning and listen to the news, you are going to be down in the dumps all day. So much on television and radio for that matter, contribute to the degree of sadness infecting our country today.

I think occasionally everybody needs to have what I call "Laughter Therapy." The way to begin this "Laughter Therapy," is to begin laughing at yourself. After all, everybody else is laughing at you; why not join in the hilarity?

Of course, some things are not funny. The wise person knows the difference between what is funny and what is not funny. To laugh at the wrong thing can be disastrous.

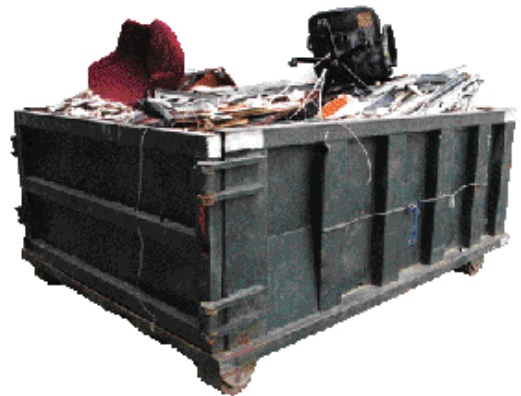
Solomon understood this quite well when he wrote, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

I refuse to go through life with a strained grin on my face. I choose to laugh out loud and invite the whole world to laugh with me.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net or website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

Time for a
Spring Cleaning

**Groton City Spring Cleanup
May 2-9 2015**



**Bring Anything You
Wish to dispose of to
Dumpsters located at
the City Shop
10 E Railroad Ave**

**Or Call City Hall at
397-8422 for
free hauling May 4-8**

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Race to Globals a big success

Another successful year for the 3rd Annual Groton Destination Imagination 5k Run/Walk or Bike event held Saturday April 18th at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Groton. The event had 45 total participants (26 walk/run) (19 biking) and raised \$1900 for the Destination Imagination teams traveling to Globals in May. Thank you to everyone who helped, donated, sponsored, or participated! Individual results can be viewed on aberdeenarearunningclub.com.



In the photo below, Iver Finnesand drove his vehicle to lead the race. Top right features those riding their bicycles at the start of the race. The bottom right features the runners and walkers taking off. Larua Clark is featured in the left photo as she was in charge of the event.



Putney Putovers 4-H April Meeting

The Putney Putovers 4-H Club met Monday, April 13th, at the Groton Community Center. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Hailey Monson. Flag pledges were led by Jillian Hughes, Alexis Hanten, and Alexis Simon. Roll call was answered with your favorite TV program. The secretary's report was approved by Alexis Hanten and seconded by Taryn Taylor. Ashley Gibbs gave the treasurer's report. It was moved by Lucas Simon and seconded by Alexis Simon. There were no bills.

In new business, final 4-H enrollment is May 31st, Special Foods Contest will be held June 18th, 4-H Public Presentation Day will be July 8th, and Fashion Revue has been scheduled for July 15th. Judging qualification, 4-H royalty application, and livestock dates were also included in new business. We also drew for the quilt winner, which is Joann Donley.

Hostesses for this meeting were Jillian Hughes and Axel Warrington. Talks at this meeting included: Tips for Planting Your Garden by Lane Tietz, Lavender by Jillian Hughes, Meat Scientists by Brenna Johnson, and How to Keep Your Dog From Running Away by Porter Johnson. Ashley Gibbs gave a demonstration on How to Print Out Letters on a Cricut and Jillian Hughes gave a demonstration on How to Make Chocolate Hummus. Axel Warrington also gave a demonstration on How to Make Banana Roll Ups. The next meeting will be held May 3rd, at the Groton Community Center. Hostesses will be Shyla Larson and Lane Tietz. The adjournment was moved by Dylan Krueger and seconded by Cole Simon.

-Alexis Simon, secretary

Lana Greenfield Responds

We had sent our recent school board story about education pay to Lana Greenfield, Brock Greenfield and Burt Tulson, as well as former Senator Chuck Welke. Welke's remarks were included in the story. Only Lana Greenfield responded to our question, "What is going to get done about this?" Here is her response:

No easy fix. The problem is that every state in the union has experienced teacher shortages. Every state is finding that fewer and fewer people are choosing this profession at all. Pay does not seem to be even a factor as some states which pay higher wages than we do still cannot get teachers. I mean how do you get teachers if none are out there?. Arizona went international trying to retrieve people to fill empty classrooms. Around here we still have certain people who say our pay is not adequate and blame the legislature (who funds education 45 cents per every 1.00). These same people become a part of the problem as they continue to spew their venom against being a teacher. We need to speak respectfully of this profession and of those who pursue it. Parents need to speak highly of local educational systems, veteran staff need to help mentor new teachers, administrators need to monitor and guide teachers and have expectations such as no first name basis by a student to a teacher, etc (there are a million things). I think it is time we think beyond our local shortage issues, and instead of making it a possible political agenda, we explore why the teaching field seems to be archaic and unpopular. I loved teaching and feel badly that it is not a popular choice of study any more.

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Trike -a-thon

The annual Trike-A-thon was held on April 9th they raised about 1,500 dollars .

TeddyBear Daycare and two other daycares were present.

The Kids rode their bikes around the area and then went to other areas to learn about bike safety , walked on a beam and got to look at the police car. They also got to learn about eating the right stuff by Laura Clark.

Laura Clark talking to a group of kids. (Photo

#335 by Tina Kosel)



Trista Keith was telling the kids to follow down the right bike path. (Photo #353 by Tina Kosel)

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FCCLA members were also on hand to help with the kids. (Photo #355 by Tina Kosel)



Kasey Waage helping Mya Moodygo the right way. (Photo #360 by Tina Kosel)



Here is a picture of some daycare kids taking a break. (Photo #358 by Tina Kosel)



Some daycare kids doing the beam and other activities. (Photo #363 by Tina Kosel)

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Trey Tietz with Katelyn Koehler decoration his bag to take his stuff home in. (Photo #366 by Tina Kosel)



Mya Moody taking part in the trike-a-thon. (Photo #374 by Tina Kosel)



Officer Justin Cleveland talking to a group of kids with Jessica Adler and Alyssa Sippel. (Photo #377 by Tina Kosel)

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Justin Cleveland got a group of kids in the police car showing them all the stuff in the car. (Photo #391 by Tina Kosel)



Justin Cleveland with another group. (Photo #384 by Tina Kosel)



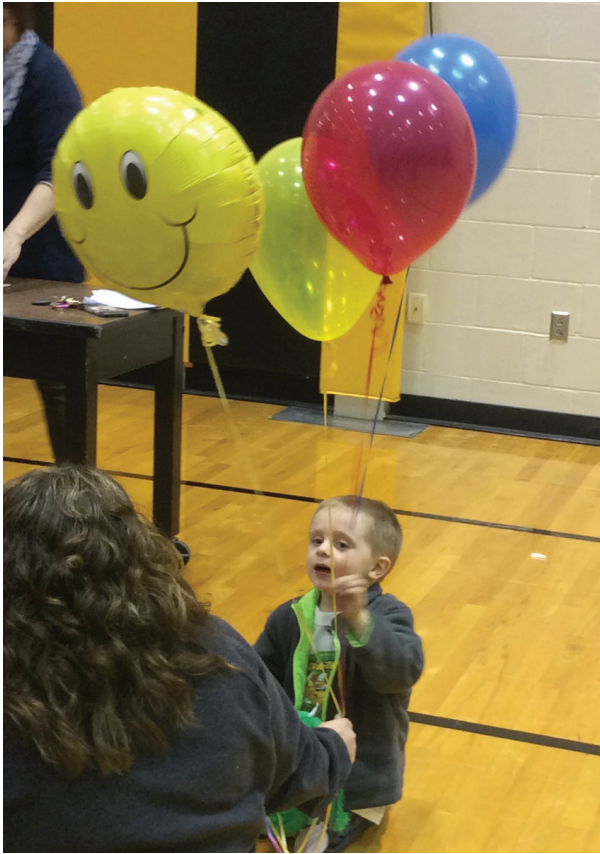
Ian Kutter standing by Kim Weber. (Photo #405 by Tina Kosel)



Kids lined up to do the beam. (Photo #393 by Tina Kosel)

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Trey Tietz with his prize on the bottom of the balloons. (Photo #406 by Tina Kosel)



Lindsey Tietz was the announcer for the awards and Kim Weber helping hand them out with Ian Kutter and his toostie container that he won. (Photo #407 by Tina Kosel)

Pictured below are the kids, FCCLA members and Justin Cleveland and other helpers who participated in the Trike-A-Thon. (Photo #414 by Tina Kosel)



Today in Weather History

April 20, 1966: Canadian high pressure brought very cold air to the Rockies and northern Plains. Record lows included: 3 below in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, 2 below in Cheyenne and Casper, Wyoming, 2 above in Rapid City, 11 above in Fargo, Williston, and Aberdeen, and 15 in Huron.

April 20, 2007: Severe thunderstorms moved through parts of central and northeast South Dakota during the afternoon and evening hours, producing large hail. The largest hail measured 1.75 inches in diameter and fell 3 miles east of Westport, in Brown County.

1901 - A spring storm produced unusually heavy snow in northeast Ohio. Warren received 35.5 inches in thirty-six hours, and 28 inches fell at Green Hill. Akron OH established April records of 15.6 inches in 24 hours, and 26.6 inches for the month. Pittsburgh PA established April records of 12.7 inches in 24 hours, and 13.5 inches for the month. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1920 - Tornadoes in Mississippi and Alabama killed 219 persons. (David Ludlum)

1952 - The tankers Esso Suez and Esso Greensboro crashed in a thick fog off the coast of Morgan City LA. Only five of the Greensboro's crew survived after the ship bursts into flame. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Fifty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The high of 92 degrees at Memphis TN was a record for April, and the high of 94 at Little Rock AR equalled their April record. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A storm in the western U.S. brought heavy rain to parts of California. Mount Wilson was soaked with 4.15 inches of rain in 24 hours. The heavy rain caused some flooding and mudslides in the Los Angeles area, and a chain reaction collision of vehicles along the Pomona Freeway which resulted in 26 injuries. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)








1989 - Hot weather spread from the southwestern U.S. into the Great Plains Region. Twenty-three cities reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 104 degrees at Tucson AZ was an April record, and highs of 87 at Provo UT, 90 at Pueblo CO, and 85 at Salt Lake City UT, equalled April records. (The National Weather Summary)

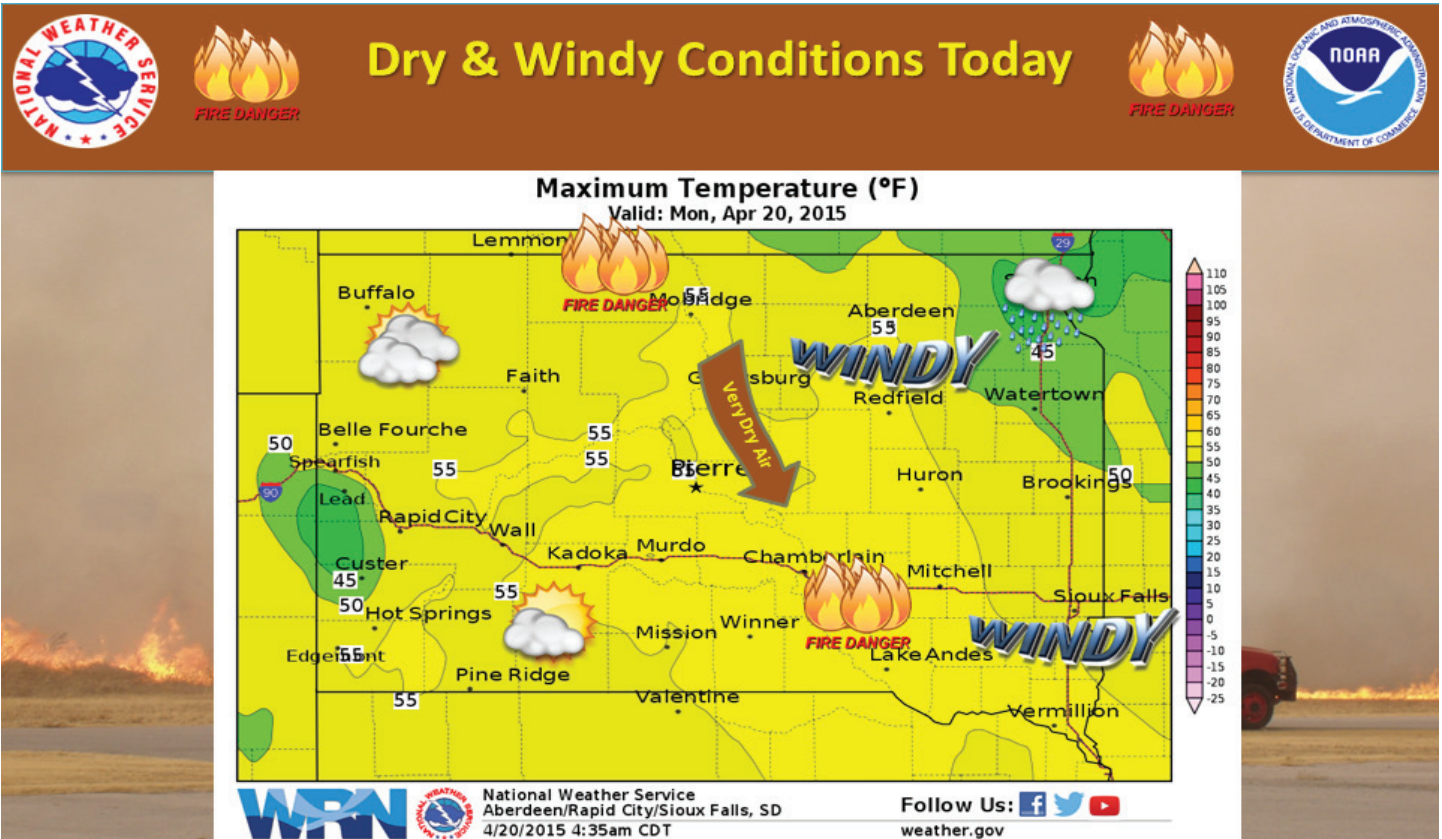
1990 - A fast moving Pacific storm produced heavy snow in the central mountains and the Upper Arkansas Valley of Colorado, with a foot of snow reported at Leadville. Thunderstorms in the south central U.S. produced wind gusts to 76 mph at Tulsa OK, and heavy rain which caused flooding of Cat Claw Creek in the Abilene TX area. Lightning struck the building housing a fish farm in Scott AR killing 10,000 pounds of fish. Many of the fish died from the heat of the fire. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2006 - Up to five feet of snow falls in the Dakotas. I-94 and other highways were closed, power was out for thousands and caused at least four deaths.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Windy	Blustery	Breezy	Blustery	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 54 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 53 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 54 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 54 °F



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen [f](#) National Weather Service Aberdeen [t](#) @NWSAberdeen Updated: 4/20/2015 4:57 AM Central

Published on: 04/20/2015 at 5:03AM

The combination of strong northwesterly winds of 25 to 35 mph and dry air will result in another day of fire weather from the Sisseton Hills into central and northcentral South Dakota where a Red Flag Warning is in effect.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 53.7 at: 4:16 PM

Low: 41.7 at 11:46 PM

High Gust: 19 at 6:02 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.43

Today's Info

Record High: 93° in 1980

Record Low: 11° in 2013, 1966

Average High: 60°F

Average Low: 34°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.98

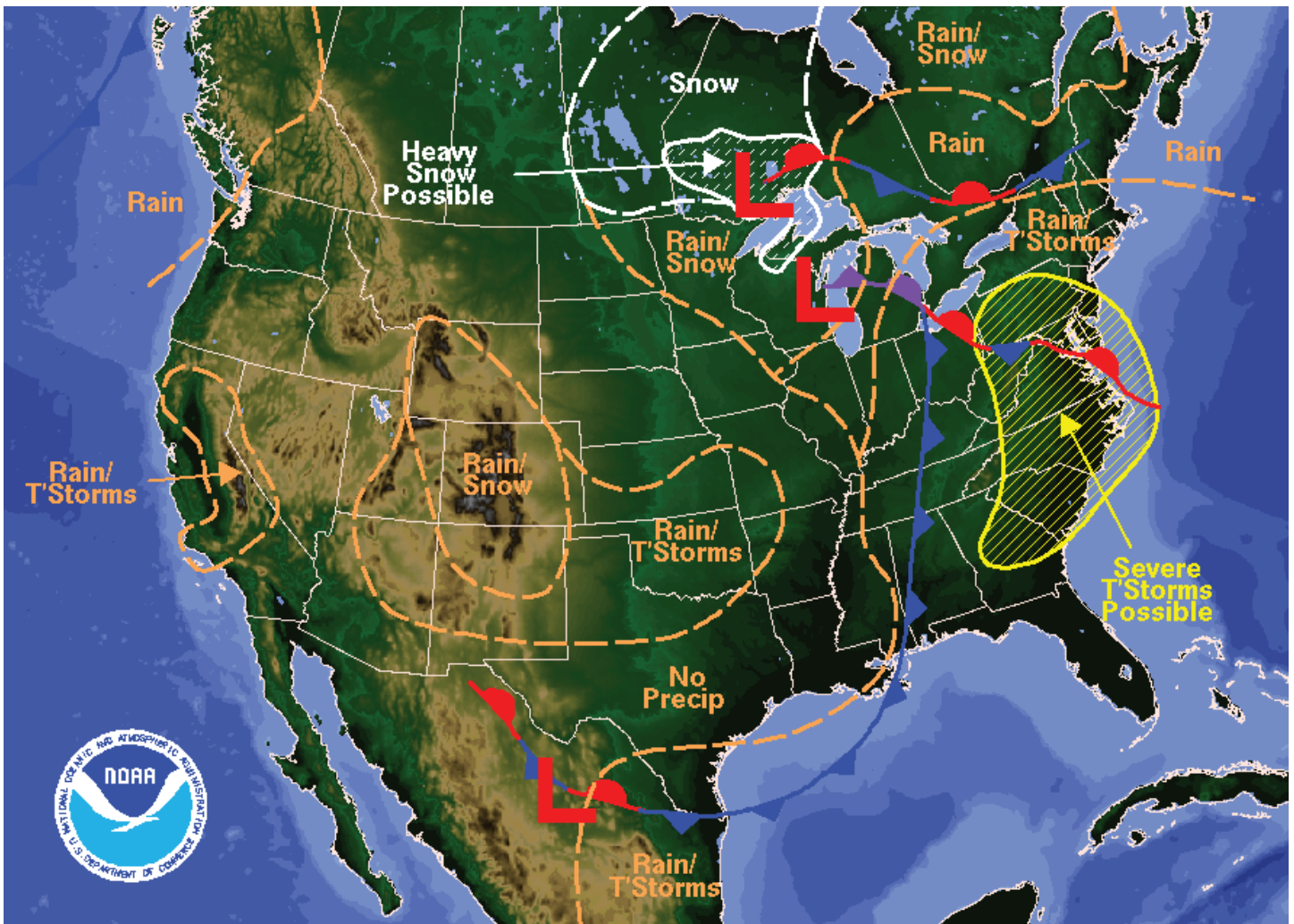
Precip to date in April.: 0.44

Average Precip to date: 3.16

Precip Year to Date: 0.91

Sunset Tonight: 8:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:38 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Apr 20, 2015, issued 3:30 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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FAITHFULNESS IS MUTUAL

Memories are a gift from God. However, what we do with them, how they affect us or the difference they have on our way of living is what matters most.

When we recall the many gifts that God grants to us each day, do we take enough time to pause and thank Him and share the fact of His love, grace and mercy with family and friends?

When He brings healing and wellness to us and our loved ones, do we give Him the credit He deserves or do we think that He is obligated to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves?

When our financial needs are met and we have a surplus, do we give a "thank you offering" and praise Him for blessing us and giving us more than we deserve?

"A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished," is a proverb worth noting carefully. God does indeed bless those who are faithful - often much more than can be imagined or deserved. Unfortunately, there are those who believe they have earned what they have accumulated and therefore do not need to give God credit or praise. How sad.

We have what we have because of God's grace. Whatever we have is a result of Him showing us His favor. The strength and abilities I have come from Him and the opportunities I have to use them come from Him. If we use them to "get rich" without recognizing it's all because of Him, we can expect a tragic ending.

Prayer: We pray, Father, for grateful hearts. May we never cease to recognize Your goodness and faithfulness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 28:20 A faithful person will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

ATTENTION

Parents and Grandparents:

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

Gerber Life Grow-Up[®] Plan

A Plan that Grows

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

A Gift that Doubles

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

Applying is simple!

Call 800-299-6202

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



**Gerber Life
Insurance Company**

Home Office: White Plains, NY 10605

**As long as premiums are paid*

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

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News from the Associated Press

Hundreds of mourners say goodbye to fallen SD firefighter

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — Hundreds of mourners have turned out to honor a South Dakota firefighter killed in the line of duty.

A funeral for Steven Ackerman was held Sunday in Brandon. Ackerman died April 12 while fighting a house fire that also killed homeowner David Smith.

Ackerman was a 14-year volunteer with nearby Valley Springs Fire and Rescue. The Argus Leader reports a bagpipe band made up of firefighters from across South Dakota ushered Ackerman's casket to the front of the gym at Brandon Valley High School.

The Rev. Norm Bouwens told mourners to hold Ackerman up "as an example of how we should live our lives, with valor ... and love."

Childhood friend Mike Harstad of Valley Springs says Ackerman saw himself as a regular person just doing his community a service.

South Dakota couple finds success in leather goods

NEWELL, S.D. (AP) — A western South Dakota man who got his start as a master of leather crafts selling chaps behind the chutes at rodeos now sells hundreds of pairs around the world.

Jack Gully and his wife, Kelly, have owned and operated K Bar J Leather Co. in Newell for more than a decade. The shop employs about 10 workers, most of whom work on chaps, while some of the others etch designs into leather with lasers.

Jack and Kelly Gully each have their own specialty, the Tri-State Neighbor (<http://bit.ly/1JPdKU3>) reported. He focuses on gun holsters and knife cases, while she makes purses and bags.

Jack Gully estimates he's sold 70,000 chaps and shipped some of them internationally, including to Europe and Australia. One order came in recently from Sweden.

The company also makes leather Bible covers, Jack Gully said, and sells 200 to 300 of them a year at \$75 apiece.

Products are all cut and fringed by hand. The company contracts Amish groups in Kentucky and Indiana to work on holsters and much of the tack. Leather comes from all over, though Jack Gully said they'll occasionally get a local brand among the hides they receive.

A pair of chaps can be made in 45 minutes, but more complex pairs could take hours or days.

"There's no machine that does this," Jack Gully said.

The couple opened their leather shop in Newell in 2002 with help from a South Dakota Department of Agriculture business grant, moving back to the state after living in Colorado.

Newell is about 25 miles east of Belle Fourche.

SD National Guard holding food drive across the state

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Volunteer members of the South Dakota National Guard are holding a food drive across the state.

The volunteers will be accepting non-perishable food donations from the public through June 8 at any Army National Guard armory in the state and at the Air National Guard base in Sioux Falls.

The food drive will benefit needy individuals who live in the communities where the Guard members serve.

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There are drop off locations in more than 20 cities including Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Mitchell, Pierre and Spearfish.

South Dakota Democrats hope history helps them in 2016

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's history of electing Democrats to Congress and the state's "independent streak" will ensure there are competitive congressional races in the 2016 elections, Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz said Saturday.

South Dakota Democrats gathered in Sioux Falls for McGovern Day 2015, the party's large annual gathering, where they heard from Wasserman Schultz. The party's central committee also voted to formally join the fight to send two laws to the voters for their review in 2016, and hosted candidate training.

"It's important for us to make it clear that Democrats are going to compete all over the country," Wasserman Schultz told reporters before she headlined the event. "It'll take a lot of hard work, like any election does, but thankfully South Dakota has a long history of electing progressive Democrats."

South Dakota is considered a Republican-leaning state. The GOP holds all statewide offices and supermajorities in both state legislative chambers. U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and U.S. Sen. John Thune, both Republicans, will be up for re-election in 2016. They already have a sizeable fundraising advantage.

Wasserman Schultz said the state Democratic Party is well organized and said the DNC would help them build the infrastructure necessary to support a statewide race. Democratic Party Chairwoman Ann Tornberg has said the party hopes to run candidates for both seats.

So far, it's unclear when a candidate to challenge Thune or Noem would come forward. Wasserman Schultz mentioned former Democratic U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, who was ousted by Noem in 2010 and now works in the private sector. Herseth Sandlin hasn't given any indication that she would run in 2016.

"We miss her in Washington," Wasserman Schultz said.

The state party is also pushing back against a proposal that carves out a \$7.50 youth minimum wage and fighting against a bundle of election law changes.

The two laws were passed by the Republican-dominated Legislature last session. Democrats argue the youth minimum wage is an affront to voters who overwhelmingly passed the \$8.50 minimum wage in the 2014 election.

Republicans have said the campaign for the wage hike focused on adult workers, not on young workers. Rep. Karen Soli, D-Sioux Falls, said Democrats need to translate issue-based support among voters to the party's candidates.

Residents voted 55 percent to 45 percent in November for the \$8.50 minimum wage. But they also largely voted for Republican candidates at the same time, Soli said, and Democrats need to "close that gap."

The Democrats also heaped scorn on Republicans on issues ranging from environmental regulations to economic policies.

"Our battle is a battle for the people of South Dakota, it's a battle for humanity, and it's just a plain battle for decency," said party Vice Chairman Joe Lowe.

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Bill Maher coming to SD this fall as part of Dem fundraiser

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Liberal comedian Bill Maher's first visit to South Dakota will be a part of a fundraiser for the state's Democratic Party in Sioux Falls in September.

Party interim Executive Director Zach Nistler said Saturday that Maher will appear at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls on Sept. 13.

He says the comedian will have a reception before the show for the party and has set aside a block of tickets for the party to use as a fundraiser.

Maher is one of several high-profile Democrats who are coming to South Dakota in the near future.

Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz is headlining the Democrats' McGovern Day 2015 event on Saturday.

President Barack Obama is visiting Watertown's Lake Area Technical Institute on May 8.

Democrats formally approve campaign to refer laws to voters

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Democratic Party has formally joined the fight to send two laws to the voters for their review.

The party's central committee voted Saturday to push back against a proposal that carves out a \$7.50 youth minimum wage and to fight against a bundle of election law changes.

The two laws were passed by the Republican-dominated Legislature last session. Democrats say the youth minimum wage is an affront to voters who overwhelmingly passed the \$8.50 minimum wage in the 2014 election.

Republicans say the campaign for the wage hike focused on adult workers, not on young workers.

Activists must secure 13,871 signatures from registered voters for each referral and submit them to the secretary of state by June 29 to put the issues on the 2016 ballot.

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. 24 VICTIMS OF LATEST SHIPWRECK TRAGEDY TO BE BURIED, HUNDREDS MORE MAY HAVE PERISHED

EU foreign ministers gather for an emergency meeting on the burgeoning crisis as migrants flee conflict and poverty in African and the Middle East in unprecedented waves.

2. BOLDER, DEEPER, RISKIER

Five years after the nation's worst offshore oil spill, the industry is working on drilling even further into the depths beneath the Gulf of Mexico.

3. TERRORISM PROBE YIELDS ARRESTS

Six people were arrested in Minneapolis and San Diego, where authorities have been tracking youths who have traveled or tried to travel to Syria or Somalia to fight with militants.

4. CLINTON FACING LITTLE OPPOSITION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nevertheless, her campaign is determined to show voters that she is not taking that position for granted.

5. 70 YEARS LATER, IWO JIMA VET, OKINAWA SCHOOLGIRL WRESTLE WITH LEGACY OF WAR

For Norman Baker and Yoshiko Shimabukuro, it's never easy to reconcile the hatred of the past with the peace of the present.

6. WHAT CHINESE LEADER INTENDS TO UNVEIL IN PAKISTAN

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Xi Jinping arrives in Islamabad to announce \$46 billion worth of investment projects in energy and infrastructure development.

7. SMALL VICTORY FOR FLIERS

After years of rising airfare, travelers this summer can expect a tiny bit of relief — \$2.01 in savings to be exact.

8. HOW TO MAKE PILL-TAKING LESS YUCKY FOR KIDS

Flavored swallowing spray, a special pill cup and just practice with fake pills or candy are among the recommended strategies.

9. NOT JUST ANOTHER RACE

The Boston Marathon will take the initial steps back toward its roots as a world-class sporting event first, and a cause — for fitness, for fundraising, for freedom — second.

10. WHO TAKES TOP PRIZE AT ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

Luke Bryan beats out Miranda Lambert, Garth Brooks, Jason Aldean and Florida Georgia Line for the top honor at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

AP News in Brief

Italian coast guard transport 28 shipwreck survivors to Italy as EU ministers discuss crisis

MILAN (AP) — An Italian coast guard ship headed toward Sicily Monday with 27 survivors of what could be the Mediterranean's deadliest migrant tragedy, as EU foreign ministers gathered for an emergency meeting on the growing crisis as migrants flee instability in Libya at unprecedented rates.

One survivor, identified as a 32-year-old Bangladeshi, has put the number of people on board the smugglers' boat when it capsized near the Libyan coast at 950, and only a handful have been rescued. The survivor was flown Sunday by helicopter to Catania, in Sicily, where he was interviewed by prosecutors. He was being treated in a hospital.

"He is pretty well now and he is reporting that there were really many, many persons including children on the boat. So it's confirming the terrible news," said Carlotta Sami, a U.N. refugee agency spokeswoman.

International agencies stressed that the information provided to prosecutors still needs to be confirmed.

Earlier Friday, the Italian coast guard ship Gregoretti brought the bodies of 24 victims to Malta, where the dead will be buried.

Aid agency: migrant deaths in recent days comparable to Titanic tragedy

An international aid agency spokeswoman has compared the scale of deaths in recent shipwrecks to the death toll in the sinking of the Titanic luxury liner more than a century ago.

Sarah Tyler, a spokeswoman for Save the Children in Catania, Sicily, said more than 1,000 people have died in the waters of the Mediterranean, adding "that is almost as many as died in the Titanic, and 31 times the number who died when the Costa Concordia sank."

One survivor's account has put at up to 950 the number of people on board the smuggler's boat that sank off the coast of Libya this weekend, with only a handful rescued. last week in which more than 400 people died or went missing in another shipwreck.

The Bangladeshi survivor said many of the passengers were below deck and trapped inside when the boat sank.

5 years after BP's oil spill, an undaunted industry pushes drilling even deeper into the Gulf

ON THE GULF OF MEXICO (AP) — Five years after the nation's worst offshore oil spill, the industry is working on drilling even further into the risky depths beneath the Gulf of Mexico to tap massive deposits once thought unreachable. Opening this new frontier, miles below the bottom of the Gulf, requires engineering feats far beyond those used at BP's much shallower Macondo well.

But critics say energy companies haven't developed the corresponding safety measures to prevent another disaster or contain one if it happens — a sign, environmentalists say, that the lessons of BP's spill were short-lived.

These new depths and larger reservoirs could exacerbate a blowout like what happened at the Macondo well. Hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil could spill each day, and the response would be slowed as the equipment to deal with it — skimmers, boom, submarines, containment stacks — is shipped 100 miles or more from shore.

Since the Macondo disaster, which sent at least 134 million gallons spewing into the Gulf five years ago Monday, federal agencies have approved about two dozen next-generation, ultra-deep wells.

The number of deepwater drilling rigs has increased, too, from 35 at the time of the Macondo blowout to 48 last month, according to data from IHS Energy, a Houston company that collects industry statistics.

5 years after BP spill: A look at what's changed in offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — As oil gushed from BP's ruptured well five years ago and public outrage built by the day, the Obama administration issued a six-month moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

When the well was finally capped after nearly three months, political and industry pressure mounted on the White House to lift the ban, which it did about a month earlier than planned.

Since then, oil and gas drilling Gulf has bounced back strongly and the number of deep-water drilling rigs has actually increased from 35 to about 48. Drillers are pushing into even deeper water and greater depths below the sea floor to reach reservoirs considered riskier than the Macondo field, the source of the nation's worst offshore spill.

Elsewhere, the Obama administration has pushed to open up offshore waters in Alaska and along the Atlantic coast to drilling. In January, the Interior Department unveiled a plan to open up drilling next year in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas on the Arctic coast of Alaska and off the coast between Maryland and Florida.

Here's a look at what else has changed and what hasn't in the world of offshore drilling in the five years since BP's April 20, 2010, Macondo catastrophe:

Authorities say terrorism investigation leads to 6 arrests in Minnesota, California

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Six people have been arrested in connection with a terrorism investigation in Minnesota, where authorities have been tracking youths who have traveled or tried to travel to Syria to fight with militants, including the Islamic State group, authorities said.

A spokesman for the Minnesota U.S. Attorney's Office said the arrests were made Sunday in Minne-

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apolis and San Diego but there is no threat to public safety. Spokesman Ben Petok did not give details about the charges. He said more information would be released Monday.

The U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI planned a news conference Monday to announce details. The news conference was billed in a press release as an announcement of a joint terrorism task force operation.

Kyle Loven, spokesman for the Minneapolis office of the FBI, said six people were arrested Sunday but gave no further details. An FBI spokesman in San Diego referred questions to Loven.

Authorities say a handful of Minnesota residents have traveled to Syria to fight with militants within the last year. At least one Minnesotan has died while fighting for the Islamic State.

Hillary Clinton tries to capture magic of 2008 campaign a second time in New Hampshire

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton will try to recapture the magic of her come-from-behind victory in the 2008 New Hampshire primary as she returns to the state that gave her first presidential campaign a second wind.

Clinton again arrives in New Hampshire as the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination. This time, she faces little opposition. Nevertheless, her campaign is determined to show early-state voters that Clinton is not taking that position for granted.

As she did in Iowa last week, Clinton plans to forgo the packed rallies that marked her previous campaign and focus on smaller round-table events with selected groups of supporters.

She'll speak with employees of Whitney Brothers Inc., a small business that makes wood furniture, in the liberal enclave of Keene on Monday and hold a round table with students and teachers at New Hampshire Technical Institute in Concord the next day.

New Hampshire has long been fertile ground for the Clinton family. In 1992, a second-place finish in the New Hampshire primary made Bill Clinton the "comeback kid," refueling his effort to capture the nomination and, eventually, the White House. Sixteen years later, a win in New Hampshire salvaged Hillary Clinton's campaign from a third-place finish in the Iowa caucuses and propelled her into a months-long battle for the nomination finally won by then-Sen. Barack Obama.

Fliers see cheaper tickets this summer domestically and to Europe; Hawaii 10 percent lower

After years of steadily-rising airfare, travelers this summer can expect a tiny bit of relief — \$2.01 in savings to be exact.

The average roundtrip domestic ticket this summer, including taxes, now stands at \$454, down less than a percent from last summer. Vacationers to Europe will fare better with the average ticket down 3 percent to \$1,619, about \$50 less than last summer.

Not all travelers will get to save.

Flights to Hawaii, Florida and New Orleans are cheaper, but travelers heading to New York, Denver and San Francisco can expect to pay more.

Even in Europe, it depends on the destination. Overall fares are down but it will cost more this summer to fly to cities like Amsterdam; London; Budapest, Hungary; Lisbon, Portugal; Frankfurt, Germany or Reykjavik, Iceland.

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Witnesses to WWII: 70 years later, Iwo Jima vet, Okinawa schoolgirl wrestle with legacy of war

ITOMAN, Japan (AP) — In Norman Baker's mind, the Japanese were fanatical, brutal animals with no respect for life. To Yoshiko Shimabukuro, Americans were long-nosed demons who rained hellfire from the skies before raping and pillaging anything with the worse-than-death fate of crossing their path.

Both the 18-year-old U.S. Marine and the 17-year-old Okinawan schoolgirl had known the enemy only from the virulent propaganda they had been fed. When they finally met their foes in the closing months of World War II, in separate, back-to-back battles hundreds of miles apart, it was on the most terrifying terms. And in the 70 years since, it has been difficult to reconcile the hatred of the past with the peace of the present.

Will the Boston Marathon ever be just a race? Here are some things to look for in Monday's run

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Marathon will never be just another race again. The twin bombs at the finish line of the 2013 race made sure of that.

But when the field of 30,000 leaves Hopkinton on Monday morning, the world's oldest annual marathon will take the initial, tentative steps back toward its roots as a world-class sporting event first, and a cause — for fitness, for fundraising, for freedom — second.

"For us, the core principle is the Boston Marathon is an international athletic event focused on competition and excellence," Tom Grilk, the executive director of the Boston Athletic Association, said last week as he prepared for the 119th edition of the race.

"We start there, every time. Including last year," he said. "What happened in 2013 was the closest and perhaps most poignant part of our history, but part of the history. The history going forward would be written by the people who come and run and watch and participate in all the ways that people do."

A year after the explosions killed three people and wounded 260 more, the Boston Marathon got just what it needed: A safe race, an American victory on Patriots' Day, and a chance for runners and residents alike to rally on Boylston Street.

Today in History **The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, April 20, the 110th day of 2015. There are 255 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 20, 2010, an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform, leased by BP, killed 11 workers and caused a blow-out that began spewing an estimated 200 million gallons of crude into the Gulf of Mexico. (The well was finally capped nearly three months later, on July 15.)

On this date:

In 1314, Pope Clement V, the first of the Avignonese popes, died at Roquemaure, France.

In 1792, France declared war on Austria, marking the start of the French Revolutionary Wars.

In 1861, Col. Robert E. Lee resigned his commission in the United States Army. (Lee went on to command the Army of Northern Virginia, and eventually became general-in-chief of the Confederate forces.)

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation admitting West Virginia to the Union, effective in 60 days (on June 20, 1863).

In 1889, Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau am Inn, Austria.

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In 1912, Boston's Fenway Park hosted its first professional baseball game while Navin Field (Tiger Stadium) opened in Detroit. (The Red Sox defeated the New York Highlanders 7-6 in 11 innings; the Tigers beat the Cleveland Naps 6-5 in 11 innings.)

In 1914, the Ludlow Massacre took place when the Colorado National Guard opened fire on a tent colony of striking miners; about 20 (accounts vary) strikers, women and children died.

In 1945, during World War II, allied forces took control of the German cities of Nuremberg and Stuttgart.

In 1968, Pierre Elliott Trudeau was sworn in as prime minister of Canada.

In 1972, Apollo 16's lunar module, carrying astronauts John W. Young and Charles M. Duke Jr., landed on the moon.

In 1988, gunmen who'd hijacked a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet were allowed safe passage out of Algeria under an agreement that freed the remaining 31 hostages and ended a 15-day siege in which two passengers were slain.

In 1999, the Columbine High School massacre took place in Colorado as two students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, shot and killed 12 classmates and one teacher before taking their own lives.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush signed a bill making it harder for debt-ridden people to wipe clean their financial slates by declaring bankruptcy. In his first Mass as pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI pledged to work for unity among Christians and to seek "an open and sincere dialogue" with other faiths. Ecuador's Congress voted to remove embattled President Lucio Gutierrez from office and swear in Vice President Alfredo Palacio to replace him.

Five years ago: Airliners began taking to the skies of Europe again after five days of being grounded by a drifting volcanic ash. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal ban on videos that showed graphic violence against animals. Civil rights activist Dorothy Height died in Washington D.C. at age 98. Keli McGregor, 48, president of baseball's Colorado Rockies, was found dead in a hotel room of natural causes.

One year ago: Pope Francis made an Easter Sunday plea for peace and dialogue in Ukraine and Syria, for an end to attacks against Christians in Nigeria and for more attention to the hungry and neediest close to home. Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, the boxer whose wrongful murder conviction in New Jersey became an international symbol of racial injustice, died in Toronto at age 76.

Today's Birthdays: Retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is 95. Actor Leslie Phillips is 91. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., is 79. Actor George Takei is 78. Singer Johnny Tillotson is 77. Actor Ryan O'Neal is 74. Bluegrass singer-musician Doyle Lawson (Quicksilver) is 71. Rock musician Craig Frost (Grand Funk; Bob Seger's Silver Bullet Band) is 67. Actor Gregory Itzin (iht-zihn) is 67. Actress Jessica Lange is 66. Actress Veronica Cartwright is 66. Actor Clint Howard is 56. Actor Crispin Glover is 51. Actor Andy Serkis is 51. Olympic silver medal figure skater Rosalynn Sumners is 51. Country singer Wade Hayes is 46. Actor Shemar Moore is 45. Actress Carmen Electra is 43. Reggae singer Stephen Marley is 43. Rock musician Marty Crandall is 40. Actor Joey Lawrence is 39. Country musician Clay Cook (Zac Brown Band) is 37. Actor Tim Jo is 31.

Thought for Today: "Life is made up of desires that seem big and vital one minute, and little and absurd the next. I guess we get what's best for us in the end." - Alice Caldwell Rice, American humorist (1870-1942).