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Wednesday, April 29

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken quesadilla, green beans, carrots, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, baked potato with sour cream, green beans, cake, whole wheat bread.

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

Thursday, April 30

Birthdays: Heather Feser, Logan Lane

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

School Lunch: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit, tea bun.

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, rice/chow mein noodles, broccoli, bread sticks, sour cream apple pie square.

10:00 a.m.: Girls golf meet at Redfield

3:30 p.m.: JH Track meet in Groton

7:00 p.m.: FCCLA Style Show

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 **Closed**

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.

Mark Malmberg, DDS

19 North 6th St.

Oakes, N.D.

701-742-3401



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Classifieds

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.

JOIN THE CONTEST!!!!

WHO WILL BE THE 1st PERSON TO GO DOWN THE NEW SWIMMING POOL SLIDE IN GROTON??

For a donation of at least \$10 to the swimming pool slide you can nominate your friend, your child, your brother, your boss, your co-worker, or anyone (must be 48 inches tall) for the honor of being the first person to go down the slide. Send the name and \$10 donation to Groton City Hall at PO Box 587, 209 N Main St, Groton, SD 57445

Donations to the slide can be made under each person's name as votes. \$1 equals 1 vote. Votes can be cast for any candidate until May 20 when the winner will be announced.

Each week the leading vote getters will be posted.



Milbrandt honored during Scholar of the Year Banquet



Jacob Milbrandt

WATERTOWN — Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota honored some of the area's most impressive high school seniors Saturday, April 25, during the annual Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year banquet and recognition on the campus of Lake Area Technical Institute.

The event honored the 36 high school students who were chosen each week throughout the school year as the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week. It's a program which recognizes students for academic achievement, co-curricular involvement and community service. The students are featured in weekly segments which air on KSFY Television and each student receives a \$100 scholarship from their local Touchstone Energy Cooperative for being chosen as the Scholar of the Week.

Jacob Milbrandt, a senior at Groton Area High School, was selected during the week of Jan. 18-Jan. 24, 2014, as the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week. Milbrandt, who plans to attend the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in the fall, received a \$100 scholarship from Northern Electric Cooperative, a

local Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

Lake Area Technical Institute's President Michael Cartney was the keynote speaker for the Scholar of the Year banquet. KSFY News anchor Brian Allen served as the master of ceremonies.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota provide safe and reliable electricity to more than 113,000 homes and businesses. The cooperatives have sponsored the Scholar of the Week program since

2002. In that time Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have awarded over \$70,000 in scholarships as part of the Scholar of the Week program.



Yes! You Can Celebrate!


Effective May 1, 2015

Groton City Garbage pickup service will return to curbside on ALL streets.

Thank you for your cooperation the last 2 months by hauling your garbage to our truck routes.

Groton Street Department

Celebrate Arbor Day



Plant A Tree

Whereas, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

Now, Therefore, I, Scott Danko, Mayor of the City of Groton, do hereby proclaim Friday - April 24, 2015 as

Arbor Day

In the City of Groton, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Dated this April 24 day of 2015
Mayor Scott Danko

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Colestock ties for second at Milbank

Maddie Colestock tied for second at the Milbank Poet Invitational Golf Meet held April 23. She shot a 92 on the day. The winner, Samantha Langford of Madison shot an 83.

Kasey Waage shot a 106, Payton Colestock a 133 and Ashley Flihs a 149.

Colestock wins Groton meet

Maddie Colestock shot an 87 to win the Groton Invitational Golf Tournament held April 27 at the Olive Grove Golf Course. Kasey Waage placed eighth with a 99, Payton Colestock shot a 112 and Ashley Flihs a 122.

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



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

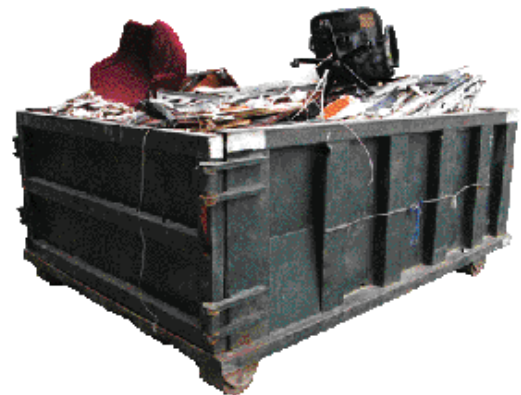


Each paid reservation (by April 30) receives a 20% off one reg price item coupon (one per family)

Oldebankfloral@nvc.net
605-397-8650

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

Today in Weather History

1905 - The town of Taylor, in southeastern Texas, was deluged with 2.4 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. (The Weather Channel)

1910 - The temperature at Kansas City, MO, soared to 95 degrees to establish a record for the month of April. Four days earlier the afternoon high in Kansas City was 44 degrees, following a record cold morning low of 34 degrees. (The Weather Channel) (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1963 - A tornado, as much as 100 yards in width, touched down south of Shannon, MS. The tornado destroyed twenty-seven homes along its eighteen mile path, killing three persons. Asphalt was torn from Highway 45 and thrown hundreds of yards away. Little rain or snow accompanied the tornado, so it was visible for miles. (The Weather Channel)

1973 - The Mississippi River reached a crest of 43.4 feet, breaking the previous record of 42 feet established in 1785. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm off the southeast coast of Massachusetts blanketed southern New England with heavy snow. Totals of three inches at Boston MA, 11 inches at Milton MA, and 17 inches at Worcester MA, were records for so late in the season. Princeton MA was buried under 25 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


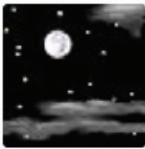





1988 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and high winds in central Texas. Baseball size hail was reported at Nixon, and wind gusts to 70 mph were reported at Cotulla. Heavy rain in Maine caused flooding along the Pemigewasset and Ammonoosuc Rivers. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Arkansas, Louisiana and eastern Texas, with more than 70 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Softball size hail was reported at Palestine TX. Hail as large as tennis balls caused ten million dollars damage around Pine Bluff AR. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

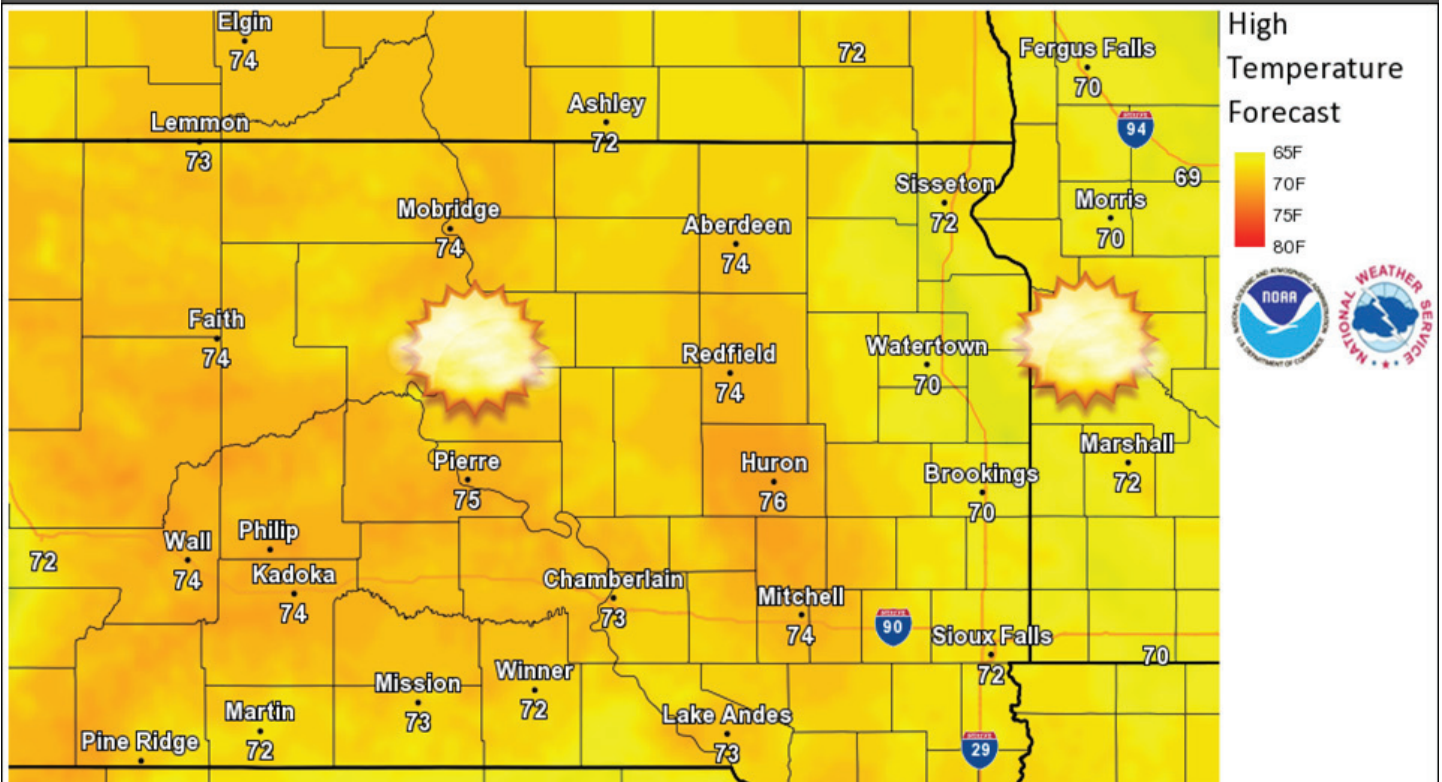
1990 - A storm system crossing northern New Mexico blanketed parts of the Rocky Mountain Region and the Northern High Plains with heavy snow, and produced blizzard conditions in central Montana. Much of southern Colorado was buried under one to three feet of snow. Pueblo tied an April record with 16.8 inches of snow in 24 hours. Strong canyon winds in New Mexico, enhanced by local showers, gusted to 65 mph at Albuquerque. Afternoon temperatures across the Great Plains Region ranged from the 20s in North Dakota to 107 degrees at Laredo TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Breezy	Chance Showers	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 75 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 79 °F

Sunny and Mild Today



Valid ending Wednesday April 29th, 2015 at 7 PM CDT

Created Wednesday April 29th, 2015 at 5:14 AM CDT



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 04/29/2015 at 5:19AM

Quiet conditions can be expected over the area today, with sunny skies and mild temperatures in the 70s. As high pressure moves east today, southeast winds will develop over the region, becoming breezy over western and central South Dakota. Warmer and windier conditions are in store for Thursday, with chances for precipitation entering the forecast for Thursday night as a cold front passes through the area.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 66.7 at 5:51 PM

Low: 43.8 at 7:03 AM

High Gust: 19 at 3:02 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1934

Record Low: 16° in 1966

Average High: 64°F

Average Low: 38°F

Average Precip in April.: 1.68

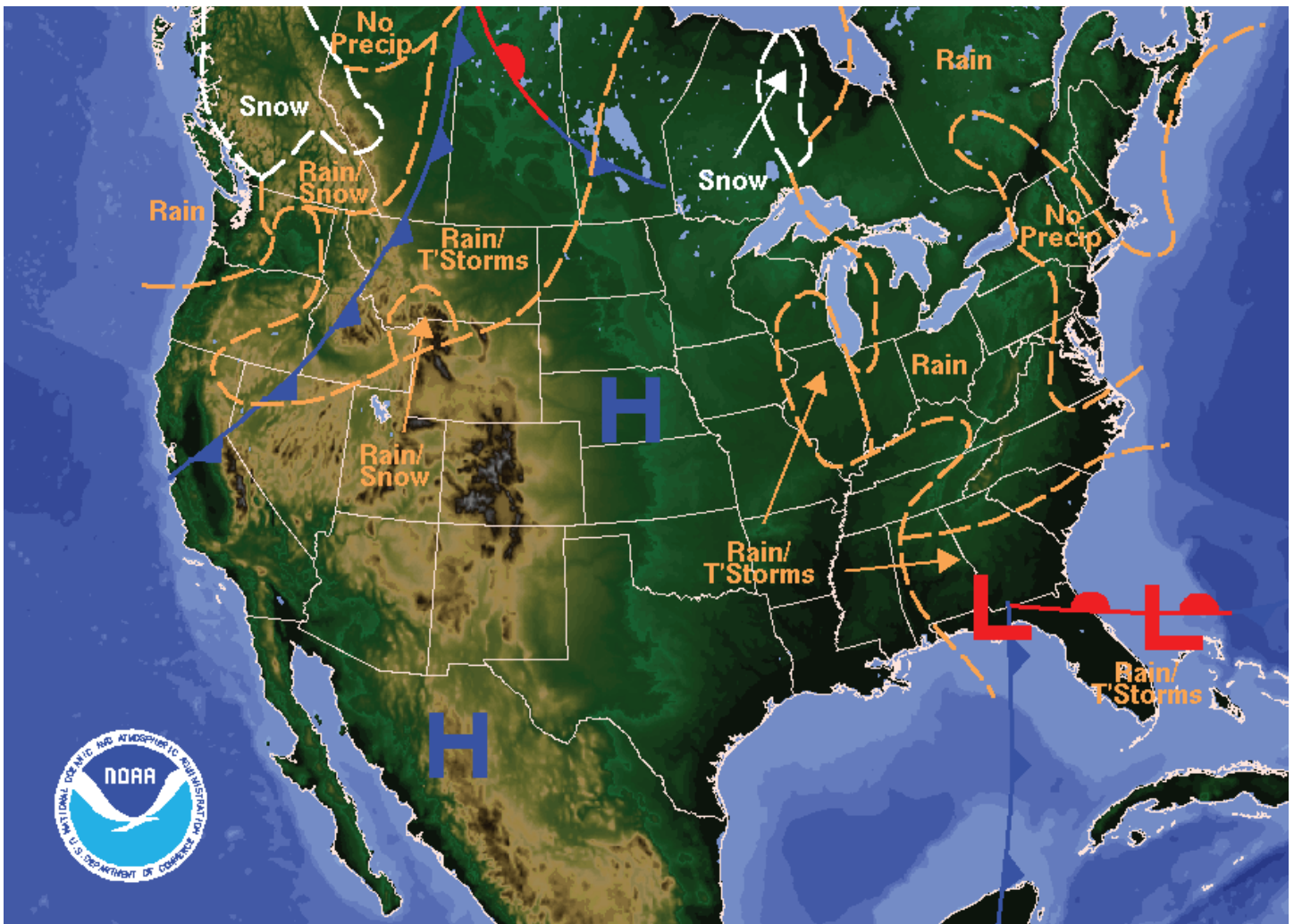
Precip to date in April.: 0.47

Average Precip to date: 3.86

Precip Year to Date: 0.94

Sunset Tonight: 8:38 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:24 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Apr 29, 2015, issued 3:10 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



FOR WANT OF PRAISE

One important responsibility that many husbands seem to neglect is giving praise to their wives. Their comments made to others are often critical, unkind, unnecessary and unbecoming. In fact, much to my disappointment, I have listened while some husbands have made ugly statements about their wives to other men and even to large groups.

The disgust of degrading one's wife is not whether or not the statements have any degree of truth in them, but what right does a husband have to criticize her publicly? What has he done to diminish the beauty and elegance of the bride he chose to marry? Has he been supportive and demonstrated sacrificial love? Where has the "love of his life" gone? And what did he do to "injure" the person he "could not live without?" How God must grieve when such behavior occurs.

"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all," would be encouraging words to any wife. Set aside false measures of attainment for a moment and overlook flaws and faults. Kind words and "husbandly help" and support can solve most problems in a relationship. Too often wives do their very best only to be criticized and condemned and not offered help.

In my many years as a pastor and family counselor, a common denominator in failed relationships was criticism and condemnation. It did not matter what the root causes were, one or the other would seize on a symptom and enlarge it beyond any possibility of resolution and the result led to disaster. How sad!

Consider the rewards of praise. We all need it. We all want it. The demands of managing a home and raising children are often dumped on the wife and when expectations are unmet, criticism begins, praise ends and families unravel unnecessarily.

Prayer: Lord, enable husbands to search for ways to praise their "helpmates" and not hurt or harm them by wicked words. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 31:29 "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

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News from the  Associated Press

Inmate reported missing last year now back in custody

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Corrections says an inmate reported missing last year is back in custody.

Authorities say Bridget Franzen went missing after failing to report to a work release job site in Pierre in August.

The department says she turned herself in to the Pennington County Sheriff's Office on Tuesday.

She's currently serving a 5-year sentence for possession of a controlled substance out of Pennington County.

SD's environment focus of Historical Society conference

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State Historical Society's annual history conference May 29-30 in Pierre will focus on the state's environment.

The moderator will be David Wolff, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Black Hills State University in Spearfish. His research focuses on natural resources and Black Hills history.

Speakers on May 29 will discuss natural resources conservation, the homesteading era, the environmental impact of Black Hills mining, and the history and preservation of Good Earth State Park at Blood Run National Historic Landmark near Sioux Falls.

Topics for May 30 will include environmental and American Indian history, shoreline protection and habitat restoration, land management and cultural resource conservation.

The conference will conclude with field sessions to the Buffalo Interpretive Center, Farm Island and the Oahe Dam.

Witness says Jamaican lottery fraud scammers threatened her

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A retired school teacher from Florida said Tuesday that she lost most of a \$100,000 inheritance in a Jamaican lottery fraud and was threatened by scammers who never produced her prize of \$1 million and a Mercedes.

Lois Bronson, 84, of Hallandale, Florida, testified in the trial of Sanjay Williams, 25, of Montego Bay, Jamaica, who's accused of buying and selling lists of potential victims in a scheme that allegedly bilked dozens of mostly elderly people out of retirement money. Williams, who has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy, wire fraud and money laundering, is the first person to go to trial.

The federal trial is being held in North Dakota because the first victim identified in the case is Edna Schmeets, an 86-year-old widow from Harvey. Schmeets on Monday quietly recounted how she drained her savings account to pay the scammers, who authorities say asked victims for more and more checks or wire transfers to cover taxes and fees for purported winnings.

On Tuesday, an animated Bronson testified that she spent all but \$10,000 of the money her 104-year mother left her when she died before dipping into her retirement savings.

She also recalled becoming "very worried and agitated" when one of the callers threatened her.

"One of them said, 'I know exactly where you live,'" she testified. "I said, 'I'm not liking this conversation at all.'"

Prosecutors displayed a photo of Bronson sitting on her couch next to a stack of dozens of Money-

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Gram and Western Union receipts from her wire transfers. She testified that at one point she went to the bank and withdrew \$10,000 in \$100 bills she then stuffed into an envelope, placed into a brown bag with a snap on it and delivered personally to Shannon O'Connor at a Florida strip mall. O'Connor has pleaded guilty in the case.

Bronson reeled off the names of several people she talked with over the course of the scam and said she never heard of Sanjay Williams. She added that none of the people she talked with had Jamaican accents.

Most of Tuesday's testimony involved FBI Special Agent Frank Gasper, who described how Williams built lists of potential victims, mostly elderly and vulnerable people, and sold them on websites with numerous domain names. The most valuable names, Gasper said, were the people who participated in sweepstakes or coupon offers. The going rate was \$5.50 per name that was attached to a credit card or checking account, and \$4.50 per name with no monetary information.

Stock is scheduled to cross-examine Gasper on Wednesday.

Williams verbally lashed out at Stock on a couple of occasions: when the lawyer failed to object to evidence and again when he told Stock, "Stop. Hold on. Hold on. You can't say that." After dismissing the jury for lunch, Hovland told Williams that jurors were watching him intently and that he should either whisper to Stock or jot down his thoughts.

"If you react and start speaking loudly, that doesn't bode well for you," Hovland said.

Thune, Rounds ask USDA to help bird flu-affected producers

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds are calling on federal agriculture officials to help South Dakota producers whose farms have been affected by a deadly strain of bird flu.

Thune and Rounds on Tuesday wrote a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture Tom Vilsack requesting assistance to contain the H5N2 bird flu virus affecting poultry farms.

The virus has cost Midwestern turkey and chicken producers over 13 million birds since early March. More than 300,000 turkeys have been destroyed in South Dakota because of the virus.

The senators also are asking the Agriculture Department to not interrupt turkey product exports. They say the state's agriculture depends heavily on exports and the loss or reduction of turkey product exports to markets outside the U.S. would be highly detrimental to that industry in South Dakota.

A few countries, including China, Russia and Thailand, have shut off all imports of poultry products from the U.S.

Obama administration names 2nd group of 'Promise Zones'

DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration on Tuesday announced its second round of "Promise Zones," singling out eight economically struggling communities for special government attention as they work together to reduce poverty and crime, increase economic and educational opportunities and attract private investment.

The six cities, one rural area and one tribal community named by Housing Secretary Julian Castro and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack are:

- Camden, New Jersey
- Hartford, Connecticut
- Indianapolis
- Minneapolis

—Sacramento, California

—St. Louis and St. Louis County, Missouri

—Pine Ridge Indian Reservation of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, South Dakota

—South Carolina Low Country

"From my time as mayor to my tenure as secretary, I've seen firsthand how a Promise Zone designation can spark progress and possibilities in underserved neighborhoods," Castro said. "A ZIP code should never limit the hopes that folks have for themselves or for their children."

San Antonio, the city Castro led as mayor before he joined Obama administration, was among the first five Promise Zones that Obama announced last year.

Seven zones are still to be named, for a total of 20 over a three-year period.

Besides San Antonio, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, southeastern Kentucky and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma were among the first five zones named.

Under the program, communities designated as zones receive preferential treatment when applying for federal grants, benefit from more coordinated government assistance and would be singled out for possible congressionally approved tax incentives.

The federal government and local leaders in these communities work together to increase economic activity and educational opportunities, attract private investment, reduce violent crime, improve public health and address any other priorities that the communities identify.

HUD secretary announces 8 new Promise Zone designations

JIM SALTER, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Six metropolitan areas, one rural region and one tribal community have been designated as Promise Zones under an Obama administration program that seeks to revitalize high-poverty communities.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro announced the new Promise Zone designations Tuesday after touring a job-training center in St. Louis, one of the eight new participants in the program that began last year. The program seeks to increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, improve health and reduce violent crime.

The other new Promise Zones are Camden, New Jersey; Hartford, Connecticut; Indianapolis; Minneapolis; Sacramento, California; the Low Country of South Carolina; and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota.

The designation does not include any direct federal money but gives impoverished areas of the communities a leg up in obtaining federal assistance. U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay, a St. Louis Democrat, said the Promise Zone "means that our region will receive preferential access for grant applications, technical assistance and other help from 12 different federal agencies who administer 35 different programs."

Castro said administration officials will be monitoring to see if the program works in the designated communities.

"We're getting better in public service about measuring outcomes," Castro said. "So we're not just looking at the inputs. We want to see, at the end of the day, what is the outcome that you're getting through the expenditure of resource."

The first Promise Zone designations, announced last year, were San Antonio, Texas; Los Angeles; Philadelphia; Southeastern Kentucky Highlands; and Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The St. Louis Promise Zone includes mostly-black areas of St. Louis city and county, where unemployment is high, violent crime is high, and schools are troubled by low performance. The area includes

part of Ferguson, where racial disparities were highlighted in the unrest following last summer's fatal shooting of Michael Brown, a black 18-year-old, by a white police officer.

The eight new Promise Zone designations were selected from 123 applications.

Hoeven: NRCS to change relationship with conservation groups

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The federal government's Natural Resources Conservation Service has agreed to formally restrict the duties of workers aligned with conservation groups and enable farm groups to also make a bid for those positions, U.S. Sen. John Hoeven announced Tuesday.

The agreement that the North Dakota Republican helped broker is in response to a dispute involving the North Dakota Grain Growers Association, which represents wheat and barley farmers, and Ducks Unlimited, a nonprofit that works to boost wetlands and waterfowl, benefiting hunters.

Grain Growers Executive Director Dan Wogsland last fall criticized NRCS for using Ducks Unlimited personnel, saying the relationship might give the waterfowl group undue influence over decisions affecting private land and hurt farmers financially. NRCS and Ducks Unlimited both rejected that notion and said the public-private working relationship aids the government, landowners and taxpayers.

Ducks Unlimited provides three biologists to help NRCS with conservation programs, though one of the positions currently is vacant. The positions are funded by Ducks Unlimited, the NRCS and the state Game and Fish Department. The length of service for the positions varies, according to NRCS State Conservationist Mary Podoll.

NRCS contracts made with conservation groups from now on will ensure that those workers help only with program enrollment and technical assistance and not on issues dealing with program funding and compliance, Hoeven said.

"This needs to work for both farmers and sportsmen," he said.

The amended contracts aren't really a change because they simply make official what was already in practice, said Podoll and Johann Walker, Ducks Unlimited's director of conservation programs for the Dakotas and Montana.

"Those (Ducks Unlimited) biologist positions never participated in compliance decisions, and never participated in funding decisions," Walker said. "However, some folks in the agriculture community came and made us aware that there was a possible perception among private landowners of a conflict of interest."

Wogsland called the change "a good first step."

"We still think that those Ducks Unlimited personnel in those (NRCS) offices is a direct conflict of interest, and they should be gone," he said.

Judge in Indian child welfare case asks court to reconsider

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota state judge and other defendants have filed motions requesting a federal judge reconsider his ruling in which he found state officials in Rapid City set policies that violate the federal Indian Child Act Welfare Act.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken issued the opinion on a lawsuit last month that was brought by the Oglala Sioux and Rosebud Sioux tribes and three Native American parents.

Viken wrote that state Judge Jeff Davis and other defendants have failed to protect American Indian parents' fundamental rights at preliminary 48-hour custody hearings. Some of the violations Viken cited included not allowing parents to testify and not allowing them a court-appointed lawyer.

Davis and other defendants raised factual and legal challenges in their motions to reconsider that they filed this week.

Hearing for polygamist group's water request delayed again

PRINGLE, S.D. (AP) — A hearing to address concerns over a religious group's request to double the amount of water it can use at its remote Black Hills compound will not happen next month.

The state Water Management Board was expected to discuss the request from the United Order of South Dakota at its May meeting. Kim Smith with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources says the group is still seeking legal representation.

Seth Jeffs, the brother of imprisoned polygamous sect leader Warren Jeffs, says the group needs to draw more water from the Madison aquifer for its orchards, gardens and animals.

Several area landowners and two federal agencies are petitioning the state to deny or alter the group's request.

The Rapid City Journal reports the hearing is postponed until at least July.

Thune bill aimed at prescribed burns during high fire danger

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Sen. John Thune has introduced a bill that would require collaboration between federal and local officials before a prescribed burn on federal lands when fire danger is high.

A prescribed burn recently grew out of control and scorched 10 square miles at Wind Cave National Park. In April 2013, a controlled fire on the Grand River National Grasslands ended up burning nearly 22 square miles along the South Dakota-North Dakota border.

Thune says the fires show "a complete disregard for imminent fire danger" on the part of the federal government.

Wind Cave Chief Interpreter Tom Farrell has said the park has performed thousands of prescribed burns and successfully burned millions of acres to prevent more catastrophic wildfires. He also has said weather conditions were appropriate for a prescribed burn.

Trails system proposed for Fort Meade Recreation Area

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The federal Bureau of Land Management is proposing a trails system at the Fort Meade Recreation Area in western South Dakota.

The BLM recently released an environmental assessment for the proposed 15-mile trail system on the recreation area near Sturgis, and plans a hearing Thursday at the Alkali Creek Campground to gather public comments. The agency is accepting comments through May 15.

The plan is to use existing trails and build new ones to create a looped system for hikes, mountain bikers, horseback riders and others.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the Black Hills Trails group would help with the project. Member Kevin Forrester says he's been pushing for a trails system for decades.

NASA spacecraft to impact planet Mercury on Thursday

MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA's Mercury-orbiting spacecraft, Messenger, is going out with a bang this week, adding a hefty crater to the little planet closest to the sun.

The first spacecraft to circle Mercury, Messenger is expected to slip out of orbit and slam into Mercury on Thursday following a successful four-year tour of the rocky planet. The spacecraft will be traveling

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8,750 mph (14,081 kph) when it hits, fast enough to carve out a crater 52 feet (16 meters) wide. The spacecraft itself stretches 10 feet (3 meters) solar wingtip to wingtip.

Messenger has run out of fuel, but ground controllers managed in recent weeks to eke out some extra life, raising Messenger's orbit by dipping into helium gas reserves not originally intended for use as fuel. But now that's all gone and Messenger is at the mercy of gravity.

"I guess the end is coming," the Messenger team said via Twitter earlier this week. "After 10 years, spacecraft will end life as just another crater on Mercury's surface."

A look at Mercury's soon-to-be-obliterated travel companion:

ROUNDAABOUT FLIGHT

Messenger rocketed away from Cape Canaveral, Florida, in August 2004. It flew twice past Venus and three times past Mercury, before entering orbit around Mercury in March 2011. Only one other spacecraft, NASA's Mariner 10, has ever visited Mercury, and that was back in the 1970s. Mariner 10 flew past, but did not orbit the innermost planet. The \$427 million Messenger mission was developed and run for NASA by Johns Hopkins University.

SCIENCE DISCOVERIES

During its four years in orbit — comprising more than 4,000 laps — Messenger has revealed volcanic deposits at Mercury that are helping to explain the planet's important eruptive and interior-melting past; polar caps of frozen water at or near the surface; and incredible global shrinkage thanks to a cooling interior. In addition, despite its proximity to the sun, Mercury is more abundant in volatile elements, like potassium and sulfur, than anticipated before Messenger's arrival, according to Messenger's principal investigator Sean Solomon, director of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Planetary scientists will be looking at Messenger's huge stash of data "for years, probably for decades, as we try to understand the origin and evolution of Mercury," Solomon said.

SUPER SUNSHADE

Messenger's creators needed to keep the spacecraft cool during its super-hot mission at Mercury. "It's an enormously hostile environment," said Jim Green, director of planetary science for NASA. Designers came up with a novel sunshade of lightweight ceramic cloth. This sunscreen tolerated more than 600 degrees Fahrenheit (316 degrees Celsius) on the front, while keeping everything behind it at room temperature, including the seven scientific instruments. Messenger also regularly performed "an intricate dance" to balance all the infrared heat that was reflected off Mercury back at the spacecraft. At the same time, engineers equipped Messenger with numerous heaters to keep the fuel from freezing and the electronics from faltering when the spacecraft ducked behind the planet, away from the sun.

SMASHING END

On Thursday, Messenger is expected to crash into the side of Mercury facing away from Earth. So there will be no cameras or observatories to witness the impact. Scientists expect to gather information from Messenger until 10 to 15 minutes before its fatal plunge. The expected crash site is about two-thirds of the way up the planet, near the north pole. Mercury is the smallest planet — a little bigger than our moon.

UPCOMING AT MERCURY:

A pair of European and Japanese spacecraft will aim for Mercury following a 2017 launch from South America's French Guiana. It will take seven years for the two satellites to reach Mercury and enter its orbit, in 2024. The mission is called BepiColombo after the late Italian scientist who came up with the calculations for repeated fly-bys of Mercury by Mariner 10.

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. BALTIMORE STREETS QUIET UNDER CURFEW

"We do not have a lot of active movement throughout the city as a whole. Tonight I think the biggest thing is the citizens are safe, the city is stable," says Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony Batts.

2. NEPALESE FAMILY MOURNS 18 LOST IN SINGLE HOUSE COLLAPSE

"I don't know why this happened. But I don't blame anyone," says Shankar Pradhan, who now needs to prepare 18 souls for the Hindu cremation rite.

3. WHO SENDS CLEARER SIGNAL IN 2013 MARRIAGE CASE

Justice Anthony Kennedy leaves little doubt during Supreme Court arguments in 2013 that a part of the federal anti-gay marriage law was doomed.

4. IMMIGRANT REMOVALS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

The Obama administration is on pace to deport the fewest number of immigrants in nearly a decade.

5. HOW AUSTRALIA REACTS TO INDONESIA EXECUTIONS

Canberra takes the unprecedented retaliation of withdrawing its ambassador after Indonesian authorities executed two Australian drug traffickers.

6. NEW GENERATION ASCENDS IN SAUDI ARABIA

The king removes his half-brother from the post of crown prince, replacing him with his nephew, and elevates his son to the position of deputy crown prince.

7. HORROR, GRIEF DARKEN THEATER SHOOTING VICTIMS' TESTIMONY

Survivors provide gripping accounts of the night when 12 people were killed and dozens injured.

8. FOR AFGHANISTAN'S ABANDONED CHILDREN, HELP IS SCARCE

The country has much of its services devastated by the conflict and has little capacity to care for them.

9. WHAT VIETNAMESE-AMERICANS RECALL SINCE SAIGON FELL

The thousands who fled Vietnam still remember what they lost, but also take the moment to think about what they've gained in the U.S.

10. BASEBALL RETURNING TO BALTIMORE — BUT WITH A TWIST

After a pair of postponements because of the city's unsettled environment, the White Sox will play the Orioles Wednesday in a game that will be closed to the public.

AP News in Brief

Baltimore police enforce curfew with tear gas; streets once rocked by riots nearly empty

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore streets previously rocked by riots were eerily quiet early Wednesday as residents obeyed an all-night curfew enforced by 3,000 police and National Guardsmen.

The curfew, which went into effect at 10 p.m. Tuesday, got off to a not-so-promising start, however, as about 200 protesters initially ignored the warnings of police officers and the pleas of community activists to disperse.

Some threw water bottles or lay down on the ground. A line of police behind riot shields hurled tear gas canisters and fired pepper balls at the crowd and slowly advanced forward to push it back. Demonstrators picked up the canisters and hurled them back at officers. But the crowd rapidly dispersed and was down to just a few dozen people within minutes.

The clash came after a day of high tension but relative peace in Baltimore, which was rocked by loot-

ing and widespread arson Monday in the city's worst outbreak of rioting since 1968.

Police, city leaders and many residents condemned the violence, and hundreds of volunteers showed up Tuesday to sweep the streets of glass and other debris.

Nepal earthquake death toll passes 5,000 as aid reaches area near epicenter

PASLANG, Nepal (AP) — Aid reached a hilly district near the epicenter of Nepal's earthquake for the first time Wednesday, four days after the quake struck and as the death toll from the disaster passed the 5,000 mark.

But it will still take time for the food and other supplies to reach survivors in remote communities who have been cut off by landslides, warned said Geoff Pinnock, a World Food Program emergencies officer.

"It doesn't happen overnight," said Pinnock from the village of Majuwa, 20 kilometers (16 miles) downhill from Gorkha town, a staging area for relief efforts to areas worst-hit by Saturday's magnitude-7.8 earthquake.

Nearby, five cargo trucks filled with rice, cooking oil and sugar stood on a grassy field fringed with banana and acacia trees beneath the soaring Himalayas, waiting for a helicopter carry the supplies to remote, quake-hit villages.

Soon, the U.N. food agency was expected to deliver shipments of high-energy food biscuits to be sent out to areas without enough water for cooking, Pinnock said. The first aid shipments had reached Dhading district, just east of Gorkha, he said.

In a country overwhelmed by grief, Nepalese family mourns 18 lost in single house collapse

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Flanked by funeral pyres flickering in the darkness, Shankar Pradhan stood barefoot on the edge of Kathmandu's sacred Bagmati River, where the dead pulled daily from the city's ruins have been brought nonstop since a massive earthquake shook this impoverished mountain nation.

He doused his daughter's feet and lips in holy water three times. He knelt down and kissed the orange shroud she was wrapped in. And then helped by grieving relatives, he spread red ochre and marigolds over the corpse, encased it in a tomb of dry wood and set it ablaze.

The ancient Hindu cremation rite is meant to purify souls for the afterlife, and this was far from the only one for Pradhan and his extended family. When the quake crumpled his brother's four-story house into a cloud of dust Saturday, it left them with a total of 18 souls to prepare.

"I don't know why this happened. But I don't blame anyone. I don't blame the government, I don't blame the gods," he said, struggling to fight back tears. "You can't escape the rules of this life. None of us escape the fact that one day you'll have to leave it."

Pradhan's 21-year-old daughter was one of nearly 5,000 people who perished in the worst tremor this country has seen in more than 80 years. Even in a nation where death and destruction have touched a vast area stretching from the icy peaks of Mount Everest to remote villages that rescue workers have yet to reach, the grief visited upon Pradhan's family is overwhelming.

Justice Kennedy offered clearer sign of vote in last gay marriage arguments at Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two years ago, Justice Anthony Kennedy left little doubt during Supreme Court arguments that a part of the federal anti-gay marriage law was doomed.

When the justices heard arguments Tuesday in a broader case about the right of same-sex couples to marry anywhere in the United States, the 78-year-old Kennedy's comments were less clear-cut and his potentially decisive vote less certain than it was two years ago.

He left people on both sides of the issue with hopes and fears about the outcome in the landmark civil rights case, although Kennedy's track record as the author of the court's three earlier rulings in favor of gay rights probably gives same-sex marriage supporters less to fear.

Kennedy's role as the often-pivotal vote on the court was reinforced by the apparent deep divide between the court's liberal and conservative justices over whether the Constitution gives same-sex couples the right to marry. Those couples can do so now in 36 states and the District of Columbia, and the court is weighing whether gay and lesbian unions should be allowed in all 50 states.

The drama played out in the packed, grand courtroom with its 44-foot ceiling, marble columns and mahogany bench. Kennedy's wife, as well as those of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Stephen Breyer watched the arguments along with many of the plaintiffs whose cases were before the court. Also in the crowd was Rives Miller Grogan, who briefly interrupted the proceedings after about 30 minutes with an anti-gay harangue that warned gay marriage supporters they would "burn in hell." Supreme Court police officers quickly removed Grogan from the courtroom.

Saudi king removes half-brother, names nephew as crown prince, elevates son in major reshuffle

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The Saudi king on Wednesday removed his half-brother from the post of crown prince, replacing him with his nephew, and elevated his son to the position of deputy crown prince in the most significant repositioning of power among members of the kingdom's royal family since King Salman assumed the throne in January.

The appointments, announced in a decree from the royal court, further thrust a new generation of Saudi princes into the line of succession and mapped out the future of the throne for potentially decades to come.

The post of crown prince secures Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, 55, as the most likely successor to the king. The prince, who is also the interior minister, is widely known internationally as Saudi Arabia's counterterrorism czar and was previously also deputy crown prince.

The prince becomes the first from among his generation to be elevated to such a high position — first in line to the throne. He has survived several assassination attempts, including one in 2009 by al-Qaida. He takes over the post of crown prince from Prince Muqrin.

The royal decree also announced that the king's son, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, had been appointed deputy crown prince. He is believed to be around 30 years old and is also the country's defense minister. As deputy crown prince, he is essentially seen as being second in line to the throne.

Immigrant removals under Obama continue to decline as arrests along border also drop

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is on pace to deport the fewest number of immigrants in nearly a decade, according to internal government data obtained by The Associated Press.

As of April 20, federal immigration officials sent home 127,378 people in the United States illegally. That puts immigrant removals on track to be among the lowest since the middle of President George W. Bush's second term.

The internal statistics reveal a continuing decline in deportations even as the Obama administration fights a legal challenge to a plan it announced late last year to shield millions of immigrants from deportations.

"With the resources we have ... I'm interested in focusing on criminals and recent illegal arrivals at the border," Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson told members of the Senate Judiciary Committee during an oversight hearing Tuesday.

The new figures, contained in weekly internal reports not publicly reported, average about 19,730 removals a month for the first six months of the government's fiscal year that began in October.

Vietnamese-Americans recall losses, relish gains since fall of Saigon 40 years ago

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — In the chaotic final days before the Vietnam she knew collapsed in 1975, Bang Van Pham was rushed onto a U.S. military plane with her newborn son, headed to a land she had learned about in school but never seen.

Weeks later at a refugee camp in Southern California, they were reunited with her two other children who were sent abroad with relatives and her husband, the son of a rice farmer turned lawmaker, who stayed behind with his constituents until communist troops stormed Saigon.

In the U.S. they began a new life: Pham taught English to immigrant night school students while her husband, Nho Trong Nguyen, worked as a handyman's helper before eventually becoming a judge. The couple, who say they helped resettle 1,000 other refugees, raised three children who became lawyers and a doctor, and now have three American-born grandchildren.

Forty years later, they still remember what they lost. Every April, Pham helps plan a ceremony to mark the fall of Saigon. It is also a moment to reflect on how her family and other Vietnamese refugees have rebuilt their lives.

"I am very pleased and grateful because our children became good citizens," Pham said, recalling her doubts back then about how they would make a living. "We are so close together. And we haven't spent any time neglecting living a good life."

Indonesia executes 8 drug convicts by firing squad, but grants Filipino reprieve

CILACAP, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia brushed aside last-minute appeals and executed eight people convicted of drug smuggling on Wednesday, although a Philippine woman was granted a reprieve.

Attorney General Muhammad Prasetyo confirmed that each of the eight had been executed simultaneously at 12:35 a.m. (1735 GMT) by 13-member firing squads. Medical teams confirmed their deaths three minutes later, he said.

"The executions have been successfully implemented, perfectly," Prasetyo said. "All worked, no miss-

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es," he said of the deaths of two Australians, four Nigerians, a Brazilian and an Indonesian man.

Prasetyo earlier announced that Mary Jane Fiesta Veloso had been granted a stay of execution while the Philippines investigates her case.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced that Australia will withdraw its ambassador from Jakarta in response to the executions of the two Australians, Myuran Sukumaran, 33, and Andrew Chan, 31.

For Afghanistan's abandoned and orphaned children, decades of war have brought little help

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Starved and beaten by his stepmother, the little boy with big brown eyes was already withdrawn and unhappy by the time his father banished him from the family home and sent him to an orphanage in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

There, the beatings and the abuse continued, this time by older boys, and it took a while before a teacher at school noticed just how much in pain the 10-year-old was and slowly got him to tell her his story.

The boy's mother had become sick and died, he said, and when his father remarried, the new wife took against the boy and his sister, often beating them, and withholding food for days on end.

It would have been an all too common story in Afghanistan had not the teacher reached out to a parliamentarian, who got in touch with a government rights commission, which then contacted a non-government organization that in turn provided a lawyer — and after a complicated cascade of events the boy was eventually brought to a shelter run by Hagar International, the NGO.

After almost four decades of war, two generations of Afghans have no experience of life without a backdrop of brutality. The 10-year-old was one of the lucky few to escape what can appear to be a never-ending cycle of violence.

Today in History **The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, April 29, the 119th day of 2015. There are 246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On April 29, 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau (DAH'-khow) concentration camp. Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun inside his "Führerbunker" and designated Adm. Karl Doenitz (DUHR'-nihtz) president.

On this date:

In 1429, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orleans to lead a French victory over the English.

In 1798, Joseph Haydn's oratorio "The Creation" was rehearsed in Vienna, Austria, before an invited audience.

In 1861, the Maryland House of Delegates voted 53-13 against seceding from the Union. In Montgomery, Alabama, President Jefferson Davis asked the Confederate Congress for the authority to wage war.

In 1913, Swedish-born engineer Gideon Sundback of Hoboken, New Jersey, received a U.S. patent for a "separable fastener" - later known as the zipper.

In 1946, 28 former Japanese officials went on trial in Tokyo as war criminals; seven ended up being sentenced to death.

In 1957, the SM-1, the first military nuclear power plant, was dedicated at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

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In 1968, the counterculture musical "Hair" opened on Broadway following limited engagements off-Broadway.

In 1974, President Richard M. Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of some secretly made White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

In 1983, Harold Washington was sworn in as the first black mayor of Chicago.

In 1992, rioting resulting in 55 deaths erupted in Los Angeles after a jury in Simi Valley, California, acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of Rodney King.

In 1993, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II announced that for the first time, Buckingham Palace would be opened to tourists to help raise money for repairs at fire-damaged Windsor Castle.

In 2011, Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton were married in an opulent ceremony at London's Westminster Abbey.

Ten years ago: Insurgents unleashed a series of car bombings and other attacks across Iraq, killing at least 41 people, including three U.S. soldiers. NASA again delayed the first space shuttle launch since the Columbia disaster, worrying that ice falling off fuel tank could doom Discovery.

Five years ago: Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal (JIN'-dul) declared a state of emergency in the face of the worsening oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The U.S. Navy officially ended a ban on women serving on submarines, saying the first females would be reporting for duty by 2012. A knife-wielding man slashed 29 children and three teachers at a school in eastern China (the assailant was executed a month later). The NCAA's Board of Directors approved a 68-team format for the men's basketball tournament beginning the next season.

One year ago: President Barack Obama ended a four-country swing through Asia and headed for home from the Philippines. Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling was banned for life by the NBA in response to racist comments he'd made in an audio recording. A botched execution using a disputed new drug combination left Oklahoma death row inmate Clayton Lockett writhing and clenching his teeth on the gurney, leading prison officials to halt the proceedings before his death from a heart attack. Walter R. Walsh, 106, who captured gangsters as an FBI agent in the 1930s and went on to train Marine snipers and become the longest-lived Olympian, died in Arlington, Virginia. Al Feldstein, 88, whose 28 years at Mad Magazine transformed the satirical publication into a cultural institution, died in Livingston, Montana. British actor Bob Hoskins, 71, died in London.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Keith Baxter is 82. Bluesman Otis Rush is 80. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 79. Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff is 77. Pop singer Bob Miranda (The Happenings) is 73. Country singer Duane Allen (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 72. Singer Tommy James is 68. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., is 65. Movie director Phillip Noyce is 65. Country musician Wayne Secrest (Confederate Railroad) is 65. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 61. Actor Leslie Jordan is 60. Actress Kate Mulgrew is 60. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 58. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer is 57. Actress Eve Plumb is 57. Rock musician Phil King is 55. Country singer Stephanie Bentley is 52. Actor Vincent Ventresca is 49. Singer Carnie Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 47. Actor Paul Adelstein is 46. Actress Uma Thurman is 45. Tennis player Andre Agassi is 45. Rapper Master P is 45. Actor Darby Stanchfield is 44. Country singer James Bonamy is 43. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Erica Campbell (Mary Mary) is 43. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 42. Actor Tyler Labine is 37. Actress Megan Boone is 32. Actress-model Taylor Cole is 31. Actor Zane Carney is 30. Pop singer Amy Heidemann (Karmin) is 29. Pop singer Foxes is 26.

Thought for Today: "An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't." - Anatole France, French author and critic (1844-1924).