

Groton Daily Independent

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Wednesday, May 6

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

School Lunch: Chicken tenders, French fries, carrots, fruit.

Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken, Rosemary red potatoes, old fashioned slaw, strawberry Jell-O dessert, whole wheat bread.

St. John's Lutheran Ladies Aid LWML

5:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle.

7:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation with youth and parents. Sixth graders join at 7:45 p.m.

3:30 p.m.: Staff Retirement celebration

Thursday, May 7

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, fruit, yogurt, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Italian dunker, tots, fruit, romaine salad.

Senior Menu: Lasagna rotini, tossed salad with dressing, Ambrosia fruit salad, oatmeal spice cookie, whole wheat bread.

9:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran India Circle

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

2:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

3:45 p.m.: Junior High Track at Milbank

Friday, May 8

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

School Lunch: Hot dog/brat, potato chips, baked beans, brownie.

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.

TITAN 
MACHINERY

Justin Hanson, Field Marketer
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605-380-1120

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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

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.



Legion Auxiliary needs officers

On Monday May 4, 2015, Sherry McKiver, American Legion Auxiliary, Second Vice-President, opened the meeting in the legion hall with 13 members present. The Pledge of Allegiance and Auxiliary Preamble were recited in unison. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as amended. Treasurers report was read and filed.

Marion Mydland's name is already on the Memorial Stone and Charlotte Lange's name will be etched on this month. A thank you was received from Lyndsey Swisher. No bills were presented. J. Seibel, and B. Larson will be in charge of working the wedding reception scheduled for May 30.

New business will include paying the convention fee for delegates attending the State Convention to be held in Huron in June, tentatively sending Jan, Meri, Sherry, and Karen.

A letter was received from Jackie Omland, District President for Unit 4, regarding the meeting held at Stratford on 4-11-2015.

The meeting was well attended and suggestions made to get more information to the candidates for Girls State to keep them better informed. Also the National American Legion Auxiliary is requesting that all members send in their e-mail addresses to the home office. Jan Seibel was elected Legionette of the Year for District IV and will be honored at the June Convention.

There were no potential candidates for the June election for the offices of president, second vice president, and treasurer.

Gertie Erickson, Deb Olson, and Rose Locke all agreed to serve another term as historian, sergeant-at-arms, and chaplain.

Hopefully the June meeting will encourage someone to run for president, second vice and treasurer and we will have a swearing in ceremony on 6-1-2015, and select chairmanships and committee helpers.

Poppies will be distributed by Gertie, Marion, Bonnie, and Rose on Friday May 22, 2015. Dates scheduled for cleaning cemetery and planting flowers for Memorial Day are May 11 or 12, depending on the weather. May 19 flags will be staked out on veterans graves. Jan will ask her class at school to help set up the legion hall for the Memorial Day dinner.

Pat Larson presented her report on store receipts and box tops for school.

A card and monetary gift will be sent to our Gold Star Mother.

Annual Salad Luncheon is set for July 9, 2015.

Additional winners for essay and poet contests held at school were Sixth Grade Overall Winners Johnny Delora, Alexis Hanten, and Kaden Carda. Sixth Grade Class IV first place, Erin Unzen Groton Unit 39; Third Grade Class I Poetry,

Lane Tietz, Columbia, Unit 58 Second Place Holden Sipel Groton Unit 39.

Bonnie and Rose served snacks before the meeting. Hostesses for June will be Sherry and Deb.

The Prayer for Peace was read by the chaplain, meeting adjourned.



Groton UMW
May Luncheon
Wednesday, May 6th

Serving from 11 am - 1 pm
No Reservation Required

Men & Women \$8 - Children 6 and under free

Come and join us for lunch OR Make your own lunch to go
at the Groton United Methodist Church

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**Logan
Robert
Osterman**

Jason and Bridget Osterman of Andover welcomed Logan Robert Osterman on April 21, 2015. He weighed 9 pounds 5 ounces and measured 20.5 inches long when he arrived at 10:15 pm.

Grandparents are Allen and Crystal Hageman of Gettysburg, and Bob and Angie Osterman of Andover.

Great grandparents are Bob and Joan Hageman of Gettysburg, Mick and Carol Osterman of Groton, Paulette Prather of Sioux Falls, the late Orval and Irene Zoellner and the late Robert Prather.



Harry, Hoscheid are engaged

Zachary Harry and Jessica Hoscheid, both originally of Groton, are engaged and planning a May 30th wedding at St. Elizabeth Ann Setan Catholic Church, Groton. Parents of the groom-to-be are Mike and Janene Harry of Groton. Parents of the bride-to-be are Pete and Janet Hoscheid of Groton. The couple resides in Aberdeen where Zach is employed at Insurance Plus and Jessica is employed at Great Western Bank.

GO DOWN THE SLIDE 1st !! OR SEND SOMEONE ELSE DOWN 1st!!

On 5/4/15 the leaders in the contest for sliding down the swimming pool slide are:

1. Marc Sippel
2. David McGannon
3. Logan Lane & Marshall Lane (tied)
4. Joe Foertsch & Mandy Boe (tied)
5. Sarah Sippel & Paul Kosel (tied)

\$10 donation will nominate anyone.

Votes (\$1 donations) can be cast for any candidate until May 20



Garden Club News

The Groton Garden Club met at the home of Linda Gengerke with with Janice Flihs assisting. The pledges were recited in union to open the meeting. Eleven members answered roll call with "how they recycle." Five dollars awards will be given to each of the three winners in the Smokey Bear poster contest in each of grades 1-5. Arbor Day was celebrated at the city park on April 24. The club gave the money several families had donated in memory of their loved one to the city for trees. The amount was \$900. Next meeting each member is to bring one potted plant, garden or house type to be exchanged. The meeting will be with Bev Sombke with Deb Olson assisting. Linda Gengerke will give the program. The meeting will be May 18, at 5:30 p.m. Linda Anderson closed the meeting with a program on recycling.



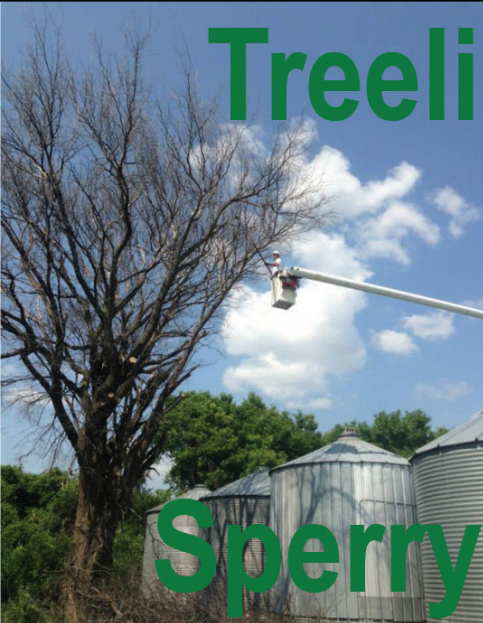
Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915**

**Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal



Kathleen Jo Groeblichhoff



Parents: Matthew and Joni Groeblichhoff

Siblings: Joseph, 16; Ryan, 9; and Nicholas, 7.

Hobbies: Reading, writing, listening to music, spending time with friends and watching movies

School/community activities: Destination Imagination, band, jazz band, Star Torch, Natural Helpers, National Honor Society, All-School Play, CCD Teacher, Church Youth Group

Favorite high school memory: Attending every Groton Tiger football game this year with my mom, Breanna, and the Brads.

Future plans: Attend SDSU and major in Pharmacy

Animal Health Clinic



704 S Melgaard Rd, Aberdeen

(605) 229-1691

Ashley Gibbs



Parents: Steve and Ann Gibbs

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Abby, 20; Clark, 15.

Hobbies: Hanging out with friends and family, babysitting, playing sports, singing, camping, spending time at the lake.

School/Community Activities: Putney Putovers 4-H, volleyball, basketball, yearbook committee, FCCLA, Star Torch, Adopt-A-Grandparent program, Emmanuel Lutheran Church choir, Emmanuel Lutheran Luther League member.

Favorite High School Memory: Making it to the region championship in volleyball.

Future Plans: Attend South Dakota State University and major in Early Childhood Education.



Kyler Ell

Parents: Tom and Kami Lipp, Tony Ell

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Eric, 27; Amanda, 25; Reilly, 20; Tanae, 12.

Hobbies: Playing basketball, video games, hanging out with friends, watching Netflix.

School/Community Activities: Basketball, UMYF member, Natural Helper, 4th Grade basketball coach.

Favorite High School Memory: Playing basketball with my friends and classmates.

Future Plans: I plan to attend SDSU and major in Exercise Science.



605-380-1120

TITAN
MACHINERY

CASE III
CONSTRUCTION

Justin Hanson, Field Marketer
justin.hanson@titanmachinery.com

Natalia Dohman

Parents: David and Tammy Dohman

Hometown: Groton

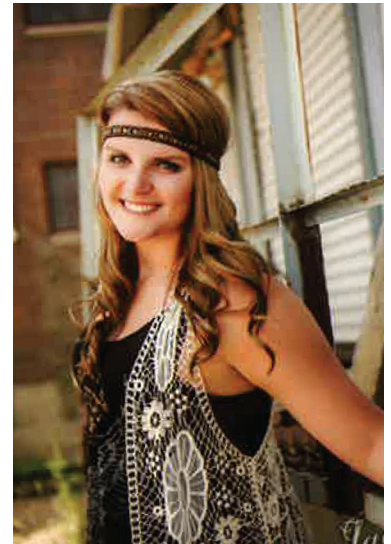
Siblings: Halle, 19; Meghan, 21; Drew, 21; Gabe, 18.

Hobbies: Babysitting, baking, reading.

School/Community Activities: FBLA, yearbook, Natural Helpers, Star Torch.

Favorite High School Memory: Spending time at the lake with family and friends.

Future Plans: Attend USD to major in medical biology, then go to medical school to become an anesthesiologist.



605-380-1120

TITAN
MACHINERY

CASE III
CONSTRUCTION

Justin Hanson, Field Marketer
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Gabriel S. Dohman



Parents: David and Tammy Dohman

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Drew, 21; and Meghan, 21; Halle, 19; Natalia, 18.

Hobbies: Basketball, hunting, talking politics, going to Pickeral Lake and spending time with family and friends

School/community activities: Basketball, SEAS Catholic Church Youth group, Future Business Leaders of America, 4th grade boys basketball coach

Favorite high school memory: Beating Clark-Willow Lake in basketball my senior year

Future Plans: Attend a four-year institution to obtain the necessary Education and leadership skills to become a Pilot in the United States Air Force.

605-380-1120

TITAN
MACHINERY

CASE II

Justin Hanson, Field Marketer
justin.hanson@titanmachinery.com

Jackson Doeden

Parents: Toby and Elizabeth Doeden

Hometown: Groton

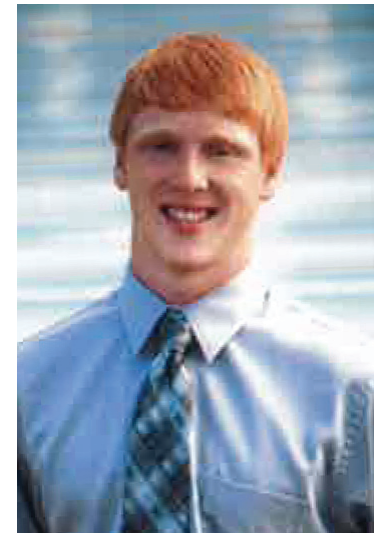
Siblings: Josie, 16; Jennie, 14; Jonathan, 13.

Hobbies: Hanging with friends, video games, hunting.

School/Community Activities: Emmanuel Lutheran Luther League, football, track.

Favorite High School Memory: Football.

Future Plans: Plan to attend Valley City State University to major in Business Management and play football.



 **Teddy Bear Day Care** 
Bear Facts Nursery School
9 Railroad Ave., Groton ~ (605) 397-8646

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Danielle N. Dobbins

Parents: Trixy Schwabe

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Dominique Dobbins, 19; and Douglas Dobbins, 16.

Hobbies: Trying new things, walking my dog

Favorite high school memory: Making new friends

Future plans: Undecided



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JAMES VALLEY SEED			

Nick Dalchow



Parents: Dan and Kari Dalchow

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Only child

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, and being with friends

School/community activities: Football, soccer, hockey, track, baseball, robotics, Luther League

Favorite high school memory: Winning the soccer championship

Future plans: Attending North Dakota State College of Science for Electrical Technology

Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.

39870 139th St, Groton
(605) 395-6581 ~ ggm@nvc.net



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Michaela Cutler



Parents: Kris and Larry Cutler and Mike and Tracy Cutler

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Laura, 30; Emily, 29; Dylan, 24; Mackenzie, 24; and Madison, 21.

Hobbies: Working out, laughing, fishing, singing, hanging out with friends and family

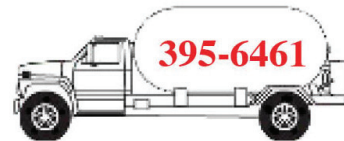
School/community activities: Flags, soccer, track stats, show choir, school play

Favorite high school memory: Getting shot by a firework by Zack and Chance. Yes I got burned and have a big scar still.

Future plans: Attend North Dakota State University and major in Psychology

Farmers Union
CO-OP

101 S 1st Ave., Ferney



Zach Crosby

Parents: Lucy Crosby

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Chloe, 11; Braden, 19.

Hobbies: Soccer, hanging out with friends.

School/Community Activities: Soccer, track.

Favorite High School Memory: Lake days with friends.

Future Plans: Attend South Dakota State University, major in Ag Business.



Weber Landscaping

Setting Higher Standards

Jeremy Weber • 605/380-7811

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Braden Crosby



Parents: Lucy Crosby and Brian Crosby

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: Zach, 18; Chloe, 12.

Hobbies: Riding bike, playing soccer, hanging with friends.

School/community activities: Soccer, JH Basketball

Favorite high school memory: May 12th - Graduation!

Future plans: Work for a year, then attend a tech school.

Weber Landscaping

Setting Higher Standards

Jeremy Weber • 605/380-7811

Maddison Colestock

Parents: Roger Colestock, Michelle and Craig Muilenburg

Hometown: Groton

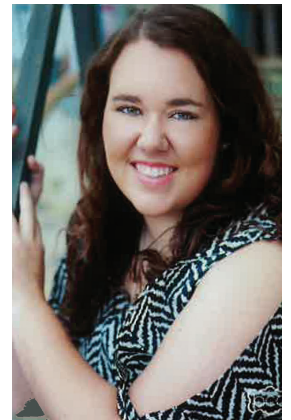
Siblings: Nick Weber, 29; Megan Weber, 25; and Payton Colestock, 14.

Hobbies: Golfing, reading, baking, scrapbooking, napping

School/community activities: Tutoring, Star Torch, Natural Helpers, Groton Lion's Club, girls golf team

Favorite high school memory: 2014 homecoming consisting of winning best float and initiation.

Future plans: Attend University of South Dakota, and majoring in Nursing and go to Med-School in the future.



LW Sales, Inc.

Groton ~ 397-8111

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Kennedy Clark



Parents: John and Kelly Clark

Hometown: Groton

Siblings: None- only child

Hobbies: Horseback riding, photography, reading, traveling, spending time with family and friends

School/community activities: FCCLA, FBLA, FCA, Adopt-a-grandparent, 4-H, youth group, Star Torch, Natural Helpers

Favorite high school memory: FACS II kitchen fire, homecoming, prom, and filling up air mattresses with Katie LaMee in the parking lot and watching them fly away in the wind

Future plans: To attend University of Sioux Falls and major in Business-Marketing Management



John Wheeting
605/228-3309
Groton

Karla Chen

Parents: Anabela Jimenez

Hometown: Andover

Siblings: Stephanie Chen, 19; Hector Chen, 23; Carlos Chen, 25.

Hobbies: Running, swimming, and hanging out with friends

Favorite high school memory: Being a cheerleader at Girls State B'

Future plans: Join the Military and then go to school to study Wildlife Biology and Zoology



Office: 605/397-8145
FAX: 605/397-2472
Cell: 605/380-0886

Lars Hanson
Professional Management Services
Farm Consultant



1503 N Broadway
Groton SD 57445-

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Ethan Braun

Parents: Jeff Braun and Cathy Braun

Hometown: Nowhere, SD

Siblings: Aaron Braun, 29; and Sawyer, 28.

Hobbies: Video games

School/community activities: Robotics

Favorite high school memory: Going home after school

Future plans: Work



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39870 139th St, Groton
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Rachel Marie Blackmun

Parents: Dave and Marcy Blackmun

Hometown: Groton

siblings: Korbin Blackmun-14

Hobbies: Hanging with friends, cooking/baking, being with family

School/community activities: SEAS youth group, flag corp, band, vocal, show choir, jazz band, golf, Carnival of Silver Skates, Star Torch, and Natural Helpers.

Favorite high school/community activities: Homecoming senior year. We came together as a class to do some harmless pranks

Future plans: Attend USD majoring in Medical Biology



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Tori Bjerke



Parents: Jerry and Kathy Bjerke
Hometown: Groton
Siblings: Cameron, 29; Breanne, 28; Rebecca, 22; Jessica, 15; Jordan, 11; Madisen 11.
Hobbies: Hanging out with friends and family, swimming, fishing and boating at the lake.
School/Community Activities: FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, Adopt a Grandparent program.
Favorite High School Memory: Getting to the region championship in volleyball with Coach Chelsea Hanson!
Future Plans: Attend Lake Area Technical Institute and will be studying medical and dental assisting.



Stormy Bahr

Parents: Loren Bahr and Kimberly Barry.
Hometown: Crocker
Sibling: Skyler Bahr, 19.
Hobbies: Fishing, hunting, soccer, hanging out with friends.
School/Community Activities: Soccer.
Favorite High School Memory: Winning state soccer this past year.
Future Plans: Going to attend Diesel Mechanic program at Lake Area.



LW Sales, Inc.

Groton ~ 397-8111

Today in Weather History

May 6, 1988: High winds produced blowing dust which reduced visibilities to less than one half mile in northeastern South Dakota. Wind gusts of 62 mph were reported at Aberdeen. A small building was destroyed in Gettysburg and a building was damaged near Timber Lake. Winds also blew over a tractor trailer injuring a man in Okaton.








May 6, 1999: High winds of 35 to 50 mph, gusting to over 60 mph blew across central and north central South Dakota from the early morning to the late evening hours causing some damage. In Pierre, the high winds blew a large tree down and tore loose a piece of the sheet metal cornice atop a downtown building. At the Legion Memorial Park in Mobridge, the high winds knocked the centerfield lights to the ground. In Jones County, a semi-tractor trailer was blown over and damaged. The fishing tournament of Lake Oahe had to be postponed as result of the high winds.

1876: A tornado, estimated at F3 intensity, tracked four miles across Chicago, Illinois. The damaged buildings included a candy factory, a hospital, a freight depot, and a church. The tornado moved out over Lake Michigan, and was observed by a reporter to have multiple vortices. Further south in Illinois, a tornado blew a moving passenger train off the tracks near Neoga, injuring all 19 people aboard.

1975: A massive tornado hit Omaha NE killing three persons, injuring 133 others, and causing 150 million dollars damage. The tornado struck during the late afternoon moving northeastward through the industrial and residential areas of west central Omaha, and lifting over the northern section of the city. The twister, which cut a swath ten miles long and as much as a quarter of a mile wide, was the mostly costly in U.S. history up till that time.

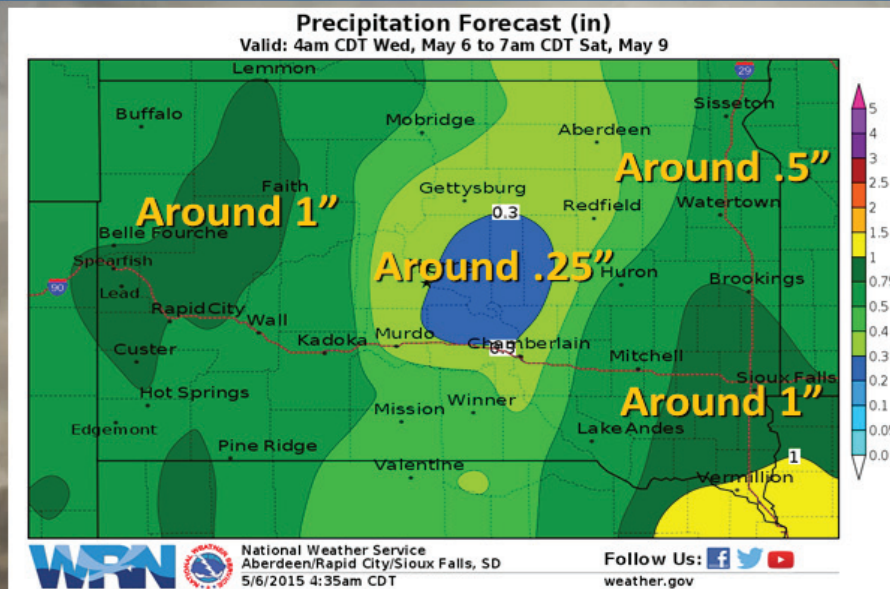
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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
90%	80%	40%	30%			
Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms	Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 70 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 60 °F

Rain and Thunder Off & On Through Thursday

Several waves move across the state today & Thursday
Greatest precipitation amounts:
Western SD
Southeast SD



Published on: 05/06/2015 at 5:18AM

Low pressure will continue to bring several waves of light precipitation to the region. This morning will feature generally off and on light rain state wide with highest amounts centered in western South Dakota. If we can get some sunshine - weak afternoon thunderstorms could fire across the state as well. Another surge of moisture will move into eastern South Dakota tonight - and finally some light rain will follow in the wake of the system for Thursday.

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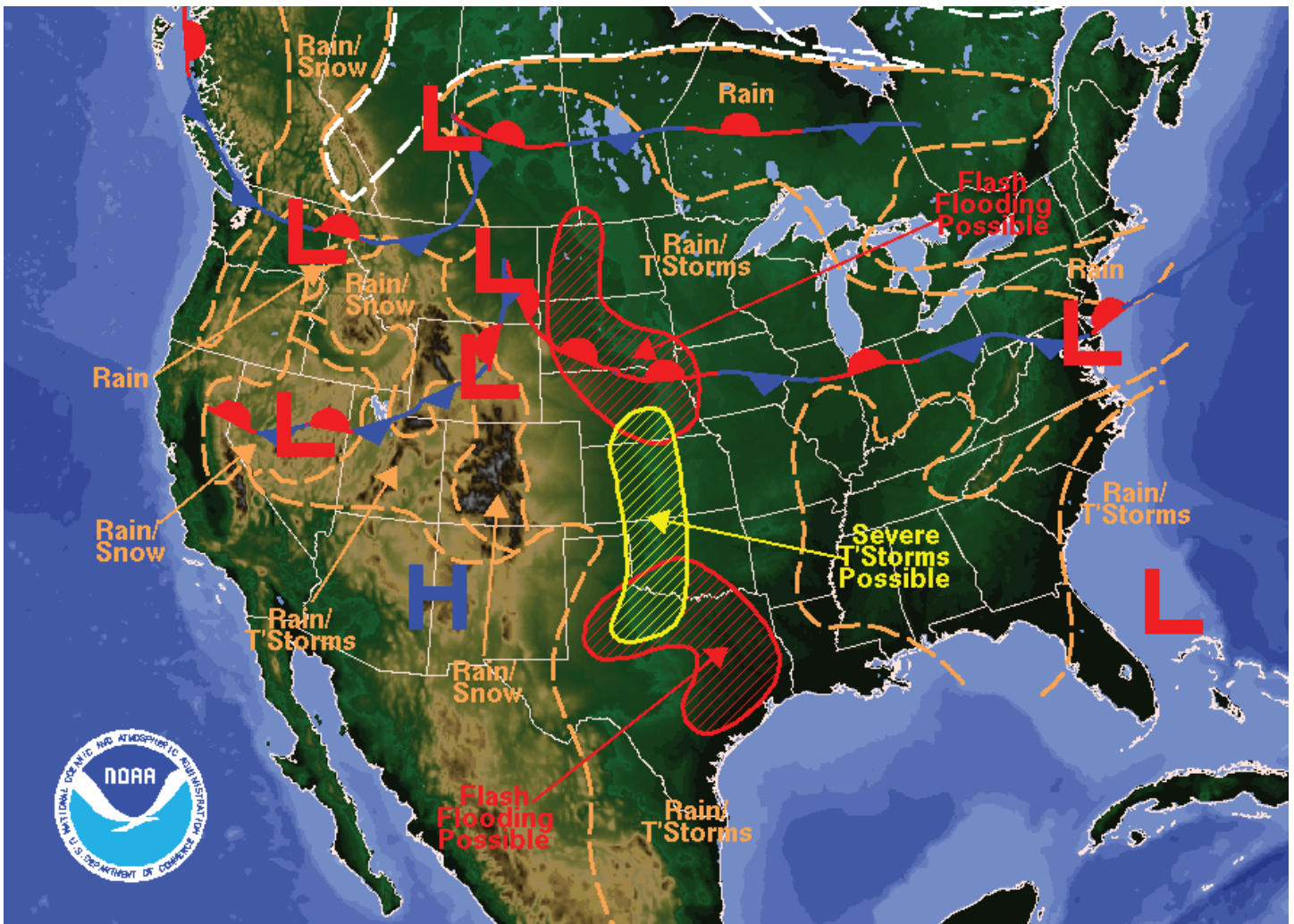
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 77.9 at 3:38 PM
Low: 50.4 at 12:48 AM
High Gust: 29 at 4:19 PM
Snow: 0.00
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 1916
Record Low: 23° in 1931
Average High: 66°F
Average Low: 40°F
Average Precip in May: 0.51
Precip to date in May: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 4.54
Precip Year to Date: 0.95
Sunset Tonight: 8:46 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:14 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, May 06, 2015, issued 4:36 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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CAME WITH NOTHING – LEAVE WITH NOTHING

Alexander the Great was a Macedonian king who conquered Persia, Greece and Egypt. He was considered the "conqueror of the world." It was the custom in his day that when a person died their hands would be wrapped so no one could see them. However, prior to his death he asked that his hands remain unwrapped. When they asked why, he replied, "I want everyone to see that they were empty."

In his letter to Timothy, Paul said, "After all, we didn't bring anything with us when we came into this world, and we certainly can't take anything with us when we die." This is a popular verse, used by many, but accepted and followed as a guide for living by only a few – judging by the way that most of us live!

In three short verses, Paul gives some astounding advice to all of us. He begins by saying that true religion can be very valuable if it brings one contentment. Might he be saying that if we are not content with what we believe, no amount of money will bring us peace? Then he reminds us that we "can't take it with us." And then he concludes this bit of advice by saying, "And by the way, if you have enough food and clothing, be content. And if you are not content with what God's given you, you will be tempted and trapped by foolish desires that bring ruin and destruction." We must always consider what is in our hands.

Prayer: It's easy, Lord, to want what has no eternal value. Place in our hearts a desire for what matters most. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Timothy 6:6-10 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

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News from the  Associated Press

Remodeled Civil War Monument in Pierre to be rededicated

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Civil War Monument east of Capitol Lake in Pierre will be rededicated 95 years after its original dedication on June 1, 1920.

The Capitol Complex Restoration and Beautification Commission approved various upgrades to the Civil War Monument site, including sidewalks, lighting, benches, landscaping and a flagpole.

Two interpretive signs that highlight the monument itself and the history of the South Dakota Grand Army of the Republic were installed at the site, with the help of the South Dakota State Historical Society.

The Civil War Monument was the first war monument on the State Capitol grounds.

The June 1 rededication event will include a re-enactment of the original ceremony followed by a few remarks from Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

SD Governor's Agricultural Summit to be held in Deadwood

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Farmers, agricultural businesses and public officials are gathering in Deadwood for the South Dakota Governor's Agricultural Summit.

The state Department of Agriculture announced Tuesday the summit will be held July 9 and 10 at the Lodge at Deadwood Gaming Resort.

Secretary of Agriculture Lucas Lentsch says the gathering is meant to discuss successes and challenges in agriculture.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard will present the 2015 Ag Ambassador Award, and Lentsch will offer an address on the state of agriculture.

PUC to hold hearing on proposed NorthWestern rate increase

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The state Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing in Yankton next week to take input about a proposed rate increase by NorthWestern Energy.

The PUC says it will hear comments at the Thursday meeting on the increase that NorthWestern applied for in December.

The company says the proposed increase for a typical residential customer would be about \$16.75 per month. The proposed rates could affect about 62,000 customers in NorthWestern's South Dakota service area.

The increase would overall increase rates by about 26.5 million annually, or about 20 percent, for the company.

The public hearing will begin at 7 p.m. at the Best Western Kelly Inn in Yankton.

Man accused of firing shots at Sioux Falls party arrested

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An 18-year-old man is facing four counts of aggravated assault for allegedly firing several rounds from a handgun near downtown Sioux Falls early Tuesday.

Sioux Falls police say a party spilled outside a little before 5 p.m. on the 700 block of 2nd Avenue. It there they believe the 18-year-old man fired several shots near another man and woman following an argument.

Police say the one of the victims tried to wrestle the gun away from the shooter, but was hit repeat-

edly with the weapon.

The man with the gun eventually ran away.

After investigating, police found the man with the gun near 9th Street and Lake Avenue late Tuesday afternoon. He arrested and brought to the Minnehaha County Jail.

It's unclear whether he's been formally charged.

South Dakota pursues credit rating upgrade from other firms

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — With an upgrade from Standard & Poor's in hand, South Dakota is pursuing new credit ratings from other major agencies to match.

The move this week bumping South Dakota's issuer credit rating from "AA+" to "AAA" by New York-based S&P will likely save the state money by letting it borrow at lower interest costs, and similar action from Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings would compound that effect, said Jason Dilges, the Bureau of Finance and Management commissioner.

What's unclear for South Dakota, experts say, is exactly how much those savings will be. Another wrinkle is a constitutional provision that largely blocks the state from directly incurring debt, which means it must use methods at "arms-length" from the state, Dilges said.

South Dakota joins 15 other states that have S&P's highest rating. Dilges cited the upgrade as a testament to the state's fiscal strength and said it's a signal to financial markets that South Dakota debt is a safe bet. Credit ratings give potential bond purchasers a measurement of state performance and credit worthiness.

"We're not done yet," Dilges said. "We ... will keep on working to get the other two."

Members of Gov. Dennis Daugaard's administration have met with ratings agencies, and the governor has pushed for policies to help secure the upgrade. Some of those efforts include timelier financial reporting and longer-term budget and capital spending forecasts.

"When one rating agency takes a rating action, it's very likely that the other rating agencies might follow," said Richard Larkin, a senior vice president and director of credit analysis at Herbert J. Sims & Co. Inc., a financial firm.

Dilges said the bump is akin to a credit score improvement for a South Dakota resident: A higher score would mean a lower interest rate on a car or home loan, which would translate to savings over the life of the loan.

For the South Dakota Building Authority, one of several entities that issues bonds in the state, the upgrade will save money, but it's unclear how much, said executive secretary Don Templeton.

The authority is preparing to offer \$11.5 million in bonds to pay for improvements at Custer State Park. But the debt can't be offered at the "AAA" status because the bonds aren't backed by the state's "ultimate guarantee," Dilges said, so it will be offered at a lower rating.

S&P credit analyst Sussan Corson said she doesn't anticipate a change in the state's rating in the next two years. Corson said North Dakota's "AAA" outlook is also stable, even if oil prices remain low, as long as the state adjusts its budget accordingly.

Turkey farmer hit by bird flu sees emotional, financial toll

STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Lifelong turkey farmer Greg Langmo knew as soon as the young flock that usually clustered around him like curious little puppies turned lethargic and stopped eating that his Minnesota farm had been struck by the bird flu that has shaken the poultry industry.

Part of the loss is financial: Langmo lost more than 30,000 turkeys at his farm near Litchfield, and expects to lose well over \$100,000 even after partial government compensation. But a big part is emotional, too, even for large-scale farmers, who take pride in caring for their birds.

"They looked just awesome — clean-feathered and red-headed. They were really a nice flock to be around. We really enjoyed them, and that came to a screeching halt," Langmo, 57, told The Associated Press.

Bird flu has badly shaken the Midwest poultry industry, which has lost nearly 28 million chickens and turkeys already. Farmers are facing huge losses, and one plant laid off workers Tuesday because of short supplies.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has confirmed outbreaks of the highly pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza virus on more than 100 Midwest farms since early March. Hardest hit have been Minnesota, the country's top turkey producing state, and Iowa, the No. 1 egg producer.

Scientists believe migratory waterfowl carry the virus. Wild ducks and geese don't become sick from it, but can spread it via their droppings. The virus then finds its way into poultry barns despite tight biosecurity, perhaps carried in on workers' footwear or clothing, or maybe hitchhiking on contaminated dust whipped up by the wind.

The 13-week-old toms Langmo lost were meant to be slaughtered and turned into sandwich meat at around 18 to 19 weeks old. One of Langmo's employees first noticed that something wasn't right in one of his barns two weeks ago. Test results quickly confirmed the devastating news. A few days later, turkeys started getting sick in his two other barns.

While the federal government will compensate Langmo for his birds that were euthanized, he gets nothing for birds killed by the flu itself. No insurance covers such losses either. Add to that the threat of a resurgence of the virus this fall when birds fly south for the winter and the lack of a vaccine, and Langmo fears that banks won't risk lending to help keep affected producers like him afloat.

Langmo plans to cut every possible expense until he can start raising and marketing turkeys again. But if his bank account runs dry first, he's finished.

"We're going to spend the checkbook to zero and at that point we're going to have to close," he said.

And it's not just farmers who are feeling the pain. Jennie-O Turkey Store, the country's second-largest turkey processor, said Tuesday it will lay off 233 employees at its plant in the southern Minnesota city of Faribault because bird flu outbreaks have cut supplies.

For farmers, the emotional and financial stresses are adding up, said Steve Olson, executive director of the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association and the Chicken and Egg Association of Minnesota. Producers are trying everything they can think of to keep the virus off their farms and wondering if their flocks will become infected anyway, he said.

"They're on high alert, and on high alert for an extended period of time," Olson said.

Among those whose flocks get sick, Olson said the most common initial reaction is dismay because they can't do much except watch their birds die. "It's a pretty traumatic experience to go through," Olson said.

He's welcoming new efforts by local mental health agencies in some affected counties to ensure that counseling is available to farmers who need it. He also cited business, legal and mental health services

available through the state-sponsored Minnesota Farmer Assistance Network.

"It's really difficult," Langmo said. "I've spent an entire career making sure turkeys were comfortable and happy and had whatever they needed, from heat to light to vaccine or new bedding. And to know there's nothing you can do for them, it's a helpless feeling."

Democratic state Rep. Paula Hawks weighs bid against Noem

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State Rep. Paula Hawks appears to be the first Democrat publicly weighing a challenge to Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, who will be seeking re-election in 2016.

Hawks, a representative from Hartford, said Tuesday she will likely make a decision before July.

Hawks says her priority is the constituents in her state House district, but she says she's willing to take on a new role in the future that best serves the people of South Dakota.

The Noem campaign declined to comment.

Hawks says she's focused on education funding, expanding medical coverage and promoting economic development opportunities for South Dakota.

Hawks says a statewide run is a "daunting task."

Noem had more than \$1 million in the bank when she wrapped up the fundraising quarter that ended in March.

Panel named to help review candidates for Regents leader

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents has appointed a constituent panel to help review candidates for the position of executive director and CEO.

Jack R. Warner is retiring from the job at the end of the year, after six years of leading the system. The board is working with a search firm to identify candidates for his successor.

The constituent panel has nearly two dozen members. Board President Randy Schaefer says they reflect constituent groups that work with and within the public university system.

Schaefer says the search for a new leader will be completed by early summer.

April among driest in Chamberlain, Madison, other SD cities

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Last month was one of the driest Aprils on record for several South Dakota towns, as the state continued to slide further into drought.

The biggest precipitation deficits last month were in the state's southeast, which was 2 inches or more below average, according to state climatologist Dennis Today.

It was the driest April on record for Chamberlain and Mellette, and second-driest for Madison, Roscoe and Big Stone City. Eleven other weather stations recorded April among the top-five driest on record.

Meanwhile, nearly the entire state recorded above-average temperatures in April, Today said.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map showed three-fourths of South Dakota to be in some type of drought. Sixteen percent of the state was considered to be in severe drought, which is the middle of the five classifications the agency uses and which suggests that crop or pasture losses are likely and water shortages are common.

Mark Venner, whose farm near Pierre is in the severe drought area, said it has been a challenge trying to grow wheat, corn and sunflowers and to raise cattle on the parched land.

"Every day we drive around and look at our crops," he told the Capital Journal. "An inch or two (of rain) would be great, but it's got to become a rainy spell. A rain is not going to do the deal."

Today also said above-average precipitation is needed to overcome the moisture shortage, and the

prospects of that happening are far from certain. The outlook for the next 30 days has equal chances of below- and above-average rainfall, he said.

The past week saw "minimal" precipitation in South Dakota, putting even more stress on soil moisture, the Agriculture Department said in its weekly crop progress report. Subsoil moisture supplies statewide are rated 70 percent short or very short, and topsoil moisture supplies are 74 percent short or very short. That is a worsening from 67 percent and 69 percent respectively last week.

More than one-third of the state's winter wheat crop is rated in poor or very poor condition. Stock water supplies are rated 42 percent short or very short.

Venner, who can see the Missouri River and Lake Oahe from his farm, said the dry conditions are "sur-real."

"I can see all kinds of water and we're kicking the dust up here," he said.

Family of slain Yankton woman makes push to find killer, nearly a quarter century later

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The family of a Yankton woman slain nearly a quarter century ago is making a renewed effort to find her killer, and people affiliated with her then-boyfriend aren't pleased about the renewal of suspicion.

The body of Tammy Haas, 19, was found Sept. 23, 1992, in a ravine near a Crofton, Nebraska, golf course, just across the South Dakota border. Four years later, a jury found boyfriend Eric Stukel not guilty of manslaughter. The couple had gone to a party at a farm on Sept. 17, 1992, the day she was last seen.

Haas' family last month hired private detectives to work on the case, using \$24,000 raised through social media, the Argus Leader reported (<http://argusne.ws/1GV8H6p>). The Facebook page, "Justice for Tammy Haas," has more than 5,000 followers. In April, "Dateline NBC" listed the slaying in its "Cold Case Spotlight."

"Our prayer is that the ones who know what happened to Tammy will have the courage to tell so we may all receive the peace we need by knowing the truth," mother Nancy Haas said.

Attorney Mike Stevens, who represented Stukel at trial, said accusations on social media pointing to his former client are unfair.

"What's the purpose of having a judicial system if a jury can find a person innocent and we still have these social media things portraying that person as someone who's not?" he said.

Stukel's mother, Dawn Stukel, said she prays for the Haas family each day but finds the renewed suspicion of her son troubling, adding that they "went through all this 20 years ago."

"There's no way I doubt his innocence," Dawn Stukel said.

The Nebraska attorney general's office, which prosecuted the case in the late 1990s, says the case is open but that no new information has come in. The Yankton Police Department also said it has received no new leads.

Brother Paul Haas said he still has hope.

"I'm not one for expectations, but I think momentum is growing as more people take an interest in the case and more are active in finding the truth, so I do have hope that the truth will eventually come out," he said.

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Week of dry weather worsens soil moisture in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Another week of dry weather is putting even more stress on soil moisture in South Dakota.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop progress report that subsoil moisture supplies statewide are rated 70 percent short or very short, and topsoil moisture supplies are 74 percent short or very short. That's up from 67 percent and 69 percent last week.

More than one-third of the state's winter wheat crop is rated in poor or very poor condition. Stock water supplies are rated 42 percent short or very short. Both percentages have worsened over the week.

The dry weather has enabled farmers to make progress on spring planting. Seeding of all crops in South Dakota is ahead of the average pace over the past five years.

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. WHICH CLUES HINTED AT TEXAS PLOT

Minutes before the cartoon contest shooting, a final tweet on an account linked to one of the gunmen said: "May Allah accept us as mujahideen," or holy warriors.

2. KERRY TRIP TO DJIBOUTI HIGHLIGHTS SMALL NATION'S IMPORTANCE

With U.S. ground forces out of Yemen amid a civil war, the African country is a launching pad for drone attacks on al-Qaida as well as a key transit point for Americans trying to get home.

3. CO-PILOT WHO CAUSED GERMANWINGS CRASH HAD PRACTICED DESCENT

Andreas Lubitz abruptly changed altitude on previous flight from Duesseldorf to Barcelona, French investigators said.

4. YEMENI REBELS REMAIN DUG IN DESPITE AIRSTRIKES

A Saudi-led campaign inflicts damage on the Houthis, but they show little sign of collapse.

5. LATEST GOP CAMPAIGNS FOR WHITE HOUSE STAR HILLARY CLINTON

The leading Democrat is featured prominently by two Republican contenders, Mike Huckabee and Carly Fiorina.

6. CALIFORNIA REGULATORS APPROVE UNPRECEDENTED WATER CUTBACKS

Although the rules are mandatory, it's unclear what punishment local agencies will impose for those that don't meet the targets.

7. NEPAL'S EARTHQUAKE HIGHLIGHTS YOUTH EXODUS

Some in rural parts of the country wonder if they'll lose even the young ones who've stayed, complicating the task of rebuilding and improving village life.

8. NORTH KOREA UNVEILS ONLINE SHOPPING SITE

If you happen to be one of the few North Koreans with access to the nation's intranet, you can use it to buy home-grown products ranging from clothes to cream buns.

9. WHOM TOP TECH FIRMS BYPASS FOR EXEC JOBS

Major technology companies are far more inclined to hire Asians as computer programmers than to promote them to become managers, according to a study.

10. WHERE PRINCE WILL PERFORM NEXT

The singer announces a concert in Baltimore following recent unrest in the city over the death of a man who was fatally injured in police custody.

AP News in Brief

Gunman's final tweet, hashtag hinted at Texas assault on cartoon contest

PHOENIX (AP) — About 20 minutes before the shooting at a Texas cartoon contest that featured images of the Prophet Muhammad, a final tweet posted on an account linked to one of the gunmen said: "May Allah accept us as mujahideen," or holy warriors.

Among the hashtags used by the account was "(hash)texasattack."

Federal authorities were tracking the Twitter account linked to 31-year-old Elton Simpson of Phoenix before he and another gunman opened fire Sunday in the Dallas suburb of Garland, said Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, who was briefed on the investigation by federal law enforcement officials.

The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI on April 20 also had issued a joint intelligence bulletin to local law enforcement warning that the Garland event was a possible target for a terrorist attack, according to a DHS official who was not authorized to be quoted discussing the document.

Social media accounts linked to "violent extremists" had been focusing on the contest, the bulletin said. According to mainstream Islamic tradition, any physical depiction of the Prophet Muhammad — even a respectful one — is considered blasphemous.

Analysis: Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen hit Shiite rebels hard but still don't bring them down

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — More than a month of relentless airstrikes by a coalition led by Saudi Arabia has inflicted painful damage on Shiite rebels in Yemen, but they show little sign of collapse.

The rebels, known as the Houthis, continue to have a strong grip on the capital, Sanaa, and much of the north. They and their allies — powerful military units loyal to the former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh — are still able to fight doggedly on multiple fronts, particularly in the south.

In weeks of grueling urban warfare, Houthi and pro-Saleh forces are slowly taking neighborhood after neighborhood of the southern port city of Aden, the main stronghold of their opponent, current President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who fled the country to Saudi Arabia. Fighting the Houthis are a loose mix of militias, some supporting Hadi, others fighting for their own local interests.

That leaves Saudi Arabia and its allies with only a few options. One is to launch a troop intervention on the ground to bolster the anti-Houthi forces. The other is to keep up the punishment from the air in hopes that eventually the rebels and Saleh's forces are worn down enough to make concessions and enter negotiations — or enough that the population of Sanaa and other areas rise up against them.

The Saudi goal in the campaign is ultimately to restore Hadi but it appears that it's not counting on outright military victory to do so. Instead, it wants to push the Houthis and Saleh loyalists to pull back from several cities they took over in recent months and come chastened to the negotiating table.

Kerry trip to Djibouti highlights importance of small nation now increasingly key to US policy

DJIBOUTI (AP) — A sleepy coastal nation in the Horn of Africa, Djibouti was the last French colony to achieve independence. Today, nearly four decades later, the mainly Sunni nation has become a critical part of U.S. foreign policy.

With U.S. ground forces out of Yemen amid a civil war, Djibouti is a launching pad for drone attacks

on al-Qaida and other extremist groups as well as a key transit point for Americans trying to get home. Djibouti also is bracing for the potential arrival of thousands of refugees from across the Gulf of Aden. People of different nationalities are fleeing the fighting between Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels and Saudi-supported government forces.

In part to thank the Djiboutian government for its support and to get a closer look at U.S. operations, Secretary of State John Kerry traveled there Wednesday. A day after becoming the first top American diplomat to visit Somalia, he's likewise the first to make an appearance in tiny Djibouti, which encompasses an area the size of New Jersey and has less than 1 million people.

Kerry will get together with President Ismail Omar Guelleh and Foreign Minister Mahamoud Ali Yousouf. He'll then meet top U.S. military officials at Camp Lemmonier, which hosts thousands of U.S. troops, contractors and civilian workers as well as aerial drones that fly over Yemen and Somalia.

Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton stars in latest Republican presidential campaigns

HOPE, Arkansas (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton starred in two presidential campaign launches this week. Neither was her own.

The leading Democrat was featured prominently by two Republican contenders, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former technology executive Carly Fiorina, whose road to relevancy in 2016 may be inextricably tied to the former first lady. As other Republicans begin to jab each other, both Fiorina's and Huckabee's nascent campaigns are based on the notion that they are uniquely positioned to defeat Clinton.

Both may be overstating their cases.

Huckabee didn't explicitly mention Clinton on Tuesday even as he began a second presidential bid in the hometown he shares with her husband, Bill Clinton, the 42nd president. Yet the strategy was clear, as Huckabee and his senior aides cast him as a conservative populist outsider and the only Republican to have successfully taken on the Clinton political machine.

The opening frames of Huckabee's campaign video featured a black-and-white photo of the Clintons. In his speech, Huckabee recalled "challenging the deeply entrenched political machine that ran this state." Later, he took a swipe at Hillary Clinton, noting that he doesn't "have a global foundation" to help start his campaign.

Nepal's earthquake highlights exodus of young people from poor villages

KHADKA TOLE, Nepal (AP) — Gone, the girl says as she squints into the sun, the air around her shimmering with wind-blown wheat chaff. She points to one house after another nestled in the green hills, most shattered from the massive earthquake that hit Nepal last month.

"Over there, one has gone. The same over there. Most of the young people here are gone. At least one for every house," Smriti Bastola, 16, says of this poor farming village of about 400 people just 25 kilometers (15 miles) east of the capital, Kathmandu. Most left for work in the Persian Gulf or in Kathmandu.

"We are living a miserable life here," Bastola says. "We are educated, but what jobs are there besides working in the fields for little money?"

This youth exodus, a painful choice between staying with family in impoverished hometowns or venturing into an often-harsh world to make much-needed money, began well before the 7.8 magnitude

earthquake on April 25 knocked flat whole villages.

Now, however, some in rural Nepal wonder if they'll lose even the young ones who've stayed, complicating not only the huge job of rebuilding after the quake but also the task of improving village life in one of the world's poorest countries.

California regulators adopt unprecedented mandatory water cutbacks to address ongoing drought

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California water regulators adopted sweeping, unprecedented restrictions on how people, governments and businesses can use water amid the state's ongoing drought, hoping to push reluctant residents to deeper conservation.

The State Water Resources Control Board approved rules Tuesday that force cities to limit watering on public property, encourage homeowners to let their lawns die and impose mandatory water-savings targets for the hundreds of local agencies and cities that supply water to California customers.

Gov. Jerry Brown sought the more stringent regulations, arguing that voluntary conservation efforts have so far not yielded the water savings needed amid a four-year drought. He ordered water agencies to cut urban water use by 25 percent from levels in 2013, the year before he declared a drought emergency.

"It is better to prepare now than face much more painful cuts should it not rain in the fall," board Chairwoman Felicia Marcus said Tuesday as the panel voted 5-0 to approve the new rules.

Although the rules are called mandatory, it's still unclear what punishment the state water board and local agencies will impose for those that don't meet the targets. Board officials said they expect dramatic water savings as soon as June and are willing to add restrictions and penalties for agencies that lag.

AP Interview: Uganda leader, new term in sight, says, 'If anybody has been bullied, it is me'

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — There is so much freedom in Uganda that it's nearly anarchy, the country's president joked, stepping carefully around what's an open secret back home: Yoweri Museveni will run for yet another term next year, and surely he will win.

Museveni, casual in an untucked dress shirt during an interview in a Waldorf Astoria hotel suite, gave The Associated Press his version of power and succession on the sidelines of his appearance at a high-level U.N. meeting, where he scolded the United States and the other permanent members of the Security Council on their approaches to Africa's problems.

Later Tuesday, with his role on display as the leader of a regional power and one of Africa's most militarized countries, he met with White House National Security Adviser Susan Rice to discuss the conflicts in South Sudan and the Darfur region of Sudan, the White House announced.

Dismissing accusations from critics that his rule over the decades has become more and more authoritarian, far from the days when former President Bill Clinton praised him as one of a "new breed" of reform-minded African leaders, Museveni told the AP, "If anybody has been bullied, it is me."

And as he prepares to turn 71 in September, Museveni appeared little concerned about a possible legal challenge to another presidential term by those who argue he will be too old to be in charge. A new term would take him over Uganda's 75-year-old presidential age limit.

In key trial, Afghan judge hands down death sentences to 4 accused in mob killing of woman

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An Afghan court on Wednesday convicted and sentenced four men to death for their role in the brutal mob killing of a woman in Kabul in March — a slaying that shocked the nation and spurred calls for authorities to ensure women's rights to equality and protection from violence.

The sentences were part of a trial of 49 suspects, including 19 police officers, over the March 19 killing of the 27-year-old woman named Farkhunda who was beaten to death in a frenzied attack sparked by a bogus accusation that she had burned a copy of the Quran.

The trial, which began Saturday, only involved two full days of court proceedings — an unusual swiftness in the slow-moving Afghan judicial system. It was broadcast live on national television, reflecting huge public interest in the case.

Judge Safiullah Mojadedi handed down the four death sentences at Afghanistan's Primary Court in Kabul on Wednesday. He also sentenced eight of the defendants to 16 years in prison and dropped charges against 18. The remaining suspects are to be sentenced on Sunday.

The defendants have the right to appeal their sentences. The charges included assault, murder and encouraging others to participate in the assault. The police officers were charged with neglecting their duties and failing to prevent the attack.

Charm offensive: David Cameron fights for career, and legacy, in Britain's knife-edge election

COLESHILL, England (AP) — David Cameron is fighting for his political life in Britain's election. But it sure doesn't look like it.

For much of the month-long campaign, Cameron has appeared relaxed — even disengaged. Critics say Cameron doesn't seem as hungry to win as Labour rival Ed Miliband.

Yet polls put Cameron's Conservatives and Labour neck-and-neck. Smaller forces from left and right are eroding both parties' support, and neither looks likely to win a majority in Parliament. If Cameron fails to win a second term as prime minister on Thursday, he will almost certainly be dumped as Tory leader.

"The poleax is hanging over his head," said David Seawright, senior lecturer in British politics at the University of Leeds, citing a maxim of Winston Churchill: If a leader is no good, "he must be poleaxed."

Cameron's apparent relaxation fits with the way opponents see the 48-year-old politician: as a privileged smoothie who hates to break a sweat. Cameron values work-life balance, spends as much time as possible with his wife Samantha and three children, and is depicted in the press as the PM who likes to "chillax."

N. Korea unveils online shopping site, but for unwired masses it's not just a click away

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Online shopping has arrived in North Korea, though it's as isolated from the rest of the world as the country itself, and the vast majority of North Koreans lack the technology to use it.

The website Okryu, aimed primarily at smartphone users, offers products from North Korean companies including women's clothing, bags, shoes, medicines, cosmetics, furniture and food. Payment, in

local currency only, is taken from the main North Korean debit card system.

To keep it all hermetically sealed, the site works not on the World Wide Web but on North Korea's own intranet, a self-contained version of the Internet set up and maintained strictly for domestic use. North Koreans call it the "domestic web" and it's been around for years, but not used very much, largely because very few North Koreans have personal-use computers that can go online at all.

Smartphone use, however, is growing, and Okryu's presence suggests that the government does not consider the technology to be a threat to the country's rigid social order.

While cellphones are still largely absent from the countryside, it has become common to see people using them while walking down the streets of the capital. After years in which it limited mobile phones to elites or banned them entirely, North Korea began allowing their broad use in 2008. By 2013, the number of mobile and smartphones mushroomed to about 2 million, or nearly one for every 10 North Koreans.

California regulators approve unprecedented water cutbacks

FENIT NIRAPPIL, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California water regulators adopted sweeping, unprecedented restrictions on how people, governments and businesses can use water amid the state's ongoing drought, hoping to push reluctant residents to deeper conservation.

The State Water Resources Control Board approved rules Tuesday that force cities to limit watering on public property, encourage homeowners to let their lawns die and impose mandatory water-savings targets for the hundreds of local agencies and cities that supply water to California customers.

Gov. Jerry Brown sought the more stringent regulations, arguing that voluntary conservation efforts have so far not yielded the water savings needed amid a four-year drought. He ordered water agencies to cut urban water use by 25 percent from levels in 2013, the year before he declared a drought emergency.

"It is better to prepare now than face much more painful cuts should it not rain in the fall," board Chairwoman Felicia Marcus said Tuesday as the panel voted 5-0 to approve the new rules.

Although the rules are called mandatory, it's still unclear what punishment the state water board and local agencies will impose for those that don't meet the targets. Board officials said they expect dramatic water savings as soon as June and are willing to add restrictions and penalties for agencies that lag.

But the board lacks staff to oversee each of the hundreds of water agencies, which range dramatically in size and scope. Some local agencies that are tasked with achieving savings do not have the resources to issue tickets to those who waste water, and many others have chosen not to do so.

Despite the dire warnings, it's also still not clear that Californians have grasped the seriousness of the drought or the need for conservation. Data released by the board Tuesday showed that Californians conserved little water in March, and local officials were not aggressive in cracking down on waste.

A survey of local water departments showed water use fell less than 4 percent in March compared with the same month in 2013. Overall savings have been only about 9 percent since last summer.

Under the new rules, each city is ordered to cut water use by as much as 36 percent compared with 2013. Some local water departments have called the proposal unrealistic and unfair, arguing that achieving steep cuts could cause higher water bills and declining property values, and dissuade projects to develop drought-proof water technology such as desalination and sewage recycling.

Representatives of San Diego-area water agencies have been especially critical of the water targets,

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noting that the region has slashed consumption and agencies have spent \$3.5 billion to prepare for dry periods after facing severe cuts in earlier droughts.

"San Diego has lived the horror of what the state is going through right now," Mark Weston, the board chairman of the San Diego County Water Authority, told state regulators Tuesday.

After a 10-hour hearing that included more than 5 hours of public testimony, the water board again on Tuesday rejected calls to create easier targets for communities in drier areas or for cities that have been conserving since before the drought.

An economic analysis of the water board's proposal commissioned by the board estimated that private water utilities and local water departments would lose a total of about \$1 billion in revenue through lost water sales if they meet the board's targets, meaning they are likely to raise prices to make up the difference.

Residents and businesses use less than a fifth of the water withdrawn from the state's surface and groundwater supplies. Farms in the state's agricultural heartland have had deliveries from government reservoir systems slashed and some have been ordered to stop diverting water that is normally available to them from streams and rivers.

Brown said last week he would push for legislation boosting authorizing fines of up to \$10,000 for extreme wasters of water, but he needs legislative approval to do so, and no bill has been introduced. Another tool — tiered pricing, in which the price rises as water use goes up — is in question after a court struck down water rates designed to encourage conservation in San Juan Capistrano in Orange County.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 6, the 126th day of 2015. There are 239 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 6, 1965, after a Rolling Stones concert in Clearwater, Florida, was cut short by rowdy fans, Keith Richards composed the opening guitar riff of "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," which he co-wrote with Mick Jagger. (The song was recorded less than a week later, and the single was released in the United States on June 6.)

On this date:

In 1840, Britain's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, officially went into circulation five days after its introduction.

In 1889, the Paris Exposition formally opened, featuring the just-completed Eiffel Tower.

In 1910, Britain's Edwardian era ended with the death of King Edward VII; he was succeeded by George V.

In 1915, Babe Ruth hit his first major-league home run as a player for the Boston Red Sox. Actor-writer-director Orson Welles was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Political writer and historian Theodore H. White was born in Boston.

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration began operating under an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1937, the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg burned and crashed in Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 35 of the 97 people on board and a Navy crewman on the ground.

In 1942, during World War II some 15,000 Americans and Filipinos on Corregidor surrendered to Japanese forces.

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In 1954, medical student Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile during a track meet in Oxford, England, in 3:59.4.

In 1960, Britain's Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones, a commoner, at Westminster Abbey. (They divorced in 1978.)

In 1981, Yale architecture student Maya Ying Lin was named winner of a competition to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In 1994, former Arkansas state worker Paula Jones filed suit against President Bill Clinton, alleging he'd sexually harassed her in 1991. (Jones reached a settlement with Clinton in November 1998.) Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and French President Francois Mitterrand (frahn-SWAH' mee-teh-RAHN') formally opened the Channel Tunnel between their countries.

In 2002, Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn (pihm fohr-TOWN') was shot and killed in Hilversum, Netherlands. (Volkert van der Graaf was later convicted of killing Fortuyn and was sentenced to 18 years in prison - he was released on May 2, 2014.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush arrived in Riga, Latvia, as he opened a fast-paced, four-country journey to mark the 60th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany. British Prime Minister Tony Blair unveiled his Cabinet, changing leadership in defense and health but keeping mostly familiar faces after a third term victory dampened by a reduced majority in Parliament. Audioslave became the first U.S. rock band to play an outdoor concert in Cuba.

Five years ago: A computerized sell order triggered a "flash crash" on Wall Street, sending the Dow Jones industrials to a loss of nearly 1,000 points in less than half an hour. Conservatives captured the largest number of seats in Britain's national election but fell short of a majority. (Conservative leader David Cameron ended up heading a coalition government.) A court in India sentenced to death the only surviving Pakistani gunman in the bloody 2008 Mumbai attacks. (Mohammed Ajmal Kasab was hanged on November 21, 2012.)

One year ago: A federal report said that global warming was rapidly affecting the United States in both visible and invisible ways; shortly after the report came out, President Barack Obama used several television weathermen to call for action to curb carbon pollution before it was too late. The Vatican disclosed that over the past decade, it had defrocked 848 priests who raped or molested children and sanctioned another 2,572 with lesser penalties. Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant won his first NBA MVP award.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Willie Mays is 84. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., is 81. Rock singer Bob Seger is 70. Singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore is 70. Gospel singer-comedian Lulu Roman is 69. Actor Alan Dale is 68. Actor Ben Masters is 68. Actor Richard Cox is 67. Actor Gregg Henry is 63. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is 62. TV personality Tom Bergeron is 60. Actress Roma Downey is 55. Rock singer John Flansburgh (They Might Be Giants) is 55. Actress Julianne Phillips is 55. Actor-director George Clooney is 54. Actor Clay O'Brien is 54. Rock singer-musician Tony Scalzo (Fastball) is 51. Actress Leslie Hope is 50. Rock musician Mark Bryan (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 48. Rock musician Chris Shiflett (Foo Fighters) is 44. Actress Stacey Oristano is 36. Actress Adrienne Palicki is 32. Actress Gabourey Sidibe (GA'-bah-ray SIH'-duh-bay) is 32. Actress-comedian Sasheer Zamata is 29. Actress-singer Naomi Scott is 22.

Thought for Today: "Form ever follows function." - Louis Sullivan, American architect (1856-1924).