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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 **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.

Postponed.: Girls varsity golf at Milbank 10:00 a.m.: Track at Redfield

Wednesday, April 22

Birthdays: Ali Pasteur, Dwayne Coon, Lance Leonhardt, Samantha Delzer, Janice Hoffman

School Breakfast: Cheese omelet, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Pizza crunchers, corn, carrots, fruit.

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combo, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7 layer salad, fruit.

7:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran confirmation and league.

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.

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C. 1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204



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lassifieds

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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Remaining tree status unchanged The situation with the last remaining tree that needs to be trimmed on the boulevard at Marc Sippel's

place remains unchanged. City Attorney Drew Johnson reported at the city council meeting Monday night that their attorney, Kari Bartling, has not responded to the letters that he has sent her. "It's getting to the point where we will have to give notice to get that last tree trimmed," Johnson said. "Kari Bartling has not responded to my letters. We need to get this taken care of."

The city received a bill from Hydro Klean for \$1,595.90 for an emergency service call for the First State Bank. Extra debris from businesses north and east of the bank cause the line to be blocked and sewage backed up into the bank basement.

A bill from Steven Lust Automotive for \$970 was discussed. The city was suppose to get a \$1,000 credit for the length of the repair for the 2012 Tahoe. The credit was not given. Mayor Scott Hanlon said he will find out what's happening with the credit.

The posts for the outfield fence at Locke-Karst Field are being installed now and the nets for the backstop have been ordered.

City Finance Officer Anita Lowary reported that Terry Herron had reported that the cemetery caretaker, Curt Schumack, has been doing an excellent job.

The baseball prices and fees will not change this year.

The Peddlers Permits were discussed. Councilman Eddy Opp said he thought it was a good idea. "It worked when we did have it," Opp said. "Do we need another ordinance on top of the stack of ordinances that we already have?" asked Councilman Burt Glover.

"People now days are more aware of scams now than a decade or longer ago," said Councilman Jay Peterson. "We all need to take responsibility to not allow these type of people in our home. We can tell them to leave."

"Passing this law will not make people come down and register," said Councilman David McGannon. The council decided 4-2 to not have a Peddler's Permit. Voting for the permit were Councilman Mary Fliehs and Eddy Opp.

The state has agreed to have an approach off the north substation on SD37. Electric Superintendent Ward Gilchrist had suggested moving the city's approach from the north end of the substation to the south end of the substation along SD37. The state also wants to buy a corner of the city shop property along Broadway and Railroad Ave. Glover said if they want the corner, the city should ask for a street



Jay Peterson, left, was sworn in as a new city councilman by Mayor Scott Hanlon. Peterson re- Noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. siren. places Michelle Muilenberg who had to resign after moving out of town.

light at Aspen Ave and Broadway in exchange. The council approved the substation approached but tabled the property.

The city has received a grant, written by Paul Kosel, for new runway markers for the airport. It is a 100 percent grant and the cost of the markers is \$2,500. Lowary reported that Clark Engineering is staking out the airport of where it is suppose to be to meet FAA regulations. It was discussed that the fill could come from the Fifth Avenue project. The council approved for the mayor to sign and accept the grant.

The city will purchase weather radios for the Community Center and for the Ballpark concession stand.

There was discussion of reinstating the

Job descriptions for all employees will be reviewed as suggested by the city's insurance company.

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USPS Delays Rate Increase Scheduled for April 26, 2015

The U.S. Postal Service announced that it will delay the postage rate increase and service classification changes that were scheduled to start on Sunday, April 26, 2015.

The decision to delay the 2015 rate increase was motivated by the fact the Postal Regulatory Commission had not approved all of the proposed 2015 rates changes submitted by the USPS. In particular, some "market-dominant" mail classes such as Standard Mail and Periodicals had not been approved. To avoid a staggered implementation of the new rates, the USPS felt it was better to delay the entire rate increase and classification change to a later date.

No new date has been announced. The USPS said it will resubmit a new pricing proposal to the Postal Regulatory Commission for approval.

THINKING ABOUT HEALTH Patients Grade Their Local Hospitals By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

The government has just announced its first-ever star ratings of the country's hospitals based on patients' assessments of the care they received (www.cms.gov). Other organizations have dabbled in this ratings business, many of them to make a buck by selling their rankings. And it's not uncommon for some of these outfits to get licensing fees from hospitals that get glowing report cards they can then use to market themselves.

I've tended to view those ratings schemes with skepticism. The government's ratings, however, don't come with any of that baggage and don't appear to be sugarcoated for commercial purposes. Only 251 of the 3,500 or so hospitals that received a rating got the top score of five stars — about 7 percent of the total. It turns out many of them are small specialty hospitals like the Heart Hospital at Deaconess Gateway in Newburgh, Indiana.

I checked the kaiserhealthnews.org rankings for the seven states participating in the Rural Health News Service. Nebraska, South Dakota and Indiana scored in the top group with hospitals averaging the most stars. Colorado, Wyoming and Illinois ranked in the second highest group, and California was in the bottom tier where hospitals averaged the fewest number of stars.

The government gathers its data by randomly selecting both Medicare and non-Medicare patients and asking them to fill out a questionnaire about their experiences in the hospitals. They are asked if doctors and nurses always communicated well with them; if the area around their rooms was quiet at night and bathrooms were clean; whether the staff explained medications before administering them and patients' pain was controlled; whether they were given discharge instructions when they left the hospital and whether they understood them; whether they received help as soon as they wanted it and whether they definitely would recommend the hospital to others.

While there are many other components that measure differences between a really good hospital and one that's so-so such as infection control, patient safety and clinical outcomes, patient experiences are nothing to be sniffed at (www.cjr.org).

Why would any patient want to have an operation in a hospital where the bathrooms weren't clean and they'd always be yelling for pain relief? The problem is many patients have no choice when they need a

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hospital procedure. They go where their doctors go. Certainly they have no choice when an emergency arises. But in parts of the country where hospitals are competing for your business – and, yes, hospitals are now very big businesses – you might be able to use ratings (such as kaiserhealthnews.org) when you choose your next health insurance policy.

Increasingly, insurers are asking patients to pick policies that come with very narrow provider networks. Carriers are giving the lowest premiums to policyholders who pick networks where doctors and hospitals have agreed to the prices insurers want to pay. Often those low-cost networks exclude well-known, marquee hospitals that often come with high price tags like Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, Memorial Sloan Kettering in Manhattan and Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

If you will be facing such a choice of networks and the premium trade-offs that come with them – wider networks usually mean higher premiums – the government's patient satisfaction ratings might tip the balance in favor of one network rather than another.

If your doctors want you to go to a facility that has gotten middling ratings or low scores with one

or two stars that should spark a conversation about what the doctors actually know about the care their patients are getting and why they want you to use a particular hospital.

Now that there is a more objective way to measure hospital experience, beware of all that hospital advertising aimed to make you think well of the facility and build the brand. The government's ratings show that sometimes there is no correlation between patient satisfaction and a hospital's advertising to promote its lucrative services.

In New York City where I live, three hospitals, which received mediocre ratings, advertise widely on TV, sometimes featuring over-the-top success stories of patients who have been miraculously cured. They also use subway advertising and banners hanging from street posts to help build their customer base. Clearly the message for patients and doctors is: Come to us.

As I've written many times, shopping for healthcare is not as easy or as much fun as buying a new computer or car, but this latest crop of government ratings offers good, straightforward data to help with that task.

We'd like to hear your experiences with hospital care. Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.

Editor's note: The Rural Health News Service is funded by a grant from The Commonwealth Fund and is distributed through the Nebraska Press Assn. Foundation, Colorado Press Assn., South Dakota Newspaper Assn., Hoosier (IN) State Press Assn., Illinois Press Assn., Wyoming Press Assn. and California Newspaper Publishers Assn.



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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2015 Corn Planting Concerns BROOKINGS, S.D. - Corn planters are running earlier than normal in parts of South Dakota due to the

dry weather conditions which have persisted since fall.

Although South Dakota's spring planting window for corn generally runs from late April to mid-June - with 10 percent of corn in the ground by May 10 - mid-April's weather conditions suggest that corn planting may be able to proceed significantly ahead of normal in 2015, explained Dennis Todey, SDSU Extension Climate Specialist & South Dakota State Climatologist.

When planting into dryer conditions requires some additional considerations, explained Jonathan Kleinjan, SDSU Extension Crop Production Extension Associate

"Based on current dry soil conditions, it may be necessary to increase planting depth," Kleinjan said.

"The standard planting depth of 1.5-inches may be too shallow in some fields this year."

Ideal seeding depth, Kleinjan said should be based on soil conditions and the near-term or 10-day weather outlook. "When the seedbed is dry or is likely to become dry, planting depth should be increased to 2-3 inches if that is where there is uniform soil moisture," Kleinjan said. "Corn plants are easily capable of emerging from those depths and the risks associated with deeper planting are less than the risks of planting in dry soil with little to no precipitation in the forecast."

Kleinjan does not recommend planting corn deeper than 3 inches. "Moisture conditions, and thus ideal planting depth, may vary throughout the season and even throughout each field," Kleinjan said. "It is important to thoroughly check the conditions in each field prior to planting."

Weather may slow down emergence

Current weather forecasts suggest that the week of April 19,



A child's Special Gift for Mom Event

Reserve your child's opportunity to plant a 4" blooming or green plant in a fun colorful container just in time for Mother's day! Reserve a spot for your child (ren) to create a special gift for their mom or grandmother!



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2015 may be cooler than normal, which may affect soil temperatures, said Todey. "Because corn germination is a result of adequate moisture and temperature conditions, it is recommended that corn should not be planted until morning soil temperatures at a depth of 2 inches are at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit," Todey said.

Kleinjan explained further that corn seeds will absorb water in temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, but they will not begin root or shoot growth; potentially leading to seed rot and poor emergence. "Corn hybrids with increased cold tolerance and fungicide seed treatments can help plant survival when planting at temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit," Kleinjan said.

He recommended farmers consult with their local agronomist regarding corn hybrid selection and seed treatment decisions when contemplating early corn planting.

Early germination considerations

Early planting potentially leads to early germination and plant growth. The growing point of a corn plant emerges at the V6 growth stage after about 475 growing degree days (GDDs). "Most research suggests that corn damaged by frost prior to the V6 growth stage will retain nearly 100 percent of yield potential," Kleinjan said.

He added that corn plants at the V9-V12 stage, damaged by a late season frost should recover but can have delayed maturity, reduced plant height, and yield reductions of up to 50 percent.

Producers can use the following online tool to predict corn growth stages, accumulated GDDs and spring or fall frost risks for any county in the U.S. Corn Belt: https://mygeohub.org/groups/u2u/gdd.

"The probability of accumulating enough GDDs for corn to reach the V6 growth stage, and thus be susceptible to significant frost damage, prior to the latest last potential freeze date is very small," Todey said. "This has only occurred once or twice in the last 35 years therefore, this should not be a concern in corn producing areas of the state."

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Pruning Red Raspberries

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Raspberries are some of the best small fruits to grow in South Dakota.

"Home-grown berries can be picked at the peak of freshness and either eaten fresh or made into jams and preserves," said Rhoda Burrows, SDSU Extension Horticulture Specialist & SDSU Professor.

Although there are red, purple and black raspberry types, Burrows explained that the red types are better adapted to South Dakota's climate.

John Ball, SDSU Extension Forestry Specialist & SDSU Professor added that pruning raspberries, is needed to maintain overall plant health and berry yields.

"Red raspberries can produce a quart of fruit or more per linear row, but high-yield fruit production requires annual pruning," Ball said.

Raspberry 101

Raspberries grow from canes, which are shoots that have few branches. While raspberries have a long-lived root system, Ball explained that the canes are biennials. "Meaning the individual canes live for only two years," he said. "A summer-bearing raspberry cane grows the first year, often to a height of 3 to 5 feet and then flowers and fruits the second summer before dying."

Ball said fall-bearing raspberry canes produce flowers and fruit at their tips during the late summer or fall of their first year and then a second crop lower on the same canes the following summer before dying.

"The best means of maintaining productive raspberries is to prune canes with heading cuts," Ball said. He explained that this is a type of pruning that stubs off the cane flush with the ground. "These heading cuts result in the formation of numerous new canes that sucker from the roots."

The heading cuts on raspberries must be made flush with the soil surface - lower than what is done with flowering shrubs - so the new canes arise from suckers rather than branches off the stubbed cane. Ball said that canes from suckers usually produce very little fruit and that which is produced is low quality.

Summer-bearing raspberries

Summer-bearing raspberries should have all their old, dead canes removed now if this task was not completed last fall. Some growers leave these canes up for the winter to serve as snow catches to provide snow to insulate the soil and additional spring moisture. These dead canes are easily identified by their greyer color and brittleness, and they often have a few mummified berries still attached.

Once these canes are pruned off, remove any weak canes. These tend to be shorter canes, only1 or 2 feet tall, and are very spindly. Broken canes should also be removed at this time. After this work is completed, thin out the remaining canes so they are separated by about 6 to 8 inches. Do not tip back the ends of these canes as this is where the flowers will be most abundant.

Fall-bearing raspberries

Fall-bearing raspberries, which include both yellow- and red-fruited types, are usually grown as a single fall crop rather than harvesting a fall crop and another crop the following spring. "The late-summer, early-fall crop of the first year usually has much higher yield and better quality than the summer crop the following year," said Burrows.

She added that fall-bearing raspberries will also begin fruiting a week or two earlier if the canes are grown for only the fall crop and not allowed to continue to grow into the second year.

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If only the fall crop is desired, Burrows said, then all the canes can be pruned to the ground from November through March during the dormant season. Once the new canes sucker up in the spring, the canes should also be thinned to a spacing of about 6 to 8 inches apart. This pruning is usually done in late May or early June when the canes are about a foot tall.

If both the fall crop and the summer crop are desired from fall-bearing raspberries, begin by removing all the dead canes by the end of March. "These are the ones that fruited lower on the canes last summer, not the ones that fruited at the tip last fall," Ball explained.

He said it is usually easier to separate the two if this task is performed just after the two-year old canes fruit in the summer. Once these two-year old canes are removed, tip back all the one-year old canes, the ones that fruited last fall, by pruning off about quarter of their length. "Remember, the summer crop occurs on the lower portion of the cane, not at the tips," he said.

Redefine row edges each spring

Regardless of which raspberry is grown, spring is a good time to redefine the row edges. "Raspberries will sucker out beyond their beds and must be held in check with cultivation and mowing," Burrows said.

The width of the raspberry row should be about 2 feet. Wider rows, Burrows explained, may yield more fruit but not as much as anticipated due to the crowding.

The fruit is also more susceptible to diseases due to the poorer air flow. Running a cultivator along the edges to a depth of a foot will help hold the plants in place. However this is temporary as raspberry roots are very aggressive and will continue to expand out into the soil beyond the bed. Mowing or further cultivation will be needed during the summer.

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McColister recognized with "Caught You Making A Difference Award"

Volunteers of America, Dakotas RSVP Program has chosen Eunice McColister as the April winner of its Caught You Making a Difference Award. Eunice who has volunteered through RSVP for 4 1/2 years was nominated by St. John's Lutheran Preschool because of her dependability, commitment, and positive attitude while volunteering. Preschool teacher Tricia Keith says "Eunice is an asset to the preschool program. She always has a smile on her face and is an absolute joy to work with!" RSVP Director Cindy Beard and RSVP Coordinator Juli Schultz presented Eunice with flowers donated by the Boston Fern and a certificate of recognition.

South Dakota observes Severe Weather Awareness Week

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakotans are being encouraged this week to start making preparations for severe weather that may occur this spring and summer.

This week, April 20-24, has been designated as Severe Weather Awareness Week in South Dakota. It is the annual week where citizens are urged to start preparing for the eventual severe weather that happens in the summer.

"We know severe weather, such as thunderstorms, tornadoes and even floods can occur," said Department of Public Safety Secretary Trevor Jones. "The key is knowing what to do when it happens. Families especially should talk about what to do in times of severe weather."

Several counties throughout the week are holding severe weather preparedness meetings for their spotters and the public.

A statewide tornado drill will be held this Wednesday, April 22. The test watch is scheduled for 10 a.m. CDT (9 a.m. MDT) with the warning issued at 10:15 a.m. CDT (9:15 a.m. MDT). A statement announcing that the test is over will be issued at 10:30 a.m. CDT (9:30 a.m. MDT).

In most communities on Wednesday, severe weather sirens will be sounded. People are reminded that it is only a test unless otherwise announced.

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State Historical Society Archaeology Camp registration opens May 1

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota State Historical Society's Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is sponsoring a three-day Archaeology Camp for students going into grades 4-6 for the 2015-16 school year.

Camp dates are Tuesday through Thursday, June 9-11, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CDT. The program is structured for students to attend all three days. Registration is limited to the first 20 applicants, first-come, first-served.

Archaeology Camp is an active, outdoor experience located on the old Fort Galpin archaeological site near the Oahe Downstream Recreation Area north of Fort Pierre. Students should be prepared to hike and to work in the dirt alongside professional archaeologists.

Students will learn an introduction to the field of archaeology, why archaeological excavations are held, what stories artifacts can tell about the past, the history of fur trading posts, how to map a site and how to use team-building skills.

In addition to excavations at the site, other fun activities will include a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center, making pottery, and learning flint knapping, the method used to make historic tools. A trip to the Turtle Effigy and the Oahe Chapel is also included.

Registration begins on May 1 at 10 a.m. CDT and will close on May 15 or when the camp is full, whichever comes first. The \$30 registration fee must accompany the registration and release forms found on the SHPO web site at history.sd.gov/preservation. Click on the link at the top of that page.

For more information on the Archaeology Camp, please contact Paige Olson at (605) 773-6004 or email her at Paige.Olson@state.sd.us.

For more information on other historic preservation programs, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217; telephone (605) 773-3458, email shpo@state.sd.us, or website history.sd.gov/preservation.



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Here's where the President is traveling for the very first time this Wednesday



That's the Everglades -- one of our country's most unique and treasured landscapes. But Wednesday's trip is about more than touring an iconic National Park on Earth Day. Here's why:

The Everglades are flat, and they border a rising ocean. As the sea levels rise, the shorelines erode, and that salty water travels inland, threatening the aquifers supplying fresh drinking water to Floridians. That doesn't just destroy a beautiful and unique national landscape. It threatens an \$82 billion state tourism economy, and drinking water for more than 7 million Americans -- more than a third of Florida's population.

This Earth Day, we're far beyond a debate about climate change's existence. We're focused on mitigating its very real effects here at home, preparing our communities where its impacts are already being felt, and leading an international effort for action. And the President has already acted in big ways. Over the last eight years, the United States has cut more carbon pollution than any other country, while creating 12.1 million private-sector jobs over 61 months; setting aside more public lands and waters than any administration in history; and releasing a Clean Power Plan to curb carbon pollution from existing power plants -- the single-biggest source of carbon pollution in the U.S.

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And the President is continuing to act. Recently, he joined the Surgeon General for a powerful conversation about the real impacts of climate change on the health of our families, and this week he will be showing how tackling climate change means protecting our local businesses and economies. Taking on this issue means preventing more asthma attacks and premature deaths, billions in revenue loss, and the potential disappearance of natural habitats for our wildlife.

So we'll be spending the week showing exactly what we're doing to tackle one of our country's greatest challenges. On Monday, the White House will issue a Presidential Proclamation highlighting the impact of national parks on our local economies. On Tuesday, we'll announce four landscapes throughout the country where we'll focus our conservation and climate resilience efforts. Later in the week, we'll announce how we're investing millions in new funding to protect those parks, as well as new actions the Department of Agriculture will take in partnership with farmers, ranchers and forest land owners to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions.

Brian Deese Senior Advisor to the President The White House





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Governor Proclaims May as Noxious Weed Control Awareness Month

PIERRE, S.D.-Gov. Dennis Daugaard declared May as South Dakota Noxious Weed Awareness Month to highlight the importance of managing noxious weeds, which negatively affect agriculture, water quality, recreational opportunities and wildlife.

"Noxious weeds threaten the integrity of all the lands in South Dakota," said Ron Moehring, South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) Weed and Pest Control specialist. "By working together, we can effectively control noxious weed infestations and minimize the threat weeds pose to agriculture, our natural lands, and our quality of life."

Seven weeds are currently listed as noxious in South Dakota, including Canada thistle, Leafy spurge, Perennial sow thistle, Hoary cress, Russian knapweed, Purple loosestrife and Saltcedar. In addition, counties can list up to eight locally noxious weeds such as Field bindweed, Musk and Plumeless thistle and Wormwood sage.

Weeds cost landowners millions annually in lost productivity of range and cropland. Noxious weeds have infested more than three million acres in South Dakota. Federal agencies estimate that noxious weeds are spreading on federal public lands at a rate of 4,600 acres per day.

To protect the state's lands, SDDA has implemented an aggressive program to manage weeds. The Department of Ag has helped communities form partnerships and coordinate weed management activities and the State Weed and Pest Control Commission has distributed \$650,000 in grants to assist counties and others in their weed management efforts.

You can help by working to identify and manage the noxious weeds in your community.

For more information on South Dakota's noxious weed program, contact your local county weed supervisor or Ron Moehring at 605 773-3796.

Agriculture is South Dakota's No. 1 industry, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at http:// sdda.sd.gov or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

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Today in Weather History 1958 - Portions of Montana were in the midst of a spring snowburst. Snowfall amounts ranged up to

55 inches at Red Lodge, 61 inches at Nye Mine, and 72 inches at Mystic Lake. (David Ludlum)

1967 - Severe thunderstorms spawned 48 tornadoes in the Upper Midwest. Hardest hit was northern Illinois where sixteen tornadoes touched down during the afternoon and evening hours causing fifty million dollars damage. On that Friday afternoon tornadoes struck Belvidere IL, and the Chicago suburb of Oak Lawn, killing 57 persons. (David Ludlum)

1980 - The temperature at International Falls MN hit 90 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) 1987 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed from the Gulf of Mexico to New England and the Great Lakes Region, with twenty-nine cities reporting record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 82 degrees at Caribou ME, 94 degrees at Mobile AL, 95 degrees at Monroe LA, and 93 degrees at

New Orleans LA, were records for the month of April. (The National Weather Summary) 1988 - After having had just twelve rainouts in the previous twenty-six years at Dodger Stadium, a third day of heavy rain in southern California rained out a double-header at Dodger Stadium which had been scheduled due to rainouts the previous two days. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - The temperature at Las Animas, CO, soared to 100 degrees to establish a state record for April. Twenty-two cities in the central and southwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Eight cities equalled or exceeded previous April records. (The Weather Channel) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail in Oklahoma, and also caused some flash flooding in the state. Thunderstorms over the Southern High Plains produced golf ball size hail at Roswell NM and El Paso TX. Easterly winds and temperatures near zero produced wind chill readings as cold as 50 degrees below zero for the spring festival (Piuraagiagta) outdoor events at Barrow AK. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2007 - The South Plains and Panhandle of West Texas were hit by an outbreak of severe thunderstorms. Between the hours of 5 and 6 pm, several thunderstorms developed across the western South Plains. Around 7 pm, a supercell produced a tornado which touched down around Fieldton (southwest of Olton) and then moved just south and east of Olton, doing damage to several structures and equipment. The thunderstorm continued to move northeast across northeast Lamb, northwest Hale, southeast Castro and southwest Swisher Counties, producing a long-lived tornado (along with hail up to the size of tennis balls). By 7:45 pm, the storm approached the town of Tulia in Swisher County. A tornado touchdown was reported in the town, causing major damage. The tornadic thunderstorm continued to move northeast across Swisher County over open country through about 8:30 pm. (NWS Lubbock, TX)



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Today

Tonight

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Thursday

Friday

Breezv



Blustery

Low: 20 °F

Sunny

High: 57 °F

Mostly

Sunny

High: 55 °F

Thursday



Cloudy

Low: 30 °F



Slight Chc Showers

High: 56 °F

High: 49 °F

Gusty Winds/Very High-Extreme Fire Danger Today

Clear

Low: 25 °F



Published on: 04/21/2015 at 4:59AM

Quite a potpourri of weather today! For this morning, an area of light snow will move across areas between the James and Missouri Rivers. Only light accumulations are expected before the snow ends. Then switching gears, it will dry out and winds will become gusty with very high to extreme fire danger developing region wide this afternoon. However, the greatest threat should be from the James Valley west to the Missouri Valley. This region will have the best combination of ingredients to support extreme fire danger. Temperatures are expected to be below seasonal norms for today.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 49.5 at: 4:53 PM Low: 27.3 at 11:24 PM High Gust: 41 at 1:31 PM Snow: 0.00 Precip: 0.43

Today's Info Record High: 97° in 1980

Record High: 97° in 1980 Record Low: 16° in 1936 Average High: 60°F Average Low: 34°F Average Precip in April.: 1.04 Precip to date in April.: 0.44 Average Precip to date: 3.32 Precip Year to Date: 0.91 Sunset Tonight: 8:27 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:37 a.m.





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THE SEARCH CONTINUES

Consider this: there are twenty-one letters in the Hebrew alphabet. Beginning at verse ten, there are twenty-two letters, forming an acrostic, that begin with a succeeding letter of the Hebrew alphabet in the final chapter of Proverbs. Obviously, believing that the Holy Spirit is the infallible author of each verse in the Bible, this did not happen by accident. Certainly there is a significant message contained in these few verses, and the use of the acrostic model was used to make them easy to memorize.

First, the acrostic was used to provide a helpful way to organize information for future use. A wife of noble character, as pictured in these few verses, includes items that young women would want to include in their resumes as they matured. It is also the criteria for men to apply to women when seeking a wife. The traits that are presented in these verses are both goals to be achieved and traits to be sought. Second, the term noble implies capabilities, character and efficiency. It is the same term used when a

wife is spoken of as the crown of her husband.

Third, "who can find?" The noble wife is rare and not easily found. However, it does not mean that the search is not worth the effort. Quite the contrary.

Ruth was described as a "woman of noble character." Her story echoes throughout history. How fortunate we are that God gave an example for women to follow and men to search for in a wife.

Prayer: Lord, how blest we are that You provide us with detailed instructions on what matters most in life! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 31:10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

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ATTENTION Parents and Grandparents:

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News from the Associated Press

Deadline approaching for groups to apply for disaster loan

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota nonprofit organizations impacted by flooding, storms and tornadoes last June have until the end of the month to apply for low-interest loans.

The U.S. Small Business Administration says groups that provide essential services of a governmental nature have until April 28 to seek an SBA federal disaster loan for economic injury caused by the bad weather.

Eligible organizations may apply for loans of up to \$2 million to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster, including debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact.

The loans are available in Butte, Clay, Corson, Dewey, Hanson, Jerauld, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Perkins, Turner, Union and Ziebach counties as well as the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in Corson County.

University of South Dakota, FrogWatch USA to host workshop

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota is hosting a workshop to train South Dakota residents to become frog whisperers.

The training will teach participants how to recognize different frogs and different frog calls. This knowledge will allow the interested individuals to conduct field research and document the types of frogs they hear and where they hear them.

USD biologist Jake Kerby is the eastern South Dakota coordinator for the national organization Frog-Watch USA. Kerby will lead the event scheduled for 3 p.m. Saturday at the school's Churchill Haines building.

Kerby says frog research is especially important nowadays because of shrinking frog numbers. He says the information gathered by trained individuals allows scientists to learn which amphibians are in jeopardy and which ones are not.

US to announce decision for Nevada, California sage grouse

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell plans to announce Tuesday whether she will move forward with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's earlier proposal to order federal protection for a type of sage grouse found only in California and Nevada.

Jewell plans a formal announcement on a listing decision for the bistate sage grouse in Reno on Tuesday afternoon. It comes months before a more-sweeping decision is due Sept. 30 on whether to declare the greater sage grouse threatened or endangered in 11 western states.

The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed the bistate subspecies be declared threatened along the Sierra's eastern front in 2013. State and federal officials have been working with ranchers and others since then try to head off a listing with voluntary efforts to restore the bird's critical habitat.

Air Force puts B-1, other long-range bombers in 1 command JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — B-1 bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and Dyess Air Force Base in Texas are joining their long-range B-2 and B-52 bomber counterparts under a single Air

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Force command as part of a leadership shift announced Monday.

The Air Force is grouping its bombers under Air Force Global Strike Command, a nuclear-capable command based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, in a transition that will be effective Oct. 1. The leadership change also puts the Air Force's next-generation bomber program, frequently called the Long Range Strike Bomber, under the same auspices.

"With a single command responsible for the Air Force's entire long-range strike fleet, the airmen ... will benefit from better coordination and increased sharing of expertise across the five bomber wings," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III said in a statement.

More than 60 aircraft and about 7,000 people will shift from Air Combat Command to Global Strike Command, according to the Air Force. South Dakota public officials celebrated the shift as proof of Ellsworth's relevancy in the nation's defense.

"Ellsworth continues to demonstrate its readiness to support a wide range of Air Force priorities," South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in a statement to The Associated Press.

A spokesman for Texas U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, whose district includes Dyess, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The new leadership alignment also comes as a "clear signal" that Ellsworth is well-positioned to secure the Air Force's proposed next-generation bomber when it is produced, South Dakota U.S. Sen. John Thune said in a statement.

Mark Gunzinger, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, said Ellsworth's proximity to a large training airspace and relatively light surrounding air traffic mean the base would be a strong candidate for the new bomber.

The next-generation bomber is expected to arrive in the early or mid-2020s and will likely eventually replace older bombers when they are phased out.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the Air Force looked at (Ellsworth) hard and long," said Gunzinger, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense.

Thune said that moving all the bomber wings under the control of Global Strike Command will make for a better transition as the Air Force plans for the Long Range Strike Bomber.

The B-1 bombers from Ellsworth and Dyess, near Abilene, Texas, will join B-52 bombers from Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, among others, as part of Global Strike Command. The Air Force said the leadership change is expected to be "imperceptible" to most of the airmen on the bases.

"Consolidating all of our Air Force assets in this critical mission area under a single command will help provide a unified voice to maintain the high standards necessary in stewardship of our nation's bomber forces," Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James said in a statement.

Bird flu confirmed at Iowa farm with 5.3 million chickens DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Up to 5.3 million hens at an Iowa farm must be destroyed after the highly infectious and deadly bird flu virus was confirmed, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Monday.

The farm in northwest Iowa's Osceola County has nearly 10 percent of the state's egg-laying hens. Iowa is home to roughly 59 million hens that lay nearly one in every five eggs consumed in the country.

Egg industry marketing experts say it's too early to predict the impact on prices, but say it's unlikely to immediately cause a spike or a shortage, because number of chickens that are to be euthanized is a little more than 1 percent of the nation's egg layers.

"Don't panic. Let's wait and see," said poultry industry consultant Simon Shane, who also teaches

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poultry science and veterinary medicine at North Carolina State University. He added that if 20 million to 30 million hens are infected, consumers could start seeing prices rise.

Several Midwestern states have been affected by the outbreaks, costing turkey and chicken producers nearly 7.8 million birds since March. The virus was first detected in Minnesota, the country's top turkeyproducing state, in early March and the H5N2 virus has since shown up on commercial farms in Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. On Monday, the virus was confirmed in another turkey farm in Minnesota and a backyard flock of mixed birds in Wisconsin.

The Osceola County farm provides shell eggs and liquid egg products to the market.

"It may not have a direct effect on shell egg pricing but any time you take production out of a marketplace there's likely to be some consequence," Iowa Poultry Association Executive Director Randy Olson said. "I anticipate the market and production will recover, but right now we're reminding people that this is not a food safety issue and it's not a human health issue."

Olson said he's confident authorities have identified the extent of the outbreak and have a plan to control it.

It's the first chicken farm in Iowa to be affected by the virus, which was confirmed at a turkey farm in the state last week.

The chickens on the large operation reside in more than 20 houses, said Dustin Vande Hoef, a spokesman for Iowa Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey.

"It's a huge challenge for this producer and highlights the importance of biosecurity and other producers trying to take steps to limit the spread of this disease," he said.

The Center for Disease Control and the Iowa Department of Public Health considers the risk to people from these infections in wild birds, backyard flocks and commercial poultry, to be low. No human infections with the virus have ever been detected.

Environmentalists contest broadened use of new herbicide HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH, Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Environmentalists are contesting the federal government's decision to allow more widespread use of a new version of a popular weed killer to be used on genetically modified corn and soybeans.

Motions filed Monday in the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco challenge the Environmental Protection Agency's handling of a 2,4-D weed killer called Enlist Duo, a new version of the popular herbicide used since the 1940s. It's aimed at use with seeds that are engineered to resist the herbicide, so farmers can spray the fields after the plants emerge and kill the weeds while leaving crops unharmed.

But the Natural Resources Defense Council and a coalition of five environmental groups, including the Center for Food Safety, claim in separate lawsuits that it could endanger wildlife and public health. The groups first sued after the EPA in October approved the herbicide's use in six states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The latest motions were filed after the EPA decided last month to allow its use in nine more states: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma and North Dakota.

"Our concern is the same as we've had all along, which is that this is a powerful chemical that has demonstrated harm to human health and to wildlife, and the EPA has simply not done an adequate job of assessing it before letting it loose," said Paul H. Achitoff, an attorney representing five of the groups.

Demand for Enlist promises to be strong because many weeds have become resistant to glyphosate,

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an herbicide commonly used on genetically modified corn and soybeans now. Enlist includes a combination of both the new version of 2,4-D and glyphosate. Groups that unsuccessfully lobbied the EPA to prevent its expanded use say they are concerned about 2,4-D's toxic effects and the potential for it to drift.

The EPA, which has said previously that the herbicide meets safety standards, said in written statement Monday that it would review the petition and "respond appropriately." Dow AgroSciences, which manufactures Enlist, has said that the new version has been engineered to solve potential problems, like drift before and after the herbicide hits the plant.

But Sylvia Fallon, the wildlife director for the New York-based Natural Resources Defense Council, wrote in a blog posted on the group's website Monday that the use of "increasingly toxic pesticides" is "unsustainable."

Trucking group urges government to move on speed limiters TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The nation's largest trucking industry group wants the government to get moving on a rule requiring electronic speed-limiting devices on big rigs.

The American Trucking Associations says it opposes speed limits over 65 mph, and it has previously petitioned the government to require speed-limiting devices on trucks. Federal highway safety regulators proposed a regulation in 2011 to require the use of the devices, known as governors. But the measure has been stalled for years in a morass of cost analyses and government reviews.

The statement follows a story by The Associated Press last month revealing that most big truck tires aren't designed to go over 75 mph. Yet 14 states mainly west of the Mississippi River have speed limits of 75 or above. Texas, Wyoming, Utah and South Dakota have limits of 80 or higher.

The association said Monday that wants speed limits reduced for all vehicles and said the recent trend toward higher state speed limits is "needlessly endangering millions of motorists."

Transportation Department documents show the rule has been stalled in Secretary Anthony Foxx's office since August.

Messages were left seeking comment from a department spokesman.

About 70 percent of trucking companies already have speed limiters on their rigs, and association spokesman Sean McNally said the rule would stop the rest from putting other drivers in danger. The association, he said, believes that government regulations aren't always "inherently evil."

He conceded that a uniform speed would level the playing field for all truckers, but said that was only a secondary reason for the proposal.

Many tractor-trailers on the nation's roads are driven faster than the 75 mph their tires are designed to handle, a practice that has been linked to wrecks and blowouts but has largely escaped the attention of highway officials.

Nearly all truck tires have been built for a maximum sustained speed of 75 mph since the middle of last decade, when drivers across the vast majority of the U.S. were allowed to go no faster than 65 or 70 mph.

Safety advocates and tire experts say that habitually driving faster than a tire's rated speed can generate excessive heat that damages the rubber, with potentially catastrophic results.

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4 named as finalists for Dakota State University presidency

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The list of candidates for the Dakota State University presidency is down to four. The state's Board of Regents says the three men and woman who are finalists for the top job at the school in Madison will be on campus this week. The university is looking for a president after its leader David Borofsky quit unexpectedly in August.

The finalists are: Don Capener, dean and endowed chair of the Davis College of Business at Jacksonville University; José-Marie Griffiths, vice president for academic affairs and professor at Bryant University; Douglas Hensler, provost at the Naval Postgraduate School; and Thomas Mitzel, dean of faculty and vice president of academic affairs at Trinity College.

Marysz Rames is serving as the interim president at DSU while the regents appoint a new leader.

Northwestern SD man arrested on manslaughter charge

LEMMON, S.D. (AP) — A northwestern South Dakota man accused of participating in a shooting is facing a manslaughter charge.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says 22-year-old Brady Hooker was arrested over the weekend. Jackley says Hooker shot 32-year-old Leon Paulsen following an incident at Hooker's home in Lemmon.

Authorities have not released details of the incident that resulted in the shooting.

It's unclear whether Hooker has an attorney. His first-degree manslaughter charge carries a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Former state senator, congressional aide Walter Conahan dies

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Walter Charles Conahan, a former Brookings County lawmaker who served as press secretary to U.S. Sen. Karl Mundt and chief of staff for U.S. Rep. James Abdnor, has died at age 87 after a five-year battle with cancer.

He died Saturday at his Sioux Falls home, according to the governor's office and longtime friend Jack Marsh.

Conahan grew up in Leola, graduated from high school in 1945 and served in the U.S. Army until 1946. He graduated in 1952 with a journalism degree from South Dakota State University, where he was student body president, campus newspaper editor and the first student to portray "Weary Willie," the mascot of SDSU's annual Hobo Day homecoming celebration.

He was an associate editor of the Clear Lake Courier for three years and in 1955 went to Washington where he served 25 years in a variety of positions in the legislative and executive branches, including 14 years as press secretary for Mundt and three years as chief of staff for Abdnor when he was in the House of Representatives.

Conahan returned to South Dakota in 1978 and worked for 13 years as the first full-time director of the South Dakota State University Foundation.

While living in Volga, he was elected to three terms in the South Dakota Senate as a Republican from 1983 to 1989.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard ordered flags at the Capitol in Pierre to be lowered to half-staff on Saturday, when Conahan's funeral will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Sioux Falls.

Conahan is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marjorie Dean Conahan, a daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter and a large extended family.

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Corn seeding underway in South Dakota thanks to dry weather

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Dry conditions across South Dakota over the past week have enabled farmers to start planting corn, but the lack of rain is hurting soil moisture.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop progress report that about 5 percent of the corn crop is seeded, near the five-year average pace. The planting of small grains crops is well ahead of the average.

But subsoil moisture is rated 65 percent short or very short, and topsoil moisture is rated 67 percent short or very short.

Only 25 percent of South Dakota's winter wheat crop is rated in good to excellent condition.

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. PROSECUTORS DETAIL CAUSE OF CAPSIZING OF MIGRANT SHIP

They say the smuggler captain, 27-year-old Tunisian Mohammed Ali Malek, mistakenly rammed his boat into the Portuguese-flagged merchant ship that had come to its rescue.

2. WHO MIGHT EMBARK ON POLITICAL EXPERIMENT

Jeb Bush is preparing to delegate many of the nuts-and-bolts tasks of seeking the White House to a political organization that can raise unlimited amounts of cash.

3. MINNESOTA MEN CHARGED WITH TRYING TO JOIN ISLAMIC MILITANTS

Authorities describe the accused as friends in the state's Somali community who recruited and inspired each other and met secretly to plan their travels.

4. BALTIMORE INVESTIGATES SUSPECT'S DEATH IN POLICE CUSTODY

An autopsy shows the man suffered a "significant spinal injury" that led to his death — but how it happened is unclear.

5. OUSTED EGYPT PRESIDENT GETS 20 YEARS IN JAIL

The case stems from violence outside the presidential palace in December 2012, when Mohammed Morsi's supporters attacked opposition protesters, sparking clashes that killed at least 10 people.

6. WHAT'S NEXT IN BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING TRIAL

Jurors are getting ready to hear evidence on what Tsarnaev's punishment should be — life in prison or the death penalty.

7. US COUPLE SENTENCED TO PRISON IN BALI SUITCASE KILLING

An Indonesian court rules that Heather Mack and Tommy Schaefer intentionally killed Sheila von Wiese-Mack while vacationing last August.

8. REPLACING CARPET AT JERUSALEM SHRINE REVEALS RELIGIOUS RIFT

A routine remodeling project at the Dome of the Rock sparks a verbal holy war over the hilltop compound, which is revered by Jews and Muslims.

9. WHY MCDONALD'S IS STILL A POWERHOUSE

Rivals can only envy its massive reach, marketing power, the popularity of its breakfast menu and the new leadership.

10. US-CUBA TIES CHALLENGE BASEBALL PLAYERS

Learning English, finding their way in a new country and dealing with dual pressures of pro sports present daunting adjustments for ballplayers arriving from the island.

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AP News in Brief at 5:58 a.m. EDT

Prosecutors blame capsizing of migrant boat on its captain for colliding with rescue ship

CATANIA, Sicily (AP) — Prosecutors in Sicily say two actions are suspected to have caused a migrant boat to capsize in what is thought to be the Mediterranean's worst migrant disaster.

In a statement Tuesday, Catania's prosecutors said the smuggler captain, 27-year-old Tunisian Mohammed Ali Malek, mistakenly rammed his boat into the Portuguese-flagged merchant ship that had come to its rescue. And the prosecutors say the migrants themselves then shifted position on the boat, which was already off balance due to the collision.

The prosecutors say the death toll is still uncertain, noting that the passengers have spoken of anywhere between 400 and 950 people on board, while the crew of the rescue ship estimated some 850. Only 24 bodies were recovered, while 28 people survived.

How countries cope with the influx of migrants and asylum seekers fleeing by boat

Two recent shipwrecks in the Mediterranean Sea believed to have taken the lives of as many as 1,300 asylum seekers and migrants has highlighted the escalating flow of people fleeing persecution, war and economic difficulties in their homelands.

Over the years, thousands of people in Asia have also used boats to escape. Here's a look at where many go — and have gone in the past — and how they are treated once they arrive.

AUSTRALIA

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN: Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, China, Somalia, Sudan, Myanmar and Vietnam.

AP Exclusive: Bush preparing to delegate many functions of likely 2016 campaign to a super PAC

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Jeb Bush is preparing to embark on an experiment in presidential politics: delegating many of the nuts-and-bolts tasks of seeking the White House to a separate political organization that can raise unlimited amounts of campaign cash.

The concept, in development for months as the former Florida governor has raised tens of millions of dollars for his Right to Rise super PAC, would endow that organization not just with advertising on Bush's behalf, but with many of the duties typically conducted by a campaign.

Should Bush move ahead as his team intends, it is possible that for the first time a super PAC created to support a single candidate would spend more than the candidate's campaign itself — at least through the primaries. Some of Bush's donors believe that to be more than likely.

The architects of the plan believe the super PAC's ability to raise unlimited amounts of money legally outweighs its primary disadvantage, that it cannot legally coordinate its actions with Bush or his would-be campaign staff.

"Nothing like this has been done before," said David Keating, president of the Center for Competitive Politics, which opposes limits on campaign finance donations. "It will take a high level of discipline to do it."

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Lawyer of man who died after an encounter with Baltimore police suspects no cause for arrest

BALTIMORE (AP) — The lawyer for the family of Freddie Gray, a black man who died of spinal injuries he sustained during an arrest in Baltimore, said he believes the police had no reason to stop the man in the first place.

Gray, 25, was arrested on April 12 after police "made eye contact" with him and another man and the two started running, authorities said. Gray was placed in a transport van, and roughly 30 minutes later was rushed to the hospital in critical condition. Gray died Sunday of what Deputy Police Commissioner Jerry Rodriguez described as "a significant spinal injury" at a Monday news conference.

But what led to that injury — and why Gray was initially pursued by police — is still unknown.

According to court documents, Officer Garrett Miller sought to charge Gray with carrying a switchblade, which was discovered in Gray's pocket after he was stopped. But at a news conference Monday, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said "we know having a knife is not necessarily a crime."

Police Commissioner Anthony Batts also said the reason for Gray's stop is "a question we have to dig into."

Egypt court sentences ousted President Mohammed Morsi to 20 years in prison over 2012 killings

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian criminal court on Tuesday sentenced ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to 20 years in prison over the killing of protesters in 2012, the first verdict to be issued against the country's first freely elected leader.

The ruling, which can be appealed, reflects the dramatic downfall of Morsi and the drastic challenges facing Egypt since its 2011 uprising that forced longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak from power.

Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood group swiftly rose to power in elections after Mubarak's ouster, only to find themselves behind bars a year later when millions protested against them for abusing power and the military overthrew the government.

But as Mubarak and members of his government increasingly find themselves acquitted of criminal charges, Morsi and the Brotherhood are at the receiving end of heavy-handed sentences.

During Tuesday's hearing, Judge Ahmed Youssef issued his verdict as Morsi and other defendants in the case — mostly Muslim Brotherhood leaders — stood in a soundproof glass cage inside a makeshift courtroom at Egypt's national police academy. Seven of the accused were tried in absentia.

US couple sentenced to prison in Bali for killing woman's mother, stuffing body in suitcase

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — An Indonesian court found an American couple guilty of premeditated murder and sentenced them to prison on Tuesday in the death of the woman's mother on the resort island of Bali.

The Denpasar District Court sentenced Tommy Schaefer to 18 years in prison and Heather Mack to 10 years for intentionally killing Sheila von Wiese-Mack while vacationing last August. The body was found in a suitcase inside the trunk of a taxi at the St. Regis Bali Resort.

The three-judge panel said it decided to be lenient toward Mack, 19, because she recently gave birth to a baby.

The court ruled that Schaefer, 21, was guilty of battering von Wiese-Mack to death in a hotel room at the resort, and that his girlfriend Mack had helped with the Aug. 12 killing.

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Schaefer and Mack, both from Chicago, were tried separately in the same court with the same judges and prosecutors.

6 from Minnesota charged with trying to join Islamic State group

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — When Guled Ali Omar made up his mind to join the Islamic State group, authorities said, he wasn't easily deterred.

The Minnesota man emptied his bank accounts last May and planned to fly to Syria via San Diego, federal officials say, but his family confronted him and he set his plans aside. In November, officials say, he tried to board a flight in Minneapolis, but was stopped by the FBI.

Even while under investigation, authorities say, Omar and five other men kept trying to make their way to Syria, coming up with a plot to secure false passports.

Omar is among six Minnesota men of Somali descent charged with terrorism-related offenses in a criminal complaint unsealed Monday. They are among the latest Westerners accused of traveling or attempting to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group, which has carried out a host of attacks including beheading Americans.

In Alabama on Monday, a spokesman for Muslim couple said their 20-year-old daughter fled a Birmingham suburb to join Islamic State militants in Syria after being recruited online. The woman's whereabouts weren't immediately clear.

At Dome of the Rock, even lifting its carpet for replacement reveals Jerusalem religious rifts

JERUSALEM (AP) — It began as a routine remodeling project: Muslim authorities replacing an old carpet worn thin by masses of worshippers at the Dome of the Rock, the iconic, gold-topped shrine that overlooks the Old City of Jerusalem.

But there is no such thing as routine remodeling when it comes to the most contested piece of real estate in Jerusalem, where the presence of a mere screwdriver can threaten to ignite religious tensions. The carpet has sparked a verbal holy war over the hilltop compound, which is revered by Jews and

Muslims whose competing claims often spill over into violence. Israeli archaeological authorities say the repairs were carried out behind their backs, and an Israeli

government minister urged an immediate halt to the work, claiming it might cause irreparable damage. Frustrated Israeli researchers say previously undocumented ancient floor designs were discovered when the old carpets were peeled off, but they didn't get a chance to document the designs before workmen covered them up with the new carpet.

And some researchers claim the Bible's deepest secrets may lie beneath some of the newly exposed floor designs.

Though part of China for 18 years, Hong Kongers resist mainlanders' embrace, feel alienated

HONG KONG (AP) — All around Chow Tak-yee's neighborhood in the working-class edges of Hong Kong, the 26-year-old can feel the spreading influence of nearby mainland China on the prosperous, open-minded city she's always called home.

The children of mainland families now fill her neighborhood's best schools, and she's had to search for three months to find a classroom spot for her young son. Chow, who works as an accountant, and

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her electrician husband have to live at her in-laws' cramped apartment, as a red-hot housing market flooded with Chinese investment prices out many young buyers. Sometimes, she can't even find household goods in nearby stores, because Chinese traders buy them all up to sell at a mark-up in the adjacent mainland city of Shenzhen.

For Chow and many in this 7.2-million-person city, it all adds up to the feeling that Hong Kong is being forever changed by the 1.4-billion-strong country just a few miles to the north, where many feel life is cheaper and people are less educated.

"They're interfering with the rules of Hong Kong society," Chow said as her son played by her side during a visit to her childhood home, a two-bedroom apartment in a public housing estate.

Eighteen years after this world financial hub returned from colonial British control to Chinese rule, many say they feel more alienated and less trusting than ever of the central Chinese government and even the people visiting from across the border. That has presented leaders in Beijing with one of their biggest political headaches as they try to project a more unified, confident image abroad.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 21, the 111th day of 2015. There are 254 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 21, 1975, with Communist forces closing in, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned after nearly ten years in office and fled the country.

On this date:

In 1649, the Maryland Toleration Act, providing for freedom of worship for all Christians, was passed by the Maryland assembly.

In 1789, John Adams was sworn in as the first vice president of the United States.

In 1836, an army of Texans led by Sam Houston defeated the Mexicans at San Jacinto, assuring Texas independence.

In 1910, author Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, died in Redding, Connecticut, at age 74.

In 1918, Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the German ace known as the "Red Baron," was killed in action during World War I.

In 1930, a fire broke out inside the overcrowded Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus, killing 332 inmates.

In 1940, the quiz show that asked the "\$64 question," 'Take It or Leave It," premiered on CBS Radio. In 1955, the Jerome Lawrence-Robert Lee play "Inherit the Wind," inspired by the Scopes trial of

1925, opened at the National Theatre in New York.

In 1960, Brazil inaugurated its new capital, Brasilia, transferring the seat of national government from Rio de Janeiro.

In 1977, the musical play "Annie," based on the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip, opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 2,377 performances.

In 1980, Rosie Ruiz was the first woman to cross the finish line at the Boston Marathon; however, she was later exposed as a fraud. (Canadian Jacqueline Gareau was named the actual winner of the women's race.)

In 1992, Robert Alton Harris became the first person executed by the state of California in 25 years as he was put to death in the gas chamber for the 1978 murders of two teen-age boys, John Mayeski and Michael Baker.

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Ten years ago: A commercial helicopter contracted by the U.S. Defense Department was shot down by missile fire north of Baghdad; 11 people, including six American bodyguards, were killed in the crash while a surviving Bulgarian pilot was gunned down by insurgents. Army Sgt. Hasan Akbar was convicted by a military jury at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, of premeditated murder and attempted murder in an attack that killed two of his comrades and wounded 14 others in Kuwait. (He was later sentenced to death.) Zhang Chunqiao (jahng chuhn-kee-OW'), one of the Gang of Four that terrorized China during the Cultural Revolution, died at age 88.

Five years ago: Pope Benedict XVI promised "church action" to confront the clerical abuse scandal. Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was suspended for six games for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy. (Commissioner Roger Goodell handed down the punishment after prosecutors decided not to bring charges in a case involving a 20-year-old college student who'd accused Roeth-lisberger of sexually assaulting her.) Juan Antonio Samaranch, 89, who'd served as president of the International Olympic Committee for 21 years, died in Barcelona, Spain. Former Nuremberg prosecutor Whitney Harris, 97, died in Frontenac, Missouri.

One year ago: More than 30,000 people defiantly ran the Boston Marathon a year after the deadly terrorist bombings; American Meb Keflezighi (keh-FLEZ'-gee) won the men's race in 2:08:37 while Kenya's Rita Jeptoo successfully defended her title, finishing in a course-record 2:18:57. Win Tin, 85, a prominent journalist who became Myanmar's longest-serving political prisoner after challenging military rule, died in Yangon.

Today's Birthdays: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is 89. Actress-comedian-writer Elaine May is 83. Actor Charles Grodin is 80. Actor Reni Santoni (REH'-nee san-TOH'-nee) is 77. Singer-musician Iggy Pop is 68. Actress Patti LuPone is 66. Actor Tony Danza is 64. Actor James Morrison is 61. Actress Andie MacDowell is 57. Rock singer Robert Smith (The Cure) is 56. Rock musician Michael Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 56. Actor John Cameron Mitchell is 52. Rapper Michael Franti (Spearhead) is 49. Actor Toby Stephens is 46. Rock singer-musician Glen Hansard (The Frames) is 45. Actor Rob Riggle is 45. Comedian Nicole Sullivan is 45. Football player-turned-actor Brian White is 42. Rock musician David Brenner (Theory of a Deadman) is 37. Actor James McAvoy is 36. NFL quarterback Tony Romo is 35. Actor Terrence J is 33. Actress Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Film: "Belle") is 32. Actor Christoph (cq) Sanders is 27. Rock singer Sydney Sierota (Echosmith) is 18.

Thought for Today: "I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it." - Stephen Leacock, Canadian economist and humorist (1869-1944).