

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Saturday, April 25

**Birthdays:** Charlie Pray, Rachel Blackmun, Rick Schauer

10:00 a.m.: Track at Ipswich (moved from May 2nd)

## Sunday, April 26

9:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday School

9:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministires worship in Pierpont

10:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran worship.

11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Kumla dinner at Pierpont church

3:30 p.m.: Heaven Bound Ministires fellowship at Golden Living Center

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

**FOR RENT**

**Attached garage.**

**Major appliances included.**

**\$700 per month**

**Roger: 605/397-7118**

## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

## OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all"

**NOW OPEN**

*Harris*  
Auto Body ABDN

**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South  
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**

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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.

Harry Implement, Ferney, is looking for a Truck driver for pickup and delivery of equipment. Contact Steve at 605-395-6421 or e-mail s.harry@harrysinc.com

### FOR RENT

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/380-0571 or Arlys Kluess at 605-216-8399.

### Bridal Showers

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

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

## Friends . . . Near and Far

*Editor's Note: This is the 17th in a series featuring your friends, near and far.*

### Austin Luecke

**Job** **Wise** **what are you doing today?** I am currently a personal trainer and nutrition coach at Results Personal Training in Sioux Falls.

**How long have you been working at the current job?** Close to 2 years.

**How did you get your current job?** Through a connection I made with my strength and conditioning coach while I was at Augustana College.

**What high school did you attend and what year did you graduate?** Groton Area and 2008

**Where did you attend college and what was your degree?** Augustana College and majored in Exercise Science and Fitness Management with a minor in Business Administration

**What advice would you give the high school students today?** Set your goals high and work hard to reach them.

**List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life.** Getting engaged as well as graduating college and playing 5 years of college football.

**Are you married?** I am engaged and getting married this upcoming August. Her name is Kate Sturgeon and she is originally from Gretna, NE.

**How did the two of you meet?** Kate played soccer at Augustana so we had a lot of mutual friends and met through them.

**Do you feel that your high school and college education prepared you adequately for post education life?** Absolutely....I am very thankful for both my high school and college experiences.



From left to right is Kate Sturgeon, Austin Luecke, Brady and Hannah Edgar, Dave Hunter, Beckey Hunter, Chelsey Wolthuizen, Braxton Wolthuizen, Justin Wolthuizen

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## Groton Area Elementary School News

### Elementary Principal ~ Dan Dalchow

It is that time of year where we implement our state standardized testing. At the elementary we test in grades 2,3,4,5. Our 2nd graders take the SAT 10 test and our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders take the Smarter Balanced test. The new Smarter Balance test is an online test and is brand new. Our teachers have done a great job preparing our students to take this new online. We are fortunate at Groton Area Elementary to have the resources and technology capabilities to be able to implement this fairly easily and also be able to do a considerable number of activities with computers and software that allows all of our students to feel comfortable using technology.

As this is a new test, we do not expect scores to stay on par with our scores from years past. That being said, we do know that our students are doing well. We use a variety of formative and summative assessments to drive our instruction and evaluate our students. Groton Area Elementary students work hard, are supported well parents and we appreciate that!

As our weather continues to improve, students of all ages tend to get a case of spring fever and they start to want to spend more time outdoors and less time focused on schoolwork. A lot of times this spring fever tends to be reflected in grades and test scores. If you see your child "catching" spring fever, encourage them to continue to do their best. Set goals, timelines, or schedules so that they get their schoolwork requirements completed before they go outside. Research has shown that setting up specific times for schoolwork and reading has been proven effective in raising grades and test scores. Summer is coming, but we still have some work to do before we get there and we want everyone working and performing at their best until that time comes.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dan Dalchow ~ Principal  
Groton Area Elementary School  
Elementary Phone # 397-2317  
E-mail: dan.dalchow@k12.sd.us

## PARTS COUNTER SALES

Self motivated individual needed to fill our Parts Counter Sales position. Duties include parts sales, display stocking, shipping and receiving. Sponsored training, excellent benefits package and the possibility for advancement. Contact Steve at 605-395-6421 or email resume to s.harry@harrysinc.com.

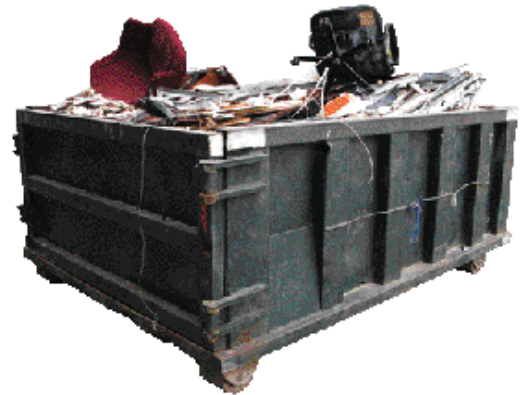
### Harry Implement Inc.

PO Box 841  
Ferney, SD  
57439



## 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



## Elementary poem/essay winners

**Back Row:** Cara Dennert Columbia Legion Auxiliary, Dylan Anderson (1st place essay winner/Columbia), Aeydon Johnson (2nd place poem winner/Groton), Andrew Marzahn (1st place poem winner/Groton), Tate Larson (2nd place essay winner/Columbia), Kamryn Flihs (1st place poem winner/Columbia), Shallyn Foertsch (2nd place poem winner/Columbia), Meri Erickson Groton Legion Auxiliary

**Front Row:** Faith Flihs (1st place essay winner/Columbia), Lane Tietz (1st place poem winner/Columbia), Ryan Groeblichhoff (2nd place poem winner/Groton), Anna Fjeldheim (2nd place poem winner/Columbia), Holden Sippel (1st place poem winner/Groton)

### Junior Kindergarten – Kayla Krause

Spring is in full swing and we are loving every minute of it! It is great to get outside and enjoy recess without snow pants!

In Junior Kindergarten, the students have been busy learning about the farm. We even had one of our mystery readers bring in a baby pig! That was a joy as the pig was very active and noisy. We loved reading both fiction and nonfiction books about the farm and "farming" with our tractors in the play center. We even made farm books and learned how to write many words associated with the farm.

We are becoming so wise as we learn about the many ways we can help our environment. As we celebrated Earth Day on April 22, we made promises to our Earth. Promises of picking up litter, saving water, turning off the lights, and so much more. We are becoming quite the eco-friendly bunch. Students participated in the Junior Kindergarten Earth Day challenge. They were asked to reuse an item that would have ended up in the garbage can and make it into something new! We had some wonderful creations from bird feeders and piggy banks made out of pop bottles to a bean bag toss game made from milk jugs!

Before the school year comes to an end, we look forward to our unit on plants. We plan on planting sunflower seeds, learning about the parts of a plant, and retelling the story Jack and the Beanstalk. We are also anxiously awaiting the unit on our five senses! There is just so much to look forward to. Our year has flown by and soon we will be able to call ourselves Kindergarteners!

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## 1st Grade ~ Emily Eichler & Julie Milbrandt

We can't believe the end of the year is fast approaching! The first grade students have been very hard workers each day and we are very proud of them. One way we have worked especially hard is in reading. The students are each working toward a personal goal: some would like to reach our 15 point first grade goal, while others are working for 70 points. Others are even working toward goals beyond 70 points! Whatever the goal, we are proud of the first graders for challenging themselves.

In reading class we are working toward increasing our reading fluency as well as our comprehension. We began our biggest project of the year, which is writing a letter to a favorite author. Each student chooses an author to write to, then learns more about the author by reading information about the author. The next step is brainstorming ideas of what to write in our letters. After the brainstorming, we begin our "sloppy copy", which is a rough draft of what we would like our final letter to look like. Sometimes we write two or three rough drafts before starting our final draft. The final draft is pretty much perfect before we address the envelope and drop it in the mail. This is a HUGE project, but very rewarding. Many former first grade students have received letters back from authors. We can't wait to see if any of the students receive a letter from any authors in the future!

In math class we are working on adding two-digit numbers and measurement. Adding two-digit numbers is a big skill to learn and it has been challenging, but they are doing a great job. We are excited to learn more about measurement, too.

The students have really enjoyed science class and are currently learning about matter. It has been fun doing many different activities to learn more about solids, liquids, and gas. Our next chapter will be about movement and sound.

In social studies the students are learning about immigrants and different cultures. When this unit is over, we will begin learning about goods and services, needs and wants, and saving and spending money.

We have been honored to have a student teacher this semester. Miss Coyle has taught us so much and helped us learn through many hands-on activities. She began her student teaching experience in February and will be done the first week of May. We sure will miss her!

The rest of our school year will be spent working primarily on continuing our reading and math skills. We will also review the skills we have learned so far this year in preparation for 2nd grade! We are SO PROUD of all the accomplishments our students have made this year.

Happy Spring!



## 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!

May 2nd

10-11am

or

2-3pm

\$20 per child/  
per plant



Each paid reservation (by April 30) receives a 20% off one reg price item coupon (one per family)

Oldebankfloral@nvc.net  
605-397-8650

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## **3rd Grade ~ Kristi Anderson & Deb Winburn**

Spring has sprung and though we don't get to spend as much time outside as we'd like, our walls are adorned with bright tulips and Monet water lilies. We are anticipating the Smarter Balanced test next week with: students working more independently, students reading and understanding higher-level reading passages, and students working multi-step math problems in a variety of ways. We feel the students should be well-prepared for the testing. We encourage the third graders that this is the time to "strut their stuff" to show all they have learned.

April is National Poetry Month, so we are studying and writing different types of poems. Each student will complete an "About Me Poetry" poster displaying several types of poems. Students are also working hard to write good paragraphs that include topic sentences, supporting details, and a concluding sentence.

We welcome Jeremy Hildebrant for three weeks as he completes his junior aiding experience.

Science finds us studying the solar system, and social studies has us in Colonial America. Students have been reading a variety of nonfiction passages and finding text evidence to support their answers in both of these subjects.

After a year of hard work, we look forward to our Spring Concert, Field Day, the Health Fair, and our field trip to Bramble Park Zoo in Watertown. We started the year as third graders, and we are leaving as fourth graders! How exciting to see such growth!

## **5th Grade ~ Shelby Hendrickson & Janel Lone**

The year is quickly coming to an end. However, we have many endeavors yet to come before we let out in May.

During the week of April 27th-May 1st, we will be taking the Smarter Balance Test. 5th graders are required to take this test every year. We have been working hard preparing for this and feel the students are ready to go and will do a great job! Even with feeling prepared and ready to go, we will be glad to have it behind us.

We will be returning to our normal schedules and routines. In Math we just finished Geometry. We will now be moving into ratios and probability. In Reading, we will be making posters of different terms we have learned this year, and be teaching it to the 4th graders. In English we are combining sentences to make compound and complex sentences. We have been filling out Science and Social Studies with DARE.

DARE is a great program that teaches the students about making right and wrong choices. This consists of 10 classes. At the end of DARE the kids will get the opportunity to go to the JDC to show them what will happen when they make the wrong choices. At the end of the program they then get to have a DARE graduation, showing that they completed the program.

The year has gone fast and everyone is getting excited for the nice weather and summer break. We are hoping to have nice weather for our field trip to Fort Sisseton on May 13 and the JDC field trip sometime during the last week in May. A few more important dates for the 5th grades are the following: Spring Concert - May 5th at 7:00, Track and Field day -May 8th, DARE graduation - May 15th at 2:00, last day of school - May 19th.

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## **Speech Pathologist~ Mary Hempel & Jennifer Deutsch**

Did you know?

Did you know that delayed speech development is one of the most common symptoms of developmental delay in children? It occurs in 5-10% of all children.

Did you know that there are many factors that contribute to or cause communication disorders or deficits? A hearing loss, illness, injury, and congenital or psychological conditions are just some examples of such contributing factors.

Did you know the impairments that a Speech Language Pathologist can treat voice, fluency, language and articulation disorders?

Did you know that because the structures used for speaking are the same structures used for chewing and swallowing, an SLP can also treat various feeding and swallowing disorders (often referred to as dysphagia)?

### HEARING LOSS

Some information you should know, but might not want to "hear":

As many as three out of 4 children experience otitis media, inflammation of the middle ear, by the time they are three years old.

Ear infections are the most common illnesses in babies and young children.

Noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) is when an individual is exposed to sounds that are too loud for prolonged time periods and, as a result, the delicate inner ear parts are injured. Approximately one third of those Americans with hearing loss can identify 'noise pollution' as one of the contributing factors. Avoid loud noises when possible. If loud noise exposure is inevitable (concerts, lawn mowers, hunting, farm machinery, etc.) then wear protection (ear plugs).

Ear wax is produced by special glands in the skin of the outer ear which helps to protect the ear from outside invaders. Often, a build up of ear wax is caused by the use of cotton swabs or other objects which push the wax deeper into the canal. For the most part, ears are self-cleaning mechanisms. It is best to clean the ears with a wet wash cloth on the outside surface only, and avoid going deeper into the ear canal. Consult with an MD or audiologist if concerns about ear wax or ear infections are present. There are some home ear cleaning remedies available at the pharmacy as well, but again, be sure to consult your doctor first.

"Hear Yee, Hear Yee! The moral of this lesson is, and don't let it be forgotten; use ear plugs to guard against loudness and avoid the swabs made of cotton?"

Created by Megan Miller, Speech Language Pathologist and author of "The Shiny Little White Egg", Orlando, FL

## **Physical Education – Lynette Grieve**

Since the last newsletter, the K, 1st, and 2nd grades spent a couple weeks playing floor hockey. The students really like the competition of the game. We then practiced using the scooters. We had scooter relay races with a variety of ways to sit on and move the scooters.

We are now outside, as we have started going to the track to practice for Track and Field day. We hope the weather will cooperate as we continue to practice. Track and Field Day will be on May 8th. Hope to see you there.



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## **GRASP/OST (Before and After School Program) – Rose Long**

### Recent/Future Activities:

The GRASP program recently participated in activities to celebrate Easter and St. Patricks' Day. We have also been playing games that involve a lot of cooperative play and teamwork and building with the different block sets, which the students absolutely love to do. We have been enjoying the nice weather as a group by playing outside for longer recesses and for the entire afternoon.

Looking ahead, the students will be participating in activities that center around spring and enjoying time outdoors. We will be doing a bulletin board that will represent both Spring and Summer the end of this month.

### GRASP Summer Extension Program:

As we near the end of the school year, we are starting to look ahead to Summer and the GRASP Extension Program. Summer contract letters are being sent out on Thursday, April 23rd if you are interesting in having your children attend our Summer GRASP Program. If you did not receive a letter please contact the school. We are requesting the letters be returned by Friday, May 8th.

### A Farewell Note:

With the end of the school year coming so soon, so is my last day as a part of the Groton Area school district. Family and work opportunities will be taking me to the next chapter in my life. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the parents, families, community members, and the Groton Area School District for allowing me to be a part of their community for the last 2 years as the GRASP Coordinator and a Paraprofessional within the Elementary School. I have really enjoyed having the opportunity to work with the students for the past two years and have enjoyed being a part of the Groton Area School District and the Groton Community. I will definitely miss working with all the staff and students at the Elementary school.



## Celebrating Agriculture's Leadership In Conservation

In South Dakota, agriculture is a tradition and a way of life. As our No. 1 industry, agriculture defines who we are as South Dakotans and the practices that we pass on from generation to generation.

One of those practices is conservation. No one understands the importance of being good stewards of the land better than our farmers and ranchers. Their livelihoods depend on it. Because 80 percent of land in our state is privately owned, conservation efforts employed by farmers and ranchers are integral to the quality of our natural resources.

Each year in conjunction with Earth Day, South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, South Dakota Grassland Coalition and Sand County Foundation bestow the Leopold Conservation Award on a farming or ranching family that demonstrates outstanding land, water and wildlife conservation.

This year's Leopold Conservation Award recipient, Jorgensen Land and Cattle, knows what it means to be a good steward of the land. The Jorgensens' management style on their farm and ranch near Ideal – which consists of 10,000 acres of non-irrigated cropland, 850 head of cattle and a hunting lodge – demonstrates that good conservation practices can benefit the environment and a family's bottom line. They believe the soil is their greatest asset, which is why they have been no-till since 1991. Their decisions are always based on a personal responsibility to care for and improve the land.

I congratulate the Jorgensens on winning this award. I am grateful for their stewardship and for all landowners across South Dakota who treat the environment with such care. Their passion and dedication help ensure our natural resources will be there for generations to come.

## Today in Weather History

April 25, 1994: Lightning from a thunderstorm 4 miles W of Aberdeen struck two houses, causing structural damage and starting a fire which caused further damage to one house. The second house suffered damage only to a surge protector. Total damage was estimated at \$50,000 for both strikes.

April 25, 1996: An intense area of low pressure brought high winds of 30 to 50 mph with isolated gusts to 80 mph to central and north central South Dakota from the morning to the evening of the 25th. The dry April soil was picked up by the high winds, lowering visibilities in blowing dust. Some places experienced dust storm conditions with low visibilities and drifting dust. Many roofs lost shingles due to the high winds. In Eagle Butte, the Vietnam Veterans Center roof was blown off. Other buildings were also damaged across the area, along with some broken windows. Some power poles and lines were downed west of Fort Pierre. Some trees and branches were also downed. Near Isabel, a cattle trailer was tipped over and two calf shelters were destroyed. Also, a twenty foot Conoco sign was blown down near Isabel along with other signs damaged across the area. The dust storm reminded many of the 1930s. Some wind gusts include, 60 mph at Mobridge and Selby, 70 mph at Miller, Pierre, and Murdo, and 80 mph at Isabel and Eagle Butte.

1875 - New York City received three inches of snow, the latest measurable snow of record for that location. (David Ludlum)

1898 - The temperature at Volcano Springs CA hit 118 degrees to establish a U.S. record for the month of April. (The Weather Channel)

1910 - Chicago, IL, was blanketed with 2.5 inches of snow, and a total of 6.5 inches between the 22nd and the 26th. It was the latest significant snow of record for the city. (The Weather Channel)

1920 - Atlanta, GA, received 1.5 inches of snow, and experienced their latest freeze of record with a morning low of 32 degrees. The high of just 39 degrees was only their second daily high colder than 40 degrees in April. (The Weather Channel)

1984 - A late season snowstorm struck the Northern Rockies and the Northern Plains. The storm produced some unusually high snowfall totals. The town of Lead, located in the Black Hills of western South Dakota, was buried under 67 inches of snow. Red Lodge, located in the mountains of southern Montana, reported 72 inches of snow. Up to 60 inches blanketed the mountains of northern Wyoming. It was rated the worst late season storm of record for much of the affected area. (25th-28th) (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Low pressure off the coast of North Carolina produced heavy rain flooding creeks in the foot-hills and the piedmont area, before moving out to sea. The low pressure system also produced wind gusts to 50 mph in Virginia. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Thunderstorms racing at 65 mph produced large hail in Alabama and Georgia. Hail damage in Alabama was estimated at fifty million dollars, making it their worst weather disaster since Hurricane Frederick in 1979. Hail three inches in diameter accompanied a tornado near Valdosta GA. Hail four and a half inches in diameter was reported south of Atlanta GA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced severe weather from North Carolina to Indiana and Ohio, with more than 70 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-2) tornado hit Xenia OH injuring 16 persons and causing more than a million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Texas to Nebraska. Thunderstorms spawned fifteen tornadoes, including a powerful (F-4) tornado near Weatherford TX. Between 3 PM and 8 PM, a storm complex tracking northeastward across central Kansas spawned four tornadoes along a 119-mile path from Ness to Smith Center, with the last tornado on the ground for 55 miles. Del Rio TX was raked with hail two inches in diameter, and wind gusts to 112 mph. Brown County and Commanche County in Texas were deluged with up to 18 inches of rain, and flooding caused more than 65 million dollars damage. Two dozen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 87 degrees at Flint MI and 90 degrees at Alpena MI were records for April. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Chance Showers 30%	Mostly Sunny
High: 58 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 66 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 66 °F



## Cooler, Isolated Showers For Central SD

Follow us on *Social Media*

Issued: April 25, 2015

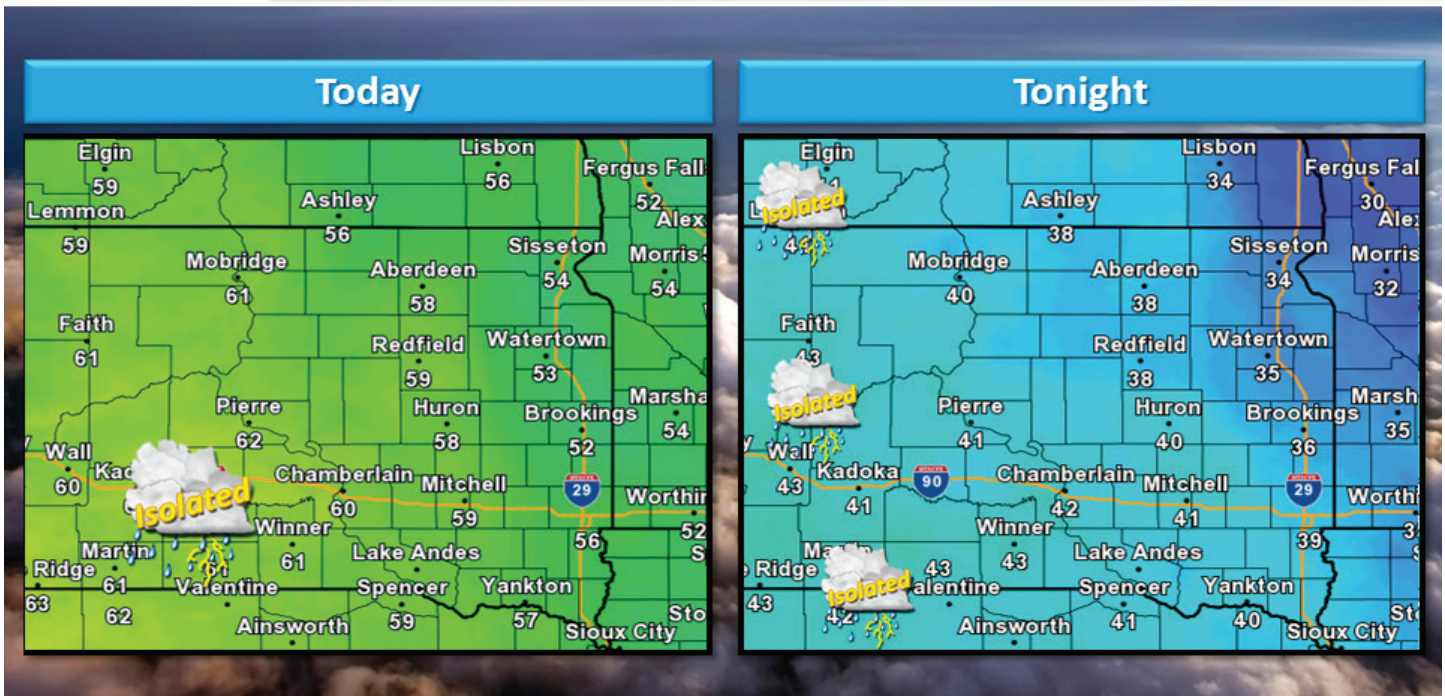
[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 04/25/2015 at 5:02AM

Isolated showers and thunderstorms are possible through the morning hours, mainly for areas south of highway 212. Cloud cover however, will remain abundant over the whole region today, allowing for slightly cooler temperatures. On and off rain showers are possible for parts of central South Dakota through the weekend, whereas northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota should remain dry.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 69.2 at 2:15 PM

**Low:** 45.9 at 6:45 AM

**High Gust:** 31 mph at 1:44 AM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 97° in 1962

**Record Low:** 19° in 1958, 2013

**Average High:** 62°F

**Average Low:** 36°F

**Average Precip in April.:** 1.34

**Precip to date in April.:** 0.47

**Average Precip to date:** 3.52

**Precip Year to Date:** 0.94

**Sunset Tonight:** 8:32 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:30 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Apr 25, 2015, issued 4:48 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Kong based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



## PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

While growing up I remember an advertisement that was very popular: "Clothing makes the man." It's a slogan from the past that has been overcome by ads that are much different. Each time I heard it, I would stop, look at what I was wearing and wonder if it would be a help or a hindrance to what I wanted to accomplish.

Though the slogan is a thing of the past, clothes continue to contribute to the opinions others form about us. And we, also, do the same. More often than not we judge others by their clothing.

"She is clothed with strength and dignity, she can laugh at the days to come," are words that describe the "woman of noble character." How do we identify the garments of "strength and dignity" and is it ever wise to "laugh at the future?"

"Men," God's Word reminds us, "look at what people wear. God looks at the person's heart." Character and values are something that flow from the inside of a person. The essential qualities described here refer to God at work in the lives of those who surrender their lives to Him. Strength comes from His presence within and dignity is the result of being who He wants us to be so we can walk in a "just pride" because we are His very own children.

When we walk in His strength and not our own and when we realize the benefits of being "His child," there is no reason to "fear the days to come." We are in "good hands," His hands and that is what matters most.

**Prayer:** Often, Father, we fail to recognize all that we can have through You. Open our heart to Your greatness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Proverbs 31:25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Flandreau-based egg company on high-alert for bird flu**

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) — A Flandreau-based company that houses approximately one third of all the egg-laying chickens in the state is taking extra precautions as a deadly bird flu continues to spread to turkey and chicken farms throughout the Upper Midwest.

Officials at Dakota Layers tell KELO-TV (<http://bit.ly/1JmMPBv>) that they're taking steps to keep highly contagious avian influenza out of their flock of one million hens.

Vice President Jason Ramsdell says vehicles that come onto the grounds are disinfected and visitors are kept at a minimum. He says employees are instructed to keep a close eye on where they've been and avoid contact with birds outside of work.

Officials say they're putting together a contingency plan to keep up with customer demand in the unfortunate event they get infected.

### **Thune among speakers at Walter Conahan's Sioux Falls funeral**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Sen. John Thune and former U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre are among those who will pay tribute to Walter Conahan at his funeral Saturday in Sioux Falls.

Conahan died April 18 at age 87 and was a senior staff member in the federal government for 25 years, the first executive director of the South Dakota State University Foundation and a three-term South Dakota state senator from Brookings County.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has ordered flags at the Capitol in Pierre to be lowered to half-staff on Saturday. Conahan's funeral starts at 10 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Sioux Falls.

Others paying tribute to Conahan will be his daughter, Christy Green, former SDSU alumni director VJ Smith and retired journalists Randell Beck and Jack Marsh.

### **Wessington Springs getting tree planting help after tornado**

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Wessington Springs is getting some tree planting advice from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture after many of the town's trees were damaged by a tornado last summer.

The department's Resource Conservation and Forestry Division is using a \$10,000 federal grant to fund replanting in the communities that were affected by the June storms.

The division is working with the city to put together a list of trees to plant, determine planting locations and secure volunteers. The city plans to host a tree planting event in the fall that will include planting demonstrations, educational sessions and planting of trees around the community.

The twister that cut through town displaced nearly 80 people. The National Weather Service rated the tornado as an EF-2 and estimated its winds peaked at 127 mph.

### **Lawmakers say VA lied, ignored warnings on hospital cost**

**DAN ELLIOTT, Associated Press**

AURORA, Colo. (AP) — Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet and Rep. Mike Coffman accused the Veterans Affairs Department on Friday of lying and ignoring clear warnings that its new Denver hospital couldn't be built within budget or on schedule.

But they joined other members of Congress from both parties in vowing to complete the medical cen-

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ter and demanded that those responsible for massive cost overruns be punished.

Bennet and Coffman sat in on a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee field hearing in Aurora, not far from the site of the half-finished hospital, which is now expected to cost \$1.73 billion — nearly triple the estimate VA gave last year.

Three members of the committee attended, along with Colorado's two senators who aren't on the committee — Bennet, a Democrat, and Republican Cory Gardner. Two U.S. representatives from Colorado also attended: Coffman, a Republican, and Ed Perlmutter, a Democrat.

Coffman said VA officials repeatedly told the Colorado congressional delegation the hospital could be built for about \$600 million despite a 2013 report by the Government Accountability Office saying it would cost more.

"We had meeting after meeting with the VA when we were lied to. We were lied to. Again and again and again," Coffman said.

VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson, who testified at the hearing, didn't directly respond to Coffman's charges, but in other exchanges, Gibson said most of the key decisions on the project and many of the claims about its cost were made before he joined the department.

Bennet said the VA ignored warnings about the cost from the contractor building the hospital and some of its own employees.

"How is it possible that an institution could be that immune to that level of information, and that arrogant?" Bennet asked Gibson. "That's about a culture of disrespect, a culture that doesn't actually believe in service to our veterans here in Colorado, and a culture that is unwilling to learn from obvious facts," Bennet said.

"That's changed," Gibson said, noting he had met with the Denver hospital builders and was working to pay subcontractors who were owed money on the project.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, the ranking Democrat on the Veterans Committee, pressed Gibson on whether he would support an outside investigation, possibly by the Justice Department — opening the potential for criminal charges.

Gibson said he would.

Gibson also disclosed that he had asked the VA's inspector general to investigate the failures on the Denver project, but he didn't elaborate. In an email to The Associated Press, the inspector general's spokeswoman, Catherine A. Gromek, said only that the matter is under review.

It's the second internal VA investigation into the Denver project. An administrative investigation board has been interviewing witnesses under oath, but the department hasn't released details.

Congress has been pressuring the VA for weeks to find out what went wrong and fire those responsible.

"We're going to hold them accountable," Georgia Republican Sen. Johnny Isakson, the committee chairman, said Friday.

Isakson and Blumenthal criticized the VA's plan to finish the hospital by siphoning \$830 million from a \$5 billion fund Congress set up to improve veterans' access to health care with construction, hiring and efficiency measures.

"Veterans elsewhere cannot be forced to sacrifice just because of the catastrophe here," Blumenthal said after a tour of the construction site Friday morning.

Coffman and Gardner have proposed diverting the VA's multimillion-dollar bonus budget to the Denver project until it is finished.

"This cost has to come out of VA's hide," Coffman said.

Steve Rylant, president of the United Veterans Committee of Colorado, told the panel that canceling



bonuses could drive away medical professionals, but Isakson said the target would be the VA construction officials, not caregivers.

All the senators and representatives present insisted that the hospital should be completed, despite some suggestions that it could be scaled back or even sold.

"I think we have complete agreement that we do need to find the money to complete this project," Bennet said.

After touring the construction site, Isakson said that not finishing the hospital "would be a stupid mistake."

## Lower Brule Sioux leader asks feds to freeze funds to tribe

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The acting chairman of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe has asked the Department of the Interior to suspend transfers of federal funds to the tribe and investigate previous allegations of misdirected federal money.

Kevin Wright said Friday he sent a letter this week making the requests to Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary of Indian Affairs at the Interior Department. Wright said he has been stonewalled trying to access the tribe's finances, which have been subject to allegations of mismanagement.

"Freeze them, and then look into it," Wright told The Associated Press. "We want to know what's going on."

A Department of Interior spokeswoman didn't return requests for comment.

The death three weeks ago of longtime Chairman Michael Jandreau intensified a political battle among members of the tribe loyal to the decades-long administration and a new guard of tribal councilmembers calling for more transparency, including Wright. He cited the tribe's constitution and bylaws when he took over leadership of the government shortly before Jandreau died of heart trouble.

Wright and Jandreau had previously sparred about administrative transparency, and Wright was one of the council members who criticized Jandreau over allegations of financial mismanagement that were outlined by Human Rights Watch in January.

The organization detailed numerous claims against Jandreau and others, accusing them of diverting money and concealing financial activity by withholding government documents from the public.

Jandreau and Marshall Matz, who has been an attorney for the tribe, have vigorously pushed back against those allegations.

"I totally deny any wrongdoing, you know," Jandreau told The Associated Press before his death. "What was done was always advised or done with a tremendous amount of oversight by people of the legal field."

Wright and two allies sit on the tribal council across from two Jandreau loyalists. Wright's declaration at a council meeting earlier this month that he would preside as chairman boiled into a crowd-wide shouting match, and it's unclear how the division will be bridged to form a collaborative government.

"It's frustrating," Wright said. "We're backed into a corner, and I understand that they are too, but it's simply because they've been in power all this time and now the shoe's on the other foot."

Councilman Orville Langdeau, who is also the tribe's secretary and treasurer, and Councilman John McCauley, both Jandreau supporters, didn't immediately return requests for comment.

In the letter to Washburn, Wright describes a "serious situation developing" on the reservation and invites federal officials to investigate the allegations in the Human Rights Watch report, including the

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tribe's purchase of a New York-based brokerage firm called Westrock Advisors Inc. that ultimately went bankrupt.

Human Rights Watch said the "most blatant example" of wrongdoing stems from the tribe's purchase of Westrock.

The report accuses tribal leaders and their business partners of setting up several shell companies and then securing a \$22.5 million federal loan guarantee from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Rather than putting the money toward its stated purpose of economic development, the funds were used to buy Westrock, which went bankrupt two years later, the report said. The guarantee was ultimately sold for about \$20 million to another company, though the tribe hasn't disclosed the status of the loan, the report found.

The Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General said Friday that in February 2013 it started investigating circumstances surrounding the Westrock purchase, and the probe is still open. The office is also mulling whether to investigate allegations from the Human Rights Watch report.

## **Adam Sandler movie sparks debate over American Indian images** **RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — When a group of American Indian actors walked off the set of an Adam Sandler movie this week, their decision generated praise and scorn on social media.

But everyone agreed on one thing: Despite growing awareness, outdated Native American stereotypes in Hollywood remain. And more Native Americans are voicing their opinions.

This week, eight actors quit the production of the satirical Western "The Ridiculous Six" over complaints about offensive names and religious scenes. The actors said they couldn't participate in a movie depicting a Native American woman urinating while smoking a peace pipe.

California writer Megan Red Shirt-Shaw, founder of Natives in America, an online publication for Native American youth, said the walkout generated praise from American Indian advocates because people were tired of the images and now have outlets to express their outrage.

"In the past, Native actors did speak out but they didn't have the technology to share their views widely," Red Shirt-Shaw said. "It's different now."

On social media, activists used the hashtag #NotYourHollywoodIndian to denounce Sandler's project and to thank the actors for their "bravery."

Meanwhile, other Native Americans say more actors and writers are needed in media to battle hurtful images. They argued the actors should have stayed on set.

The Sandler film is set for a Netflix-only release, and the streaming service says it was designed to lampoon stereotypes popularized in Western movies.

A spokesman for Sandler's Manchester, New Hampshire,-based production company, Happy Madison Productions, didn't immediately return a phone message.

In recent years, Native Americans have been more outspoken.

For example, in 2013, some Native Americans were critical of Johnny Depp's portrayal of Tonto in the Disney version adaptation of "The Lone Ranger." Depp spoke in broken English, chanted prayers and wore a stuffed crow on his head. However, after a campaign by the movie to improve its image with Native Americans, Depp was eventually embraced on the Navajo Nation and was later adopted into the Comanche Nation.

A year before, the band No Doubt was forced to apologize and pull the music video "Looking Hot" after lead singer Gwen Stefani was criticized for dancing around teepees and wearing a series of American Indian-styled outfits.

Elise Marubbio, an American Indian Studies professor at Augsburg College, said those stereotypes are part of the nation's mythical West narrative and usually center on images of the Lakota, the last tribe defeated by U.S. government forces.

But often those Lakota characters of the Great Plains are portrayed living in Monument Valley on the Navajo Nation of the American Southwest, Marubbio said.

That portrayal has changed little since the 1930s and seems to give some a justification to disrespectfully use American Indian clothing and practices.

Goldie Tom, a female actor who walked off the Sandler production, said she knew the movie wasn't going to be historically accurate, but she thought it would be tasteful.

"I don't regret my decision to be in the movie," Tom said. "But after this experience, I'm reminded that we still have work to do."

## Investigators examining Lower Brule Sioux financial deal

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General is investigating circumstances surrounding the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe's purchase of a New York-based brokerage firm that ultimately went bankrupt.

An OIG official said Friday the investigation related to the tribe's purchase of Westrock Advisors Inc. began in 2013 and is still open. The office is also mulling whether to investigate allegations from a Human Rights Watch report claiming leaders on the reservation misdirected millions of dollars in federal funding.

Kevin Wright has been acting as chairman since Chairman Michael Jandreau's death on April 3.

Wright says he has asked the Interior Department to freeze transfers of federal funds to the tribe and investigate previous allegations of misdirected federal money.

## Midwest pheasant producers are anxious as bird flu spreads

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Bill MacFarlane has been anxious since a case of a deadly bird flu strain was recently confirmed in domestic poultry just 50 miles from his southern Wisconsin farm, the largest pheasant operation in North America that supplies 1.8 million birds each year to the game bird industry.

"I would say the last 10 days have been probably the most stressful days of my entire life," he said.

MacFarlane and other game bird producers have ramped up disease-prevention measures in an effort to shield their multi-billion-dollar industry from the highly-contagious avian influenza outbreak sweeping the Midwest poultry industry that has led to the death of millions of turkeys and chickens either from the virus or to stop its spread.

It's still not known how susceptible game birds are to the H5N2 strain of avian influenza. The only case of the virus in pheasants so far was in the distant state of Washington, where the flock was euthanized. Game bird producers in the Upper Midwest primarily raise pheasants but also other birds, such as partridge and chucker.

At MacFarlane Farms, feed trucks that come onto the farm have to be sprayed down with disinfectant, employees wear work-only foot gear, booties and coveralls while in barns and pens and visitors are not allowed to enter any production facilities or even to leave their vehicles.

Mike Forsgren, the owner of Forsgren's Pheasant Farm Inc., said he now meets delivery drivers at the end the driveway at his pheasant farm in Pelican Rapids, Minnesota to stop the disease from entering his operation.

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"We're all doing pretty much the same thing: Everything we can," he said.

Game bird farms raise millions of pheasants to stock preserves that are flooded with sportsmen from across the country and world each fall for hunting.

The industry is important, especially in the Plains states from Texas to the Dakotas as hunters fill up hotels and spend money in small communities, said Sam Ballou, the president of the North American Game Bird Association and an Ohio preserve owner himself.

"The real big kicker is all the people traveling to and from the hunting preserve: the lodging, the fuel, the hunting clothing," he said. "It's a pretty big impact."

On pheasant operations, chicks are raised in barns like turkeys and chickens, but older birds grow up in fly pens, which are large netted aviaries where pheasants can fly around. Since the pheasants will one day be released to be hunted, they're raised to have the same characteristics as wild birds.

Ballou said his organization consults with veterinary experts often and gives its members weekly updates with the latest news and prevention tips.

"I'm not going to let my guard down at all and think in any way, shape or form that pheasants aren't susceptible," said MacFarlane, who's worked on the family farm for 36 years and employs 60 full-time workers. "I'm not trying to be negative, I'm just being realistic."

## **Deputies rescue Brookings County woman from burning home**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A Brookings County woman is being treated for smoke inhalation after firefighters rescued her from a burning home Friday morning.

The Brookings Fire Department and County Sheriff's Office responded to the rural home where the 78-year-old woman was trapped inside just before 8:30 a.m.

Deputies broke a window and found the woman unconscious inside the home. The deputies and a firefighter lifted the woman out of the house through the window.

She was taken to the Brookings hospital.

Deputies were also later treated for smoke inhalation and are already released.

The cause of the fire is unknown. The home is a total loss.

## **State to mull dropping 80 mph speed limit west of Rapid City**

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Travelers on a roughly 55-mile stretch of I-90 west of Rapid City to the Wyoming border may not be able to drive the new 80 mph speed limit for much longer under recommendations proposed by the Department of Transportation.

The state Transportation Commission will take public comment during a hearing at the end of May on the proposal, which would drop the speed limit long-term on that portion to 75 mph. Mike Carlson, a Transportation Department engineer for the Rapid City area, said the hilly stretch of interstate is heavily traveled and has curves that aren't conducive to the new speed limit.

The new upper speed on I-90 and I-29 came as a result of a transportation funding package signed last month that aims to raise more than \$80 million in its first year to fix ailing roads and bridges in the state. South Dakota on April 1 began allowing drivers to legally travel at speeds as high as 80 mph. Texas, Utah and Wyoming already allow those speeds and others are considering it.

Transportation Commission member Edward Seljeskog has been a voice of concern during commission meetings, including a gathering Thursday where the public comment hearing was set. Seljeskog told the commission that he's been approached by people who ask, "Hey, why are they mucking around

with this?"

"My concern out here in the west is it isn't just straight ... interstate highway," Seljeskog, who lives in Rapid City, said after the meeting. "It's got a lot of curves in it, a lot of close adjacent property,"

House Majority Leader Brian Gosch, a Republican from Rapid City who was the main backer of the increase in speed limit, said he wasn't familiar with the proposed changes.

"People were driving 80 on that road, and it seems pretty popular," he said. "I think people will probably still drive 80 on that stretch."

But Gosch said he trusts the commission to use its best judgment setting the speed.

Carlson said that portion of I-90 is very heavily traveled and has a high number of accidents involving deer. Carlson said an appropriate speed limit is determined by analyzing a road's horizontal and vertical curves and the width of the road, among other factors.

The flatter, less curvy and wider a road is, the safer a driver feels, he said.

Terry Schmidt, a car mechanic at Interstate Auto & Boat just off I-90 in Blackhawk, South Dakota, said he thinks the speed should drop down to 75 mph because traffic is so heavy on that piece of the highway.

"It's just getting a little bit too fast, I think," he said. "Eighty (mph) on my bike on the interstate is just a little too fast."

The Commission also plans to hear from the public on a proposal to temporarily drop speed limits in the area even further in the summer for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. One part of the proposed changes would be to extend

## Sioux Falls events center surpassing revenue projections

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls has made \$1.1 million in its first six months of operation and is on pace to shatter annual income projections.

Revenue expectations for the first year of operation for the \$117 million events center were in the range of \$1.3 million, City Finance Director Tracy Turbak said.

"Without a doubt, we are in the black, far in the black with this facility," Turbak said. "It's no longer just a projection. It's a reality."

The 12,000-seat events center has seen more than 408,000 people attend 94 events since country singer Jason Aldean christened the venue Oct. 3, 2014. Eleven events have sold out at the facility that hosts music concerts and sporting events including football, basketball, hockey and rodeos.

The Premier Center also generated \$900,000 in sales tax revenue in the first six months.

The strong attendance and financial results are proof that building the facility was the right move for the city, and "let's celebrate," Mayor Mike Huether said.

Fifty-eight percent of the 40,198 people who voted in the November 2011 general election approved using city sales tax money to build the center.

## Iowa St to get \$125,000 for Sioux Falls game

AMES, Iowa (AP) — The Iowa State men's basketball team will be paid \$125,000 to open next season against Colorado in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Sanford Frontiers, the corporation that runs the Pentagon events center, will pay the Cyclones that amount according to a contract released by the school to The Associated Press on Friday.

Iowa State would owe Sanford \$100,000 if it backs out of the game.

The contract did not say how much the Buffaloes will be paid for the Nov. 13 game.

High-profile college basketball games are nothing new to the Pentagon. The 3,200-seat gym has recently hosted Wisconsin, St. John's, Wichita State and Memphis.

## **Car crash in southeast North Dakota injures at least 3 teens**

KULM, N.D. (AP) — At least three teenagers from Kulm were injured in a single-car crash near the southeastern North Dakota town.

The Highway Patrol says the car driven by a 15-year-old girl went out of control on a gravel road in LaMoure County about 4 p.m. Thursday, entered the ditch and struck a tree. The car was traveling about 50 mph at the time.

The driver, a 19-year-old male passenger and a 15-year-old female passenger suffered unspecified injuries. The patrol says injuries to a 13-year-old male passenger and a 15-year-old male passenger were not immediately known.

The injured teens were taken to hospitals in Fargo, Jamestown, and Aberdeen, South Dakota.

## **Nepal quake: Hundreds dead, history crumbles, Everest shaken**

**BINAJ GURUBACHARYA, Associated Press**

**MUNEEZA NAQVI, Associated Press**

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A powerful earthquake struck Nepal Saturday, killing at least 906 people across a swath of four countries as the violently shaking earth collapsed houses, leveled centuries-old temples and triggered avalanches on Mt. Everest. It was the worst tremor to hit the poor South Asian nation in over 80 years.

At least 876 people were confirmed dead in Nepal, according to the police. Another 20 were killed in India, six in Tibet and two in Bangladesh. Two Chinese citizens died at the Nepal-China border. The death toll is almost certain to rise, said deputy Inspector General of Police Komal Singh Bam.

It was a few minutes before noon when the quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 7.8, began to rumble across the densely populated Kathmandu Valley, rippling through the capital Kathmandu and spreading in all directions -- north toward the Himalayas and Tibet, south to the Indo-Gangetic plains, east toward the Brahmaputra delta of Bangladesh and west toward the historical city of Lahore in Pakistan.

Shirish Vaidya, a businessman, was with his family in his two-story house on the outskirts of Kathmandu, when the quake struck.

"It is hard to describe. The house was shaking like crazy. We ran out and it seemed like the road was heaving up and down," he told The Associated Press. "I don't remember anything like this before. Even my parents can't remember anything this bad."

A magnitude-6.6 aftershock hit about an hour later, and smaller aftershocks continued to jolt the region for hours. Residents ran out of homes and buildings in panic. Walls tumbled, trees swayed, power lines came crashing down and large cracks opened up on streets and walls. And clouds of dust began to swirl all around.

"Our village has been almost wiped out. Most of the houses are either buried by landslide or damaged by shaking," said Vim Tamang, a resident of Manglung village near the epicenter. He said half of the village folks are either missing or dead. "All the villagers have gathered in the open area. We don't know what to do. We are feeling helpless," he said when contacted by telephone.

Within hours of the quake, hospitals began to fill up with dozens of injured people. With organized relief largely absent, many of the injured were brought to hospitals by friends and relatives in motorized rickshaws, flatbed trucks and cars.

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In Kathmandu, dozens of people gathered in the parking lot of Norvic International Hospital, where thin mattresses were spread on the ground for patients rushed outside, some wearing hospital pajamas. A woman with a bandage on her head sat in a set of chairs pulled from the hospital waiting room.

Doctors and nurses hooked up some patients to intravenous drips in the parking lot, or gave people oxygen.

As night fell, thousands of scared residents continued to camp out in parks and compounds, too scared to return to their homes. Meteorologists forecast rain and thunderstorms for Saturday night and Sunday.

Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, who was attending a summit in Jakarta, tried to rush back home but made it as far as Bangkok where his connecting flight to Kathmandu was canceled because the capital's international airport was shut down.

While the extent of the damage and the scale of the disaster are yet to be ascertained, the quake will likely put a huge strain on the resources of this poor country best known for Everest, the highest mountain in the world, and its rich Hindu culture. The economy of Nepal, a nation of 27.8 million people, is heavily reliant on tourism, principally trekking and Himalayan mountain climbing.

A mountaineering guide, Ang Tshering, said an avalanche swept the face of Mt. Everest after the earthquake, and government officials said at least 8 climbers were killed and 30 injured. Their nationalities were not immediately known.

Carsten Lillelund Pedersen, a Dane who is climbing the Everest with a Belgian, Jelle Veyt, said on his Facebook page that they were at Khumbu Icefall, a rugged area of collapsed ice and snow close to base camp at altitude 5,000 meters (16,500 feet), when the earthquake hit.

He wrote on his Facebook that they have started to receive the injured, including one person with the most severe injuries who sustained many fractures.

"He was blown away by the avalanche and broke both legs. For the camps closer to where the avalanche hit, our Sherpas believe that a lot of people may have been buried in their tents," he wrote in English. "There is now a steady flow of people fleeing basecamp in hope of more security further down the mountain"

The U.S. Geological Survey put the magnitude of the quake at 7.8. It said the quake hit at 11:56 a.m. local time (0611 GMT) at Lamjung, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) northwest of Kathmandu. Its depth was only 11 kilometers (7 miles), the largest shallow quake since the 8.2 temblor off the coast of Chile on April 1, 2014.

The shallower the quake the more destructive power it carries.

A magnitude 7 quake is capable of widespread and heavy damage while an 8 magnitude quake can cause tremendous damage. This means Saturday's quake — with the same magnitude as the one that hit San Francisco in 1906 — was about 16 times more powerful than the 7.0 quake that devastated Haiti in 2010.

"The shallowness of the source made the ground-shaking at the surface worse than it would have been for a deeper earthquake," said David A. Rothery, professor of planetary geosciences at the Open University in Milton Keynes, north of London.

A major factor in the damage was that many of the buildings were not built to be quake-proof. An earthquake this size in Tokyo or Los Angeles, which have building codes for quake resistance, would not be nearly as devastating.

The power of the tremors brought down several buildings in the center of the capital, the ancient Old Kathmandu, including centuries-old temples and towers.

Among them was the nine-story Dharahara Tower, one of Kathmandu's landmarks built by Nepal's

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royal rulers as a watchtower in the 1800s and a UNESCO-recognized historical monument. It was reduced to rubble and there were reports of people trapped underneath.

Hundreds of people buy tickets on weekends to go up to the viewing platform on the eighth story, but it was not clear how many were up there when the tower collapsed. Video footage showed people digging through the rubble of the tower, looking for survivors.

The Kathmandu Valley is densely populated with nearly 2.5 million people, and the quality of buildings is often poor.

A Swedish woman, Jenny Adhikari, who lives in Nepal, told the Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet that she was riding a bus in the town of Melamchi when the earth began to move.

"A huge stone crashed only about 20 meters (yards) from the bus," she was quoted as saying. "All the houses around me have tumbled down. I think there are lot of people who have died," she told the newspaper by telephone. Melamchi is about 45 kilometers (30 miles) northeast of Kathmandu.

Nepal suffered its worst recorded earthquake in 1934, which measured 8.0 and all but destroyed the cities of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Patan.

The sustained quake also was felt in India's capital of New Delhi and several other Indian cities.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi called a meeting of top government officials to review the damage and disaster preparedness in parts of India that felt strong tremors. The Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Sikkim, which share a border with Nepal, have reported building damage. There have also been reports of damage in the northeastern state of Assam.

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif offered "all possible help" that Nepal may need.

## AP News in Brief

### **74 dead as magnitude-7.9 quake hits Nepal, heavy damage, injuries reported**

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A powerful earthquake struck Nepal Saturday, killing at least 71 people, as the violently shaking earth collapsed houses, leveling centuries-old temples and triggered avalanches in the Himalayas. It was the worst temblor to hit the poor South Asian nation in over 80 years.

The quake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.9 struck before noon and was most severely felt in the capital as well as the densely populated Kathmandu Valley. Aftershocks continued to ripple through the region for hours.

Dozens of people with injuries were being brought to the main hospital in central Kathmandu. The Home Ministry said in a statement that 71 people were killed. It did not give details.

The earthquake also shook several cities across northern India, and was felt as far away as Lahore in Pakistan, Lhasa in Tibet, 550 kilometers (340 miles) east of Kathmandu, and in Bangladesh.

China's state broadcaster said one Chinese tourist was killed at the Nepal-China border. Television reports from Bangladesh said 2 people were killed and about 100 injured

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### **TV report: 2 dead, 100 injured in Bangladesh from earthquake that originated in Nepal**

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A TV report says that two people were killed and more than 100 injured in Bangladesh in an earthquake that originated in Nepal.

Somoy TV station reported that one man was killed in the capital Dhaka and another in the north-western district of Pabna on Saturday when the magnitude-7.9 quake hit Nepal. Its tremors were felt



as far away as India, Tibet, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Somoy said the injuries occurred as people rushed out of homes and shopping malls. It did not give details of the two deaths. Local TV stations and fire services control room aid several buildings were tilted in Dhaka and other towns and cities.

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## **Quake-triggered avalanche sweeps near Everest in Nepal; at least 30 injured**

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A senior mountaineering guide says an avalanche swept the face of Mt. Everest after the massive earthquake, while government officials say at least 30 people have been injured on the mountain.

Ang Tshering of the Nepal Mountaineering Association says that the avalanche apparently occurred between the Khumbu Icefall, a rugged area of collapsed ice and snow, and the base camp where most climbing expeditions have their main camps.

While details are unclear with communications limited to the Everest region, Tshering says the avalanche did not appear to have hit the base camp itself.

Nepal's Home Ministry, meanwhile, says 30 people have been injured on the mountain, though it was not clear where those injuries have taken place.

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Key facts about Nepal, site of magnitude-7.9 quake

Key facts about Nepal, where an earthquake magnitude-7.9 hit Saturday:

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### **GEOGRAPHY:**

Straddles the Himalayas between northern India and China and is home to Mt. Everest, the world's tallest mountain. It rises steeply from the Ganges River Basin in India and contains high fertile valleys and eight of the world's 14 highest peaks.

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## **Thousands honor fallen soldiers 100 years after dawn landings of WWI Gallipoli campaign**

GALLIPOLI, Turkey (AP) — As dawn broke, families of soldiers, leaders and visitors gathered near former battlefields, honoring thousands of Australians and New Zealanders who fought in the Gallipoli campaign of World War I on the 100th anniversary of the ill-fated British-led invasion.

Britain's Prince Charles and the prime ministers of Australia and New Zealand spoke of the soldiers' heroism on Saturday, in an emotional early ceremony marking exactly 100 years since the dawn landings by Australian, New Zealand and other Allied troops on this peninsula.

"For so many, the rising sun that day would be their last," Australia's Chief of Defense, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, told the crowd of thousands gathered at Anzac Cove near the landing site.

The landings at Gallipoli marked the start of a fierce battle that lasted for eight months. Around 44,000 Allied troops and 86,000 Ottoman soldiers died. Australians and New Zealanders mark the anniversary of the landings every year as important national days of remembrance.

Many of the attendees, who made the long pilgrimage from the southern hemisphere, had slept at the commemoration site in sleeping bags. Most had won the coveted tickets in national lotteries.

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## **Bruce Jenner comes out as transgender, says 'for all intents and purposes, I am a woman'**

NEW YORK (AP) — In the 1970s, Bruce Jenner was a symbol of American masculinity as an Olympic champion. Nearly 40 years later, in an extraordinary television interview, Jenner told the world that he identifies as a woman and has felt gender confusion since he was a little boy growing up in the New York suburbs.

Jenner let his hair down — literally loosening a ponytail and letting his hair flow past his shoulders — in a symbolic moment at the start of his two-hour interview with ABC News' Diane Sawyer that was televised Friday. "Yes, for all intents and purposes, I am a woman."

For the transgender community, it was a moment as significant as Ellen DeGeneres' coming out as a lesbian was for gays nearly 20 years ago. DeGeneres tweeted support to Jenner, saying the former Olympian was "saving lives and opening minds."

"My whole life has been getting me ready for this," said Jenner, 65, known to a younger generation as the patriarch of television's omnipresent Kardashian clan. "It's not just the last few years as they've been treating me as a joke."

The interview was filmed in February in Los Angeles and New York, before a fatal car accident in which Jenner was involved.

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## **Starbucks: Computer outage fixed that disrupted sales in US, Canada; stores to reopen Saturday**

SEATTLE (AP) — A computer outage hit thousands of Starbucks stores, and some gave away free drinks before many closed early to the dismay of caffeine-craving patrons.

The company said the outage was resolved Friday night after several hours. It affected registers at 7,000 company-operated stores in the U.S. and 1,000 in Canada.

"All Starbucks stores in the U.S. and Canada are expected to open for business as usual on Saturday," the company said in a statement late Friday night. "We apologize to our customers for this inconvenience."

The problem began in the early evening Friday on the East Coast and in the late afternoon on the West Coast.

Stores that had not already closed for the evening were closed early, the company said.

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## **After years of Israeli ban, Palestinian police now deployed into lawless Jerusalem suburbs**

ABU DIS, West Bank (AP) — After years of Israeli objections, armed Palestinian police in dark blue uniforms have taken up positions in this lawless West Bank suburb of Jerusalem, highlighting the shared interests of Israel and the Palestinian self-rule government on day-to-day issues even when political tensions run high.

The officers hope to catch scores of fugitive criminals and break up a rampant trade in drugs and stolen cars in three Arab areas on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The criminal activity, some in Arab-Jewish partnerships, routinely spills over into Israel, with most cars stolen there and some drugs sold in Jewish neighborhoods of Jerusalem.

"Crime has no color," said Adnan Damiri, a spokesman of the Palestinian security forces. "It can harm

us and them.”

The long-running absence of regular law enforcement in Abu Dis and other Arab suburbs of Jerusalem is linked to the turbulent history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

As part of interim peace agreements reached in the 1990s, the West Bank was carved up into a patchwork of jurisdictions. Israel maintained overall control over the territory it captured in 1967, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. But a Palestinian self-rule government took over 38 percent of the territory.

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## **Protesters plan to ‘shut down’ Baltimore as questions remain unanswered about Freddie Gray**

BALTIMORE (AP) — Protesters who’ve been holding near-daily demonstrations this week over the death of Freddie Gray are promising their biggest march yet a day after the Baltimore Police Department acknowledged that it failed to get him the medical attention he needed after his arrest.

Protesters vowed to “shut down” the city by marching through the streets and snarling traffic. The president of a black lawyers’ group predicted thousands of people would turn out for the demonstration, when good weather is forecast and the Baltimore Orioles host the Boston Red Sox.

“Things will change on Saturday, and the struggle will be amplified,” said Malik Shabazz of Black Lawyers for Justice. “It cannot be business as usual with that man’s spine broken, with his back broken, with no justice on the scene.”

Shabazz has demanded the arrest of six officers involved in the arrest of Gray, who died Sunday a week after suffering a spinal injury while in police custody.

The officers are suspended with pay and under criminal investigation by their own department. The U.S. Justice Department is reviewing the case for any civil rights violations, and Gray’s family is conducting their own probe.

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## **As baseball searches for more offense, some teams try ‘neuroscouting’ to help train hitters**

CHICAGO (AP) — Baseball’s most compelling video game is not offered in any store. Exactly how many people are playing is unclear. When it comes to the sticker price, no one wants to talk about it.

With runs at a premium in the major leagues, a handful of teams are trying to help their young hitters with a high-tech program known as neuroscouting. The details are being treated as a state secret by three clubs believed to be using the product — the Cubs, Red Sox and Rays. But it involves helping players with pitch recognition in an era when 95 mph fastballs, big curveballs and wicked sliders are more prevalent than ever.

“It’s on a laptop. What the producers made was they took I think the pitchers from major league baseball in 2014 and programmed every pitch they had thrown,” said Stephen Bruno, a Double-A infielder in the Cubs’ organization. “There’s a series of games — reaction time, recognizing pitches, laying off the curveball, hitting the fastball. And all those pitches that are thrown are replicas of pitches thrown in 2014 by major league pitchers.”

Cubs general manager Jed Hoyer declined comment when asked about neuroscouting during spring training. The Red Sox said GM Ben Cherington did not want to comment on the topic. Matt Silverman, the president of baseball operations for Tampa Bay, did not respond to a message from The Associated Press.

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"Intuitively, it would make sense that this would be a helpful tool," Cherington told The Wall Street Journal last year, "but I just don't know if anyone yet can prove that it's predictive. The hope is maybe it can be."

## Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, April 25, the 115th day of 2015. There are 250 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlights in History:

On April 25, 1945, during World War II, U.S. and Soviet forces linked up on the Elbe (EL'-beh) River, a meeting that dramatized the collapse of Nazi Germany's defenses. Delegates from some 50 countries gathered in San Francisco to organize the United Nations.

### On this date:

In 1507, a world map produced by German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller contained the first recorded use of the term "America," in honor of Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci (vehs-POO'-chee).

In 1792, highwayman Nicolas Jacques Pelletier became the first person under French law to be executed by the guillotine.

In 1862, during the Civil War, a Union fleet commanded by Flag Officer David G. Farragut captured the city of New Orleans.

In 1901, New York Gov. Benjamin Barker Odell Jr. signed an automobile registration bill which imposed a 15 mph speed limit on highways.

In 1915, during World War I, Allied soldiers invaded the Gallipoli (guh-LIHP'-uh-lee) Peninsula in an unsuccessful attempt to take the Ottoman Empire out of the war.

In 1944, the United Negro College Fund was founded.

In 1959, the St. Lawrence Seaway opened to shipping.

In 1964, vandals sawed off the head of the "Little Mermaid" statue in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In 1974, the "Carnation Revolution" took place in Portugal as a bloodless military coup toppled the Estado Novo regime.

In 1983, 10-year-old Samantha Smith of Manchester, Maine, received a reply from Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov to a letter she'd written expressing concern about possible nuclear war; Andropov reassured Samantha that the Soviet Union did not want war, and he invited her to visit his country, a trip Samantha made in July.

In 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope was deployed in orbit from the space shuttle Discovery. (It was discovered that the telescope's primary mirror was flawed, requiring the installation of corrective components to achieve optimal focus.) Violeta Barrios de Chamorro was inaugurated as president of Nicaragua, ending eleven years of leftist Sandinista rule.

In 1995, show business legend Ginger Rogers died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 83.

**Ten years ago:** At his Texas ranch, President George W. Bush prodded Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah to help curb skyrocketing oil prices. The CIA's top weapons hunter in Iraq, Charles Duelfer (DEHL'-fur), said in an addendum to his final report that his search for weapons of mass destruction had been "exhausted" without finding any. A packed commuter train jumped the tracks and hurtled into an apartment complex in western Japan, killing 107 people. A space capsule carrying a U.S.-Russian-Italian crew landed safely in northern Kazakhstan.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama made a pilgrimage to Billy Graham's mountainside home, concluding his North Carolina vacation with his first meeting with the ailing evangelist who had counseled commanders in chief since Dwight Eisenhower. An al-Qaida front group in Iraq confirmed the

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deaths of its two top leaders a week after a raid by Iraqi and U.S. security forces on the leaders' safe house near Tikrit (tih-KREET'), north of Baghdad. British writer Alan Sillitoe, 82, died in London.

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama, in a joint news conference in Seoul alongside South Korean President Park Geun-hye (goon-hay), said the U.S. stood "shoulder to shoulder" with its ally in refusing to accept a nuclearized North Korea. The United States and other nations in the Group of Seven said they'd agreed to "move swiftly" to impose additional economic sanctions on Russia in response to its actions in Ukraine. In a historic vote, Northwestern University football players cast secret ballots on whether to form the nation's first union for college athletes. (The results of the closely watched vote have yet to be released.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Al Pacino is 75. Ballroom dance judge Len Goodman (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 71. Rock musician Stu Cook (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 70. Singer Bjorn Ulvaeus (BYORN ul-VAY'-us) (ABBA) is 70. Actress Talia Shire is 70. Actor Jeffrey DeMunn is 68. Rock musician Steve Ferrone (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 65. Country singer-songwriter Rob Crosby is 61. Actor Hank Azaria is 51. Rock singer Andy Bell (Erasure) is 51. Rock musician Eric Avery is 50. Country musician Rory Feek (Joey + Rory) is 50. TV personality Jane Clayson is 48. Actress Renee Zellweger is 46. Actress Gina Torres is 46. Actor Jason Lee is 45. Actor Jason Wiles is 45. Actress Emily Bergl is 40. Actor Jonathan Angel is 38. Actress Marguerite Moreau is 38. Singer Jacob Underwood is 35. Actress Melonie Diaz is 31. Actress Sara Paxton is 27. Actress Allisyn Ashley Arm is 19.

**Thought for Today:** "It's the friends you can call up at 4 a.m. that matter." - Marlene Dietrich, German-American actress (1901-1992).