

Groton Daily Independent

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Saturday, May 2

Howard Wood Relays at Sioux Falls

Sunday, May 3

9:00 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran worship with communion and confirmation.

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

9:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00 p.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church with fellowship to follow

10:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Baptism, Holy Communion, HS Seniors blessed and Milestones

Monday, May 4

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

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, sweet tots, fruit, veggie cup.

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

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

10:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran WELCA Bible Study Leaders

10:00 a.m.: Girls Golf at Aberdeen Roncalli

2:00 p.m.: Junior High track at Redfield

6:00 p.m.: Kiwanis Athletic Banquet

7:00 p.m.: City Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 5

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, juice, fruit, milk.

School Lunch: Pizza, green beans, romaine salad, fruit.

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.

Fresh flowers, silks, home decor



Olde Bank @ Floral 

& so much more

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

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118

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Classifieds

BRIDAL SHOWER

Open House Bridal Shower for Jessica Hoscheid, future wife of Zachary Harry and daughter of Pete and Janet Hoscheid, will be held Saturday, May 9, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. Help us celebrate Jessica's upcoming wedding. The couple is registered at Target, Menards & Inspire

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??

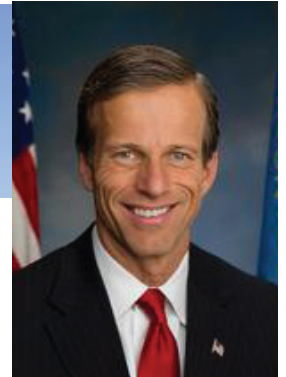
For a donation of at least \$10 to the swimming pool slide you can nominate your friend, your child, your brother, your boss, your co-worker, or anyone (must be 48 inches tall) for the honor of being the first person to go down the slide. Send the name and \$10 donation to Groton City Hall at PO Box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



John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



New Prescribed Burn Policies Would Ensure Collaboration

One of the most satisfying aspects of my job in the Senate is working to help South Dakotans cut through the bureaucratic red tape of the federal government. I know it is often frustrating for constituents to weave through the maze of federal agencies and programs that have become far too large and no longer serve people as intended. Far too often, federal agencies act alone rather than coordinating with state and local governments, resulting in the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing.

The lack of common-sense collaboration between federal agencies and other levels of government is often frustrating, and can result in reckless actions by federal officials placing lives and property at risk. One recent example of this type of reckless action was the out-of-control prescribed burn, known as the Cold Brook Fire, at Wind Cave National Park. On April 13, the National Park Service (NPS) initiated a prescribed burn of an intended 1,100 acres, which burned out-of-control consuming 6,500 acres in Wind Cave National Park.

This is not the first time federal agencies have disregarded imminent fire danger, putting lives, land, and property at risk. It was just over two years ago that the Forest Service (FS) started a prescribed burn in northwest South Dakota, known as the Pautre Fire, which resulted in extensive property losses. Landowners impacted by the Pautre Fire still have not been reimbursed by the Fire Service, nor has the Fire Service accepted liability more than two years after the fire occurred.

The fires started by the NPS and FS are prime examples of federal agencies taking questionable actions without first collaborating with adjacent landowners and local and state officials. To better prevent future out-of-control burns and to ensure the agencies responsible assume liability for the damage caused by these fires, I introduced the Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2015.

My bill would prevent federal agencies from starting future prescribed burns on federal lands without first collaborating with state government and local fire officials. My bill would also require that when a prescribed fire burns out-of-control, that the federal agency responsible accepts liability for resulting expenses and damage to private property. Finally, my bill stipulates that damages are to be paid within 120 days of receipt of a substantiated claim.

As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I will continue working with my colleagues to hold our federal agencies accountable, make common-sense changes to our federal prescribed burn policies, and do my best to ensure that Washington's right hand finally starts working with its left.



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

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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)

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605-397-8650

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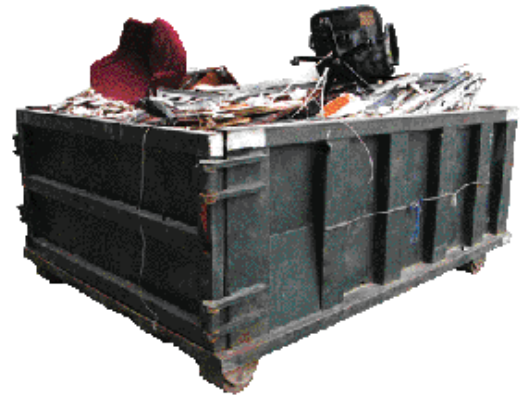
Ferney, SD

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**



Building On Early Successes

It's hard to believe we've already passed the 100 day mark of this Congress. The new Senate Republican majority has provided us a valuable opportunity to work together to get the country on the right track, and my assignment to the Ways & Means Committee has put me in prime position to help South Dakota.

The goal of the new Republican majority in Congress has been to work across the aisle to move common sense measures that increase freedom, promote opportunity, and make our government accountable. To that end, we've made solid progress so far this year.

In the House, we've passed a budget which balances without any new tax increases. While our budget cuts spending, we continue to focus on areas where the federal government has legitimate responsibility, like defense. In areas where control rightfully belongs in the hands of states or local communities, we introduce new limits on the federal government and even repeal programs it has no business managing. Rather than increasing your taxes, this budget begins to lay the groundwork for a fairer and simpler tax code that could lower your annual tax bill.

We've also passed bipartisan legislation that's been signed into law that protects and strengthens Medicare by stopping dramatic cuts to doctors who care for Medicare patients. This so-called "Medicare doc fix" also contained reforms that save taxpayers money and put our nation's budget on a more secure footing. I am proud that this law also extends the Children's Health Insurance Program, which serves more than 8 million children and expecting mothers, giving new parents the certainty they need to plan their family budgets and doctor visits in advance.

The House has also taken steps to protect the most vulnerable among us. The bipartisan Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Act, a bill I first introduced last year, was passed by the House. This bill will give caregivers, state law enforcement officers, and others the tools they need to prevent trafficking in our communities. The Senate has recently also passed this bill and I'm hopeful we will be able to get it signed into law soon.

Additionally, we've taken action to improve the lives of our nation's veterans by passing the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act. It provides resources to those who stood up to serve and defend our country. I am glad to report this legislation was signed into law. Additionally, the House passed the Hire More Heroes Act, which aims to provide more economic opportunity for veterans by exempting them from Obamacare's employer mandate.

We've also seized the unprecedented opportunity we have – due to the recent North American energy revolution – to break our reliance on overseas oil, which has for so long left us vulnerable. One of the first items of business this year was passing and sending to the president's desk the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act. The president unfortunately vetoed this legislation, though we are not giving up on the effort to get this common sense pipeline approved.

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Simplification of the tax code is another area where there is overwhelming bipartisan agreement. Farmers, ranchers and small business owners in South Dakota are often disproportionately impacted by bad tax policy. I am proud that the House passed a repeal of the death tax, as I have experienced firsthand how this can affect a farm or business when a family is hurting most.

As a lifelong farmer and rancher, I also understand the importance of reasonable deduction levels for new equipment and have heard repeatedly from producers and business owners across the state who are looking for more certainty with how the federal tax code treats these types of investments. In response, earlier this year the House passed legislation that would permanently increase what is known as Section 179 expensing to provide more certainty for our agriculture producers and small businesses.

Hardworking taxpayers deserve a more efficient, effective, and accountable federal government. We have made some progress so far this year in delivering this goal but there is much that remains to be done. As your voice in the U.S. House, you have my word that I will work hard on your behalf to build on these early accomplishments and continue promoting common sense solutions to the challenges our country faces.



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Sperry Stump Removal

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May 2015 Climate Outlook: A Look Back and a Look Ahead

BROOKINGS, S.D. - As South Dakota transitions from April to May, warmer than average air and soil temperatures are prevalent throughout the state. However, spring precipitation has failed to appear across most of the state creating winter wheat and forage issues, explained Dennis Todey, SDSU Extension Climate Specialist & South Dakota State Climatologist.

"Lack of precipitation has led to a number of agricultural issues," said Todey. "If we don't receive adequate moisture in May, the issues could increase.

To clearly explain the climate outlook, Todey begins by taking a look back at the year-to-date conditions.

A Look Back

April was very dry across most of South Dakota, with only a few weather locations to the west recording slightly above average precipitation. Total precipitation across the state ranged from 0.11-inches to just over 2-inches. The largest deficits were in the southeast where April was 2 inches or more below average, Todey said, referencing precipitation totals in Chamberlain, 0.41 inches; and Mellette, 0.11 inches; which ended with their driest April on record.

Madison, Roscoe, and Big Stone City recorded their second driest April on record, and another 11 weather stations recorded April 2015 among the top five driest on record.

"The dry situation has been a continuation of a weather pattern that set up in February, which resulted in longer term precipitation deficits," Todey said.

Records for low precipitation are much more apparent looking back for the year-to-date, explained Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

She went on to say that as of Jan. 1, 2015 several weather stations in the middle of the state documented January 2015 as the driest on record including: DeSmet, Forestburg, Murdo, Kennebec, Pierre, Wessington Springs, Madison and six others. "A few stations accumulated less than an inch of precipitation for the year so far," Edwards said.

Another 33 stations ranked January through April 2015 as one of the five driest on record. "Across a large part of the state, these totals are less than half their average precipitation to this point in the year," Edwards said.

In addition to lack of moisture, Todey added that nearly all of the state recorded above average temperatures for April. "Eastern parts of the state were warmest overall, with several places 4 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit above average for April," he said. "Although, a few daily high and low temperature records were set in April, the widely varying temperatures for the year have left temperatures close to average so far."

The dryness early in the spring was not a serious issue, and was actually beneficial for early agricultural work and livestock producers, explained Edwards. "However, now the precipitation deficits are having a negative impact on agriculture due to limited soil moisture, rangeland and forage concerns as well as some problems with seed emergence," she said.

Along with the dry spring conditions, much of the state's winter wheat crop experienced multiple challenges resulting from the dry fall conditions and low snow cover which resulted in winter kill.

The dryness has also obviously contributed to the large number of spring wildland and grass fires.

What Current Climate & Drought Outlook have to say

The National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Climate and Drought Outlook for May 2015 tells us a little about where we might be headed, explained Todey. "Basically, the drought conditions are unlikely to make major shifts in the next month," he said.

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The NOAA U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Map indicates drought conditions are likely to persist across the state and region, because precipitation totals are not expected to be sufficient to make large drought improvements.

"Precipitation deficits across most of the state are severe enough, that even with decent precipitation amounts, improvements will be difficult to see," Todey said.

On average, in most areas of South Dakota, the month of May is the wettest month of the year. Moisture averages often total between 3 and 4 inches of precipitation. "Thus, larger precipitation totals will be needed not to lose more ground," Todey said.

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Outlook for the next 30 days is not pessimistic, but Todey said it also not as optimistic as it is in some states to the south of South Dakota.

"The precipitation outlook indicates increased chances of precipitation along the southern edge of South Dakota and further south into the Central Plains," he said. "Thus, areas to the south have better chances for drought improvement into May."

Bottom line, Todey explained that the precipitation chances are equally as likely to fall below average as they are to fall above average. "In most years that would not be a major issue. This year, above average precipitation is needed to help overcome the deficits accumulated since last fall," he said.

Crop losses are not guaranteed

This situation does not yet mean crop losses are guaranteed in all fields across the state, explained Edwards. "Winter wheat yields have been negatively impacted and rangeland will need precipitation very soon to limit losses, however due to the fact that April and May are critical months for summer forage production, and given the fact that corn and soybeans are just being planted this week, there is still time to limit damage to other crops across the state," she said.

However, Edwards said regular, heavier precipitation amounts are needed to limit the problems for the remainder of the growing season.

"In general, summertime precipitation tends to be localized in thunderstorms, and not widespread events like we typically see in the winter season," she said.

Throughout the growing season, SDSU Extension will publish frequent climate updates. To learn more, visit iGrow.org.

Alyssa Sippel

Parents: Monte and Sandi Sippel

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Madison, 15; and Sarah, 12

Hobbies: Ice skating, track, hanging out with friends, working out, taking naps, cooking, baking, and eating

School/community activities: Managing sports, teaching, yearbook, track, show choir, oral interp, Carnival of Silver Skates, Luther League, tutoring, FCCLA, FBLA, school play, and FCA



Favorite high school memory: My freshman year changes to my senior year

Future plans: I plan on attending USD to achieve a degree in Health Service Administration. I want to someday run a hospital.



Rosewood Court

705 N 6th St, Groton

(605) 397-4444

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Tyler Scott

Parents: Brenda Poppen

Hometown: Groton

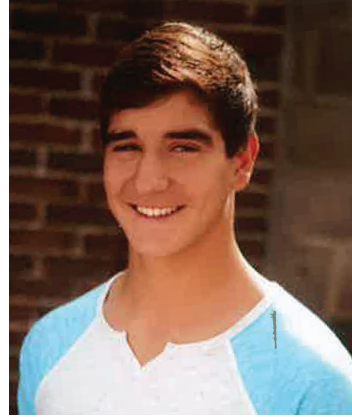
Sibling: Courtney, 22.

Hobbies: Fishing, soccer.

School/Community Activities:
Wrestling, soccer.

Favorite High School Memory:
Winning state soccer.

Future Plans: Attend college at
University of Colorado, Boulder.



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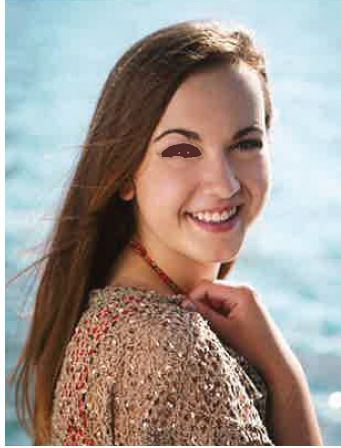
408 W. 3rd Ave

Groton, SD 57445

Cell: 605.216.5907

E-mail: reawhman@yahoo.com

Danielle Schinkel



Parents: Dan and Marjae Schinkel

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Anthony Schinkel-13, Jasmine Schinkel-15, and Emma Schinkel-9

Hobbies: jet skiing, singing, playing sports, and hanging out with family and friends

School/community activities: show choir, volleyball, FCCLA, FCA, all school play, carnival of silver skates, MYF, conference council youth on ministry

Favorite high school memory: winning our volleyball game against Roncalli during homecoming week

Future plans: I plan on going to Mitchell Tech to become a Speech- Language Pathology



**Good Luck
Graduates!**



**JAMES
VALLEY**
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Paige Pray



Parents: Chad and Chanise Pray

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Trevor Pray, 17; Corey Hassel, 21; Chelsea Hassel, 24; Danielle Hackett, 26.

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, being with friends and family, country cruises and watching the stars with my boyfriend.

School/Community Activities: Soccer, track.

Favorite High School Memory: Becoming a senior! and being on the

honor roll.

Future Plans: Attend STI in Sioux Falls to become a Surgical Technologist. Hopefully move to California!



**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

FREE ESTIMATES

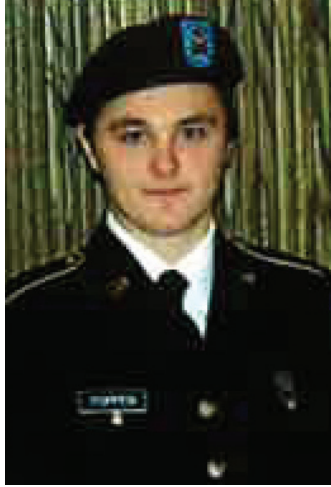
Removal, Grinding,
Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910

Devon Poppen



Parents: Jared Poppen and Megan Hogan

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Darrion Poppen 20, Ashlyn Patten-6 and another sibling on the way

Hobbies: hunting, fishing, taking long walks on the beach, soccer

School/community activities: show choir, soccer and theater

Favorite high school memory: winning the state boys soccer

Future plans: be in the Military, become a police officer

Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.

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Today in Weather History

1899 - A storm buried Havre, MT, under 24.8 inches of snow, an all-time record for that location. The water equivalent of 2.48 inches was a record 24 hour total for the month of May. (The Weather Channel)

1920 - A swarm of tornadoes in Rogers, Mayes and Cherokee Counties in Oklahoma killed 64 persons. (David Ludlum)

1929 - Virginia's worst tornado disaster occurred. Six tornadoes, two of which were west of the Blue Mountains, killed 22 people. Twelve children and a teacher were killed at Rye Cove, in Scott County. Four schools were destroyed by the storms. (The Weather Channel)

1983 - Severe thunderstorms spawned twenty tornadoes across Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York State. The tornadoes caused five deaths. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the Lower Mississippi Valley produced golf ball size hail in northern Louisiana, and wind gusts to 77 mph at Lake Providence LA. Thunderstorms in Arkansas produced 4.20 inches of rain at Arkadelphia and 4.00 inches at Bismarck. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A powerful storm produced snow and high winds in the Central Rockies and the Central High Plains Region. Snowfall totals in Colorado ranged up to 12 inches at Strasburg, and winds in southeastern Colorado gusted to 87 mph at Lamar. Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - Thunderstorms developing to the north of a warm front produced severe weather in Oklahoma and Texas. There were 93 reports of severe weather. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Beattie, and baseball size hail was reported at Ranger and Breckenridge. Juneau AK reported a record high temperature of 72 degrees while Honolulu equalled their record low for the month of May with a reading of 60 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

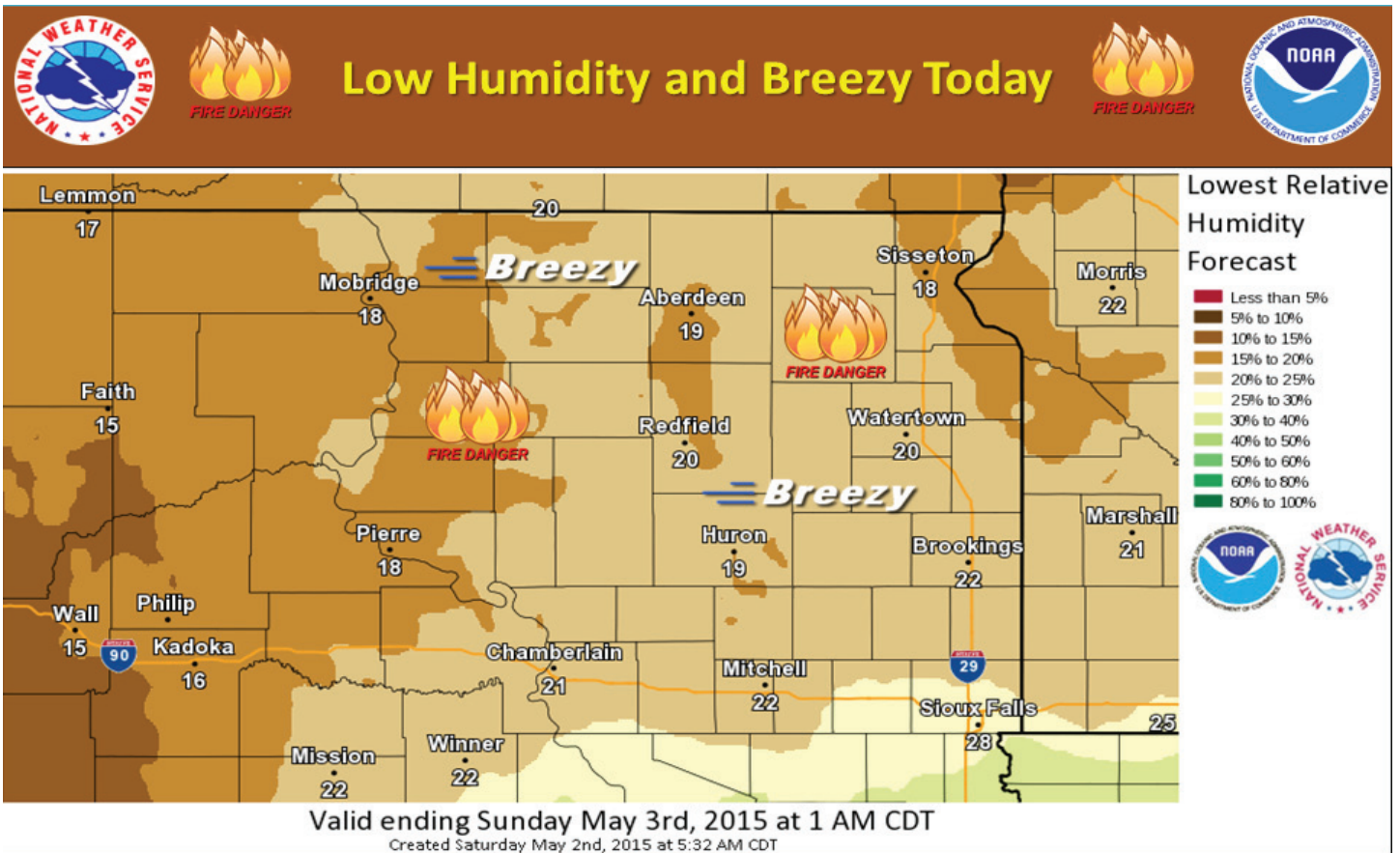
1990 - Fourteen cities in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the 90s. Tampa FL reported a record high of 97 degrees, and Fort Stewart GA was the hot spot in the nation with a reading of 100 degrees.

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from northeastern Texas to western Arkansas during the evening and early nighttime hours. Thunderstorms spawned a tornado which injured thirteen persons at Paris TX, and produced baseball size hail at Rio Vista TX. Thunderstorm rains of four to seven inches caused flash flooding in west central Arkansas, southern and eastern Oklahoma, and northern Texas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
	 50%					 20%
Breezy	Chance Thunderstorms	Breezy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chc Thunderstorms
High: 88 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 74 °F



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen
 National Weather Service Aberdeen
  @NWSAberdeen
 Updated: 5/2/2015 5:37 AM Central

Published on: 05/02/2015 at 5:44AM

Fire danger concerns return once again today as dry air combines with breezy south to southwest winds and dry fuels. Humidity values will drop into the upper teens to low 20s this afternoon with wind gusts from 25 to 30 mph. Also to note, scattered thunderstorms are possible along a cold front late this afternoon over central South Dakota. Some storms could produce strong and gusty winds as they track east. High temperatures will also be big story, as readings will soar into the mid to upper 80s across the region.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 76.7 at 6:19 PM

Low: 48.0 at 6:46 AM

High Gust: 22 at 12:42 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1955

Record Low: 20° in 1909, 1908

Average High: 65°F

Average Low: 39°F

Average Precip in May: 0.10

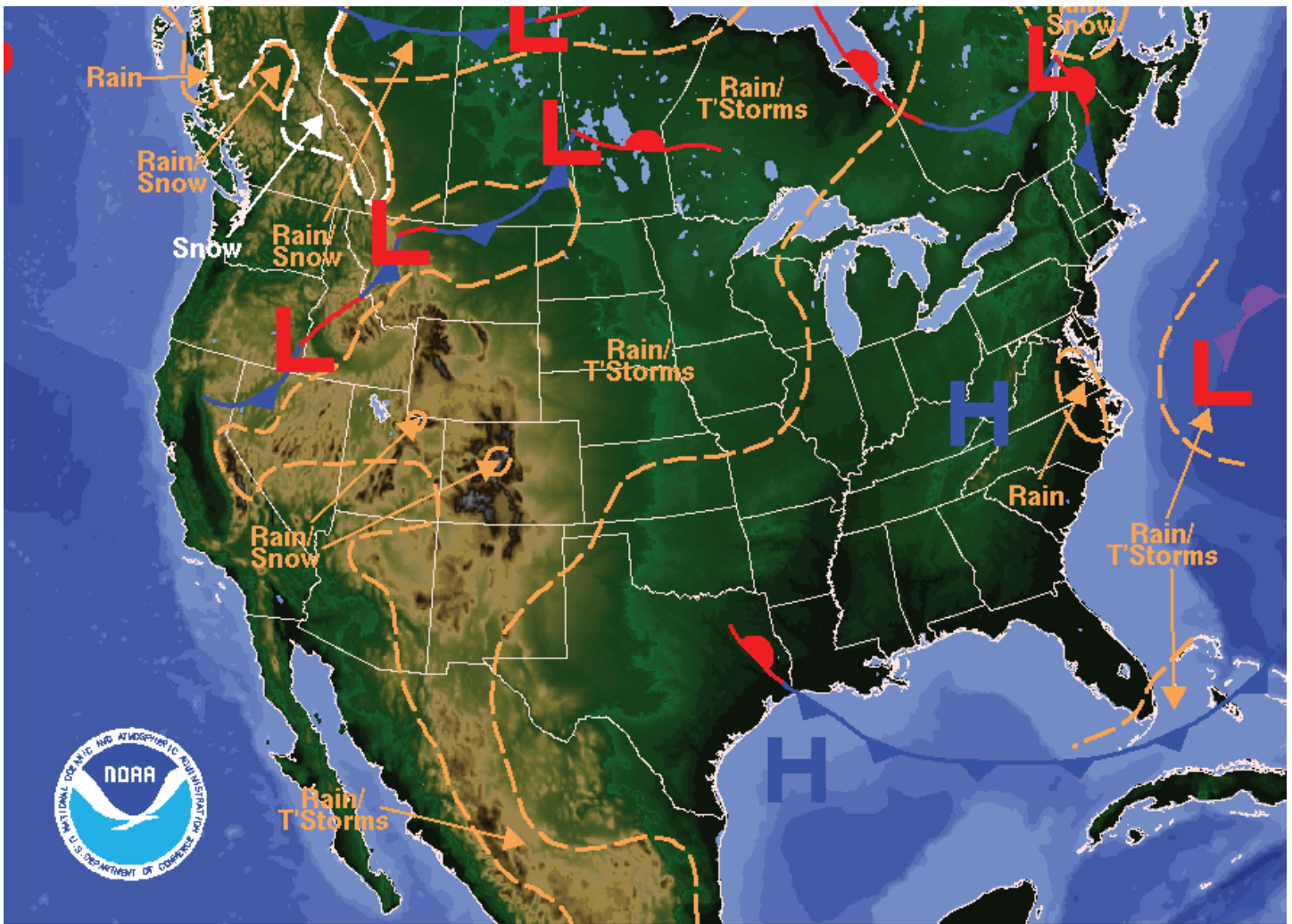
Precip to date in May: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 4.13

Precip Year to Date: 0.95

Sunset Tonight: 8:41 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:19 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, May 02, 2015, issued 4:01 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

As her son was about to leave home for college, his mother asked, "Robert, will you promise me one thing?"

"Yes, ma'am, I will," he answered.

"Promise me," she begged, "that you will read one chapter from the Bible each day."

"I will," he agreed.

That promise led to his coming to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Later, Robert Moffat went to Africa as a missionary where he labored for his Lord for forty-five years. He became famous as an educator, explorer, evangelist and translator of the Bible.

What better request can any mother ask of a child than to be faithful to read God's Word. We are confronted from every direction with challenges to our faith, tempted by friends to engage in behaviors that cause self-destruction, and provided with endless opportunities that may destroy the plans God has for us.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul expressed a true sense of urgency and warning for him. He knew that people who believed in God would be misunderstood, challenged, tempted and ridiculed because of their faith. So Paul encouraged him to remain faithful to what he had been taught. Why? God's Word is our only faithful guide.

Prayer: Father, parents have such a responsibility in raising their children. Grant them Your wisdom, always. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Timothy 3:12-16 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,

News from the Associated Press

Long-time Pierre flower shop ruined after Friday night fire

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A flower shop that has been a staple of the Pierre community for more than 60 years is in ruins following a fire that broke out Friday night.

Emergency responders were called to the Pierre Flower Shop and Greenhouse around 8 p.m. Firefighters from Pierre and Fort Pierre fought the blaze until early Saturday morning.

Wally Thomsen tells the Capital Journal in Pierre that he's run the business since he returned from college more than 40 years ago. He says the flower shop has been in his family since 1951.

It's still unclear what started the fire. The state fire marshal is expected to look into the cause on Sunday.

No firefighters were injured but Police Capt. Derald Gross says one officer needed treatment for smoke inhalation.

Bird flu virus raises questions scientists working to answer

DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — It's been five months since the H5N2 bird flu virus was discovered in the United States, and producers have lost 21 million birds in the Midwest alone. Yet, researchers acknowledge they still know little about a bird flu virus that's endangered turkey and egg-laying chicken populations that supply much of the nation.

Scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies are puzzled by the H5N2 virus' spread — even amid heightened biosecurity measures — and apparent lack of widespread deaths in largely unprotected backyard flocks.

"At this point, we don't know very much about these viruses because they've only recently been identified," Dr. Alicia Fry, the CDC's leader of the influenza prevention and control team, said. "We're following the situation very closely because this is something we're continuing to understand."

The current H5N2 virus surfaced last winter in Canada and was first identified in the United States in early December, when it was found in a wild bird on the West Coast. This spring, the virus was found in poultry operations in eight Midwest states, forcing commercial producers to kill and compost millions of turkeys and chickens in Iowa, Minnesota and elsewhere.

Scientists speculate that perhaps rodents or small birds, seeking food, tracked the virus into barns. Maybe it's the work of flies, as the bird flu virus has been found on the insects in a Pennsylvania outbreak in 1983 and in Japan in 2004. The USDA's chief veterinarian even floated the idea last week wind may be blowing dust and feathers carrying the virus from the barnyard into buildings through air vents.

"To me, the main concern is the disease is moving even with heightened biosecurity," said Richard French, a professor of animal health at Becker College in Worcester, Massachusetts. "Ideally we've got to try and figure out the way it's most likely moving and try to put controls in place to stop that."

Poultry farms' biosecurity measures include changing clothes and boots before entering barns, disinfecting equipment and vehicles before they approach the barns and assigning workers to specific barns.

As new operations are infected almost daily, USDA epidemiologists also are trying to determine whether the virus came from a wild bird or could have spread from poultry in another barn or a nearby farm.

"We are continuing to evaluate how facilities become positive because we also want to be cognizant of any potential risk of lateral spread from farm to farm," said Dr. T.J. Myers, the USDA associate deputy

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administrator of veterinary services. "We are doing those evaluations as we speak and we really don't have enough data to report on that yet."

Another puzzling question has been why there hasn't been a surge in infections of backyard flocks. The USDA has identified 12 cases including five in Washington in January and February, plus others in Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon and Wisconsin.

Cases might not be reported, French said, noting that commercial operations have a financial incentive to immediately report illnesses because the government pays them for each live bird that must be destroyed. Plus, French said, outdoor chickens could have been exposed over time to low pathogenic versions of bird flu and have developed stronger immunity.

One belief held by researchers will soon be tested: whether the virus will die as temperatures warm up and ultraviolet light increases. With temperatures this week in the 70s in many of the affected states and even warmer weather expected soon, infections should decline if that assumption is true.

But David Swayne, director of the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory in Athens, Georgia, acknowledged it's hard to predict what will happen.

"It's pretty complex. It involves the climate, the temperature itself, the amount of humidity there," he said.

Scientists expect the virus to return in the fall along with cooler temperatures and wild birds migrating south, but Swayne says the virus could burn itself out and disappear for a while before that.

Amid all the questions is one about the human element: Could the virus spread to people? So far, it hasn't, but significant efforts are underway to develop a vaccine just in case.

"We're cautiously optimistic that we will not see any human cases, but there certainly is a possibility that we may," Fry said.

Rounds of SD, Hoeven of ND part of Former Governors Caucus

WASHINGTON (AP) — South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds will be co-chairman of a congressional group called the Former Governors Caucus that also includes North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven.

Rounds served as South Dakota's governor from 2003-2011 and fellow Republican Hoeven was governor of North Dakota from 2000-2010.

Rounds says the caucus is a coalition of lawmakers who want to use their experience as former state executives to work across party lines toward solutions to the nation's problems.

The Former Governors Caucus began in 2013. Besides Rounds and Hoeven, members include eight other senators: Republicans Lamar Alexander, of Tennessee, and James Risch, of Idaho; Democrats Tom Carper, of Delaware, Tim Kaine, of Virginia, Joe Manchin, of West Virginia, Jeanne Shaheen, of New Hampshire, and Mark Warner, of Virginia; and Independent Angus King, of Maine.

New income guidelines released for nutrition program

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Health has released new income guidelines for a federal nutrition program that assists mothers, infants and children.

The department announced the new guidelines for the federal Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. The program aimed to offer education on health eating, nutrition and breastfeeding and to improve health by providing healthy foods to supplement diets.

The guidelines lay out the maximum income eligibility levels for families ranging from 1 to 10 people.

A family of one can now be eligible if its annual income doesn't exceed \$21,775. A family of five cannot exceed \$52,559. And a family of 10 cannot make more than \$91,039 each year.

If eligible, a family will get food "checks" to buy foods at authorized grocery stores.

Arts center in Rapid City to unveil 2 Oscar Howe paintings

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A performing arts center in Rapid City will be unveiling two paintings from renowned artist Oscar Howe later this month as part of its forthcoming project dedicated to Native American artists.

The Performing Arts Center of Rapid City says it's unveiling two Howe paintings that are worth an estimated \$40,000. The paintings, "Iktomi" and "Heyoka Dancer," are the inspiration for the Oscar Howe Project.

The project will live permanently in the Commons of Rapid City High School and will feature both Howe paintings and a regularly rotating piece by a Native American artist.

Howe grew up on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation. He received a bachelor's degree from Dakota Wesleyan University, was a professor of art at the University of South Dakota and became South Dakota's Artist Laureate in 1960.