

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Dorene Nelson almost gets emotional at the end of the spring concert last night. It would be the last concert that Reid Johnson and Deb Jensen would be directing at GHS.**

## Tuesday, May 12

**Birthday:** Cindy Hinman

**Senior Menu:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

**School Menu:** Corn dog, baked beans, fruit, veggie cups.

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

10:00 a.m.: 7th grade golf at Britton-Hecla

2:00 p.m.: Varsity Track at Britton-Hecla

3:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.: VBS at United Methodist Church.

7:00 pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Council

## Wednesday, May 13

**Birthdays:** Doris Strom • Nicole Koehler

**Senior Menu:** Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

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

**School Lunch:** Cook's Choice.

3:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.: VBS at United Methodist Church.

Piano recital at Emmanuel Lutheran

## Cats anyone?

Anyone want a cat or two? We have two to give away. Contact Paul 397-7460.

## 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.

## Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With  
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

**397-9337**

104 N. Main, Groton

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## Middle/High School Spring Concert



The sixth grade choir sang, "Solfege Song," and "With a Banjo on my Knee." They were directed by Reid Johnson. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Cody Swanson directed the junior high choir which sang, "Gaudeamus Hodie!," "Wade in the Water" and "Pompeii." (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Cody Swanson directed the high school choir as they sang, "Awake, My Soul, and Sing!," "Like the Beat of a Drum," "Ain't No Windin' in the Road," and "We Are the World." (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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**Deb Jensen directed the sixth grade band as they performed, "Maleguena," "Joyful Rock," and "American Spirit March."** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



**The junior high band performed, "Sparks!," "Jump Start," "Heroes Triumphant," and "Hoosier Pride." The band was directed by Deb Jensen.** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

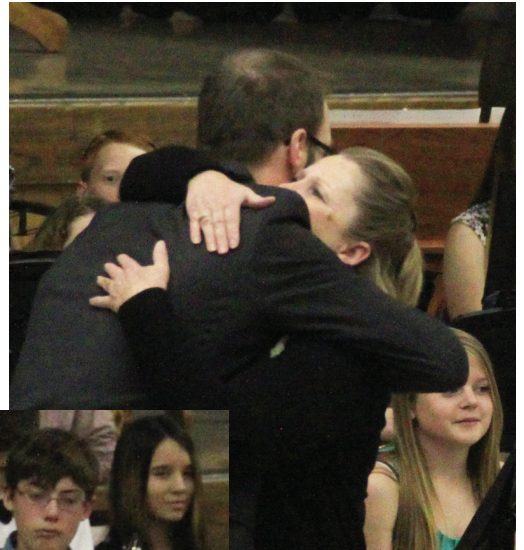


**The high school band was directed by Reid Johnson. They performed, "The Lambs' March," "Chanteys," "Kentucky 1800," "Disney Film Favorites," and "At a Dixieland Jazz Funeral."** (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

## 40 Years of Groton Music



Reid Johnson presented Deb Jensen with a bouquet of 40 roses, representing her 40 years in music, 37 years in Groton. He said, "She's one of the best woodwind instructors in the state." Jensen said, "It's not about the money - it's about the kids." (Photos by Julianna Kosel)



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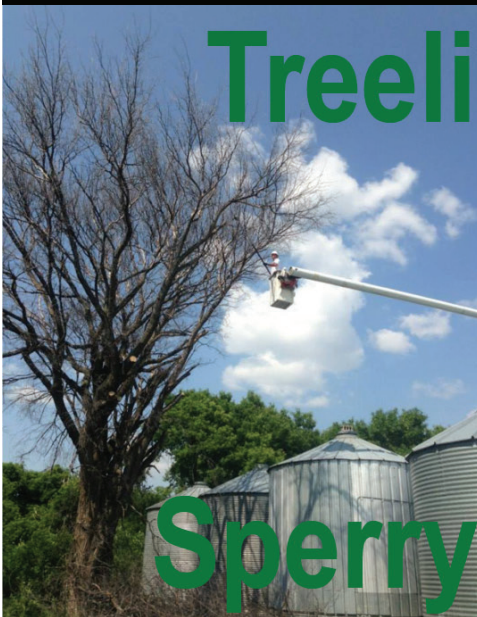
Both of these music directors will be leaving the Groton School at the end of this school year. Reid Johnson has been in Groton for about a decade and Deb Jensen for nearly four decades. Johnson presented Jensen with a bouquet of 40 roses, one for each year she has taught music. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Tree Service

**Over 30 Years  
of Combined  
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:  
380-7915  
Tyler Sperry:  
216-8431**

**Sperry Stump Removal**



## Board adds soccer to official school activities

The Groton Area School Board decided Monday night to reinstate full funding for golf, Destination Imagination, debate and cheerleading and also added soccer to the list of full funding events. The full funding for soccer means the school will take over the operations of the concession stand and will collect the gate from the home events. In years past, the Groton Soccer Association got the receipts from the concession stand and the gate. It has been four years since golf, DI, debate and cheerleading funding was removed from the district budget.

The full funding will be on a year-to-year basis. Superintendent Joe Schwan said that as of right now, the district could absorb those events. "But I'm not sure we can do that in three or five years," Schwan said.

## The Rumor Mill

School Board Member Lars Hanson reported to the Independent that he would like something clarified. He said that three people had approached him about why Reid Johnson resigned. Hanson said that the rumor that Johnson resigned was because he had to direct junior high band. Hanson said that claim is false.

## Classifieds

### 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.**

## Today in Weather History

May 12, 1984: An F3 tornado wiped out seven farms, crippled fifteen others, killed livestock and scattered several cars and machinery in its path. The tornado first touched down seven miles north and one mile east of Clark and moved southeast through the southwestern sections of Henry until it dissipated at Grover in Codrington County. Hail, three quarters inch on up to four inches was common in and near the tornado path. The path of destruction began on a farm where two barns, a steel grain bin and a pole barn were demolished and machinery was damaged. As the tornado moved further southeast, it struck the southwest sections of Henry and split into two tornados that moved in two different directions. One went to the northeast that inflicted no damaged and dissipated, while the other went southeast that continued its destruction path to Grover. Small hail, accumulation to fifteen inches deep, was experienced at Henry and tornado damage included broken windows, numerous homes and three trailer homes were demolished. Along the path, 80 power poles and several miles of power lines were lost, affecting the power to over 1,000 people. A small plane, southwest of Garden City was wrapped around a pole.

1886: A tornado, which peaked at F4 intensity, touched down in Vermilion County near Armstrong, Illinois, and passed between Alvin and Rossville before moving into Indiana. At least 5 houses were destroyed, two of which were totally swept away. Three people were killed. Five other strong tornadoes occurred across Illinois that day: two near Mt. Carroll, one near Odell, one near Jacksonville, and one in Iroquois County.

1934 - A dust storm darkened skies from Oklahoma to the Atlantic coast. (David Ludlum)

1971 - Duststorms suddenly reduced visibilities to near zero on Interstate Highway 10 near Casa Grande AZ. Chain reaction accidents involving cars and trucks resulted, killing seven persons. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - In Texas, A cloudburst dumped sixteen inches of rain north of New Braunfels sending a thirty foot wall of water down Blueders Creek into the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers washing away people, houses and automobiles. The flood claimed 18 lives and caused more than twenty million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - A late season snowstorm struck the Front Range of the Colorado Rockies. The storm produced 46 inches of snow at Coal Creek Canyon, located near Boulder. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A heat wave persisted in central California. Afternoon highs of 100 degrees at Fresno CA and 102 degrees at Sacramento CA were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the western U.S. Eight cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Pendleton OR with a high of 92 degrees and Phoenix AZ with a reading of 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms associated with a low pressure system stalled over New York State drenched Portland ME with 4.50 inches of rain in 24 hours. Rains of 5 to 7 inches soaked the state of Maine over a four day period causing 1.3 million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern Texas and the Central Gulf Coast States into Missouri and Illinois. Thunderstorms spawned six tornadoes, including one which injured four persons at Doloroso MS. Thunderstorms also produced hail three inches in diameter west of Vicksburg MS, and wind gusts to 83 mph in southern Illinois, north of Vevay Park and at the Coles County Airport. High winds and heavy rain caused 1.6 million dollars crop damage in Calhoun County IL, and in southeastern Louisiana, Saint Joseph was deluged with eight inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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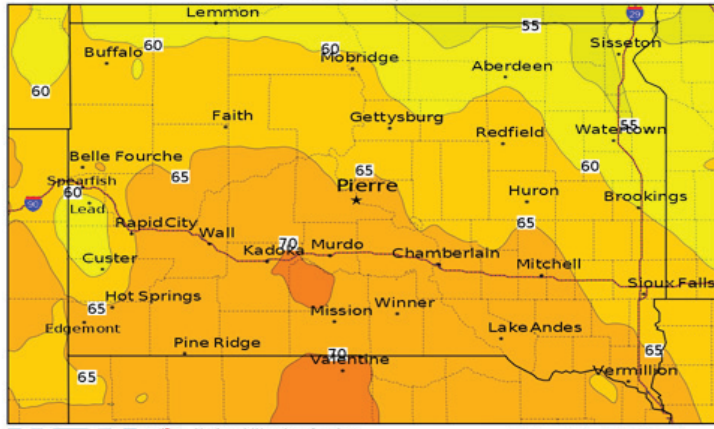
Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Morning Frost	Chance Thunderstorms	Chance Thunderstorms	Showers Likely	Showers Likely	Slight Chc Showers	Partly Sunny
High: 59 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 61 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 69 °F



## Warmer Today / Much Warmer on Wednesday Thunderstorms Possible Tonight



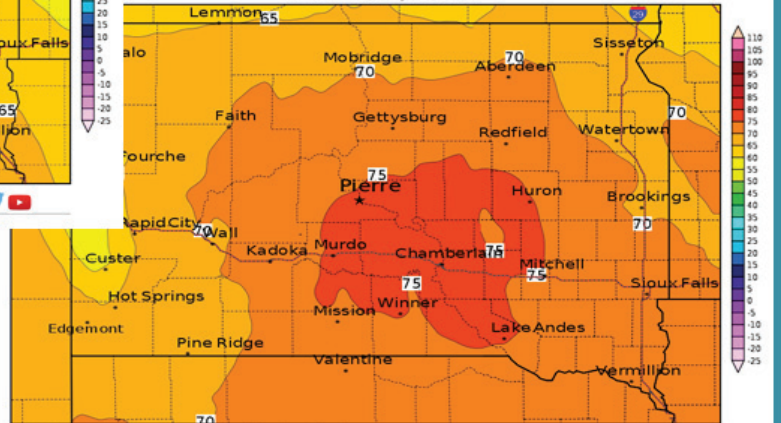
Maximum Temperature (°F)  
Valid: Tue, May 12, 2015



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen/Rapid City/Sioux Falls, SD  
5/12/2015 4:35am CDT

Follow Us: [f](#) [t](#) [v](#)  
weather.gov

Maximum Temperature (°F)  
Valid: Wed, May 13, 2015



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen/Rapid City/Sioux Falls, SD  
5/12/2015 4:35am CDT

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weather.gov

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



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



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 5/12/2015 5:26 AM Central

Published on: 05/12/2015 at 5:30AM

Today will feature partly to mostly sunny skies along with high temperatures in the 50s and 60. Lows tonight will range in the 40s and lower 50s. There is a chance for showers and thunderstorms tonight, mainly for locations along and north of Highway 12. Warmer temperatures are expected on Wednesday with highs climbing into the 60s and 70s. There is a chance for afternoon showers and thunderstorms on Wednesday as well.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 43.7 at 6:50 PM

**Low:** 35.7 at 8:32 AM

**High Gust:** 35 at 2:28 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 1.90 total

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 90° in 1900

**Record Low:** 17° in 1946

**Average High:** 68°F

**Average Low:** 43°F

**Average Precip in May:** 1.23

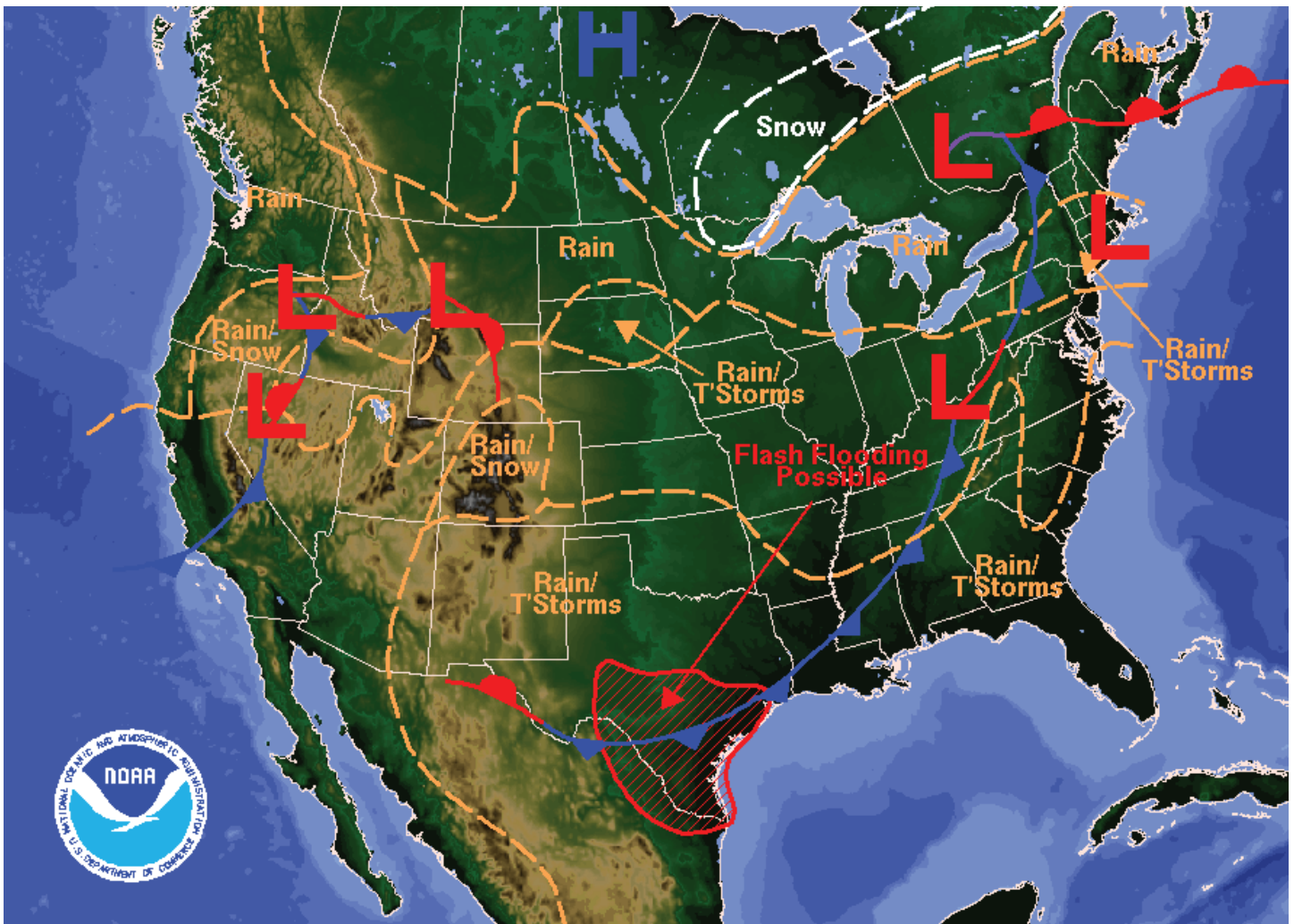
**Precip to date in May:** 2.61

**Average Precip to date:** 5.26

**Precip Year to Date:** 4.25

**Sunset Tonight:** 8:53 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:05 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, May 12, 2015, issued 4:25 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## HERE AND HEREAFTER

Two elderly ladies were sitting on the porch rocking and talking the day away. Said one to the other, "Sally, do you ever think of the hereafter?"

"All the time," came the reply. "Every time I go into a different room I look around and say to myself, 'What did I come here after?'"

An amusing little story that we can use to remind ourselves of one of life's most important realities: while we live in this world, we must prepare for the next. Many live as though this life will never end or that the next one will never begin. There is a tombstone that reads: "I lived all of my life expecting to die – but not this soon."

We all marvel at the persistence and power, the determination and drive that the Apostle Paul had in presenting the message of salvation. His audience would change, his location would change, and his conditions would change. But one thing never changed: "The necessity of turning from sin and turning to God, and having faith in our Lord Jesus."

This message is not only for the unsaved, but for the saved as well. There is that one moment in life when we turn our lives over to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. But there must be many other moments when we confess our sins and prepare to meet the Lord our God! He is coming again!

**Prayer:** We thank You, Lord, for our salvation. Help us, we pray, to live life knowing we may soon meet You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Acts 20:21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Relief fund set up to help tornado victims in Delmont**

DELMONT, S.D. (AP) — A relief fund has been set up to help residents of the tornado-ravaged town of Delmont.

Cash donations designated to the Delmont Disaster Relief Fund can be dropped off at First State Bank locations in Delmont, Tripp, Armour and Geddes. Donations can be mailed to First State Bank, P.O. Box 68, Delmont, SD 57330.

The Sunday morning tornado injured nine people and damaged or destroyed dozens of structures. The National Weather Service rated the storm an EF-2, with a peak wind speed of 130 mph.

The Red Cross of the Dakotas is asking people to hold off on physical donations until the needs of the residents are determined. Cash donations are being encouraged, with the money used to feed residents and responders at the scene.

### **Arkansas couple died trying to shield daughter from twister**

**CLAUDIA LAUER, Associated Press**

**DAVID WARREN, Associated Press**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Melissa and Michael Mooneyhan met as teenagers who attended different high schools. The two quickly fell in love and were married in 2004, even before they graduated.

More than a decade later, the pair died shielding their young daughter from a tornado as the twister chewed up the family's mobile home in Nashville, Arkansas.

The trailer "was just picked up and flipped over," said Howard County Coroner John Gray, who said the home looked "like it had exploded." He said it was "a miracle that little girl survived."

"That poor little girl is never going to know them," he added. "But she's young enough that she'll never remember what happened."

The Mooneyhans were among five people killed Sunday after a line of powerful tornadoes battered several small communities in Texas and Arkansas. Three people died in Texas. Scores of others were hurt, some critically.

The girl, who is about 18 months old, was taken to the hospital and later released to relatives.

Polly McCammack, who also lives in Nashville, is Melissa's third cousin. A week ago, she said, the close-knit family lost their grandmother who "practically raised" Melissa and her siblings.

"The family has been hit hard. They're strong, but it's almost like to the point you're afraid to breathe," McCammack said.

Michael Mooneyhan worked in the deli department of the local Wal-Mart. Melissa was a stay-at-home mom doting on their daughter.

"That baby was definitely their life. They considered her their greatest blessing. You couldn't find two parents who loved a child more," McCammack said. "She's going to grow up knowing family and knowing love."

Family members went to the site of the destroyed home the next day looking for mementos, toys and anything else they could salvage for the child, McCammack said.

The National Weather Service confirmed a tornado with a preliminary EF2 rating and winds estimated at 125 mph touched down in Nashville, a city of 4,500 people about 125 miles southwest of Little Rock.

During Sunday's first tornado warning, the county's tornado sirens sounded for so long that the bat-

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tery was drained, Howard County Emergency Management Coordinator Sonny Raulerson said.

When a second warning was issued for about 16 miles south of Nashville, the sirens could not be activated, Raulerson said.

In neighboring Texas, a tornado pummeled the small city of Van on Sunday night, damaging or destroying 50 to 100 homes and killing two people, according to Chuck Allen, fire marshal and emergency management coordinator for Van Zandt County.

For much of the next day, eight people were unaccounted for in Van, population 2,600, about 70 miles southeast of Dallas.

Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Jean Dark said late Monday night that everyone on the missing list had been accounted for. However, she said that just to be safe, cadaver dogs were checking the area.

Officials confirmed that the tornado was an EF3, with winds from 135 mph to 140 mph, Allen said.

Rescuers went door to door amid the widespread damage, which included trees uprooted and numerous homes and buildings flattened or ripped apart.

At least 42 people were injured, according to two East Texas hospitals. Four patients were in critical condition.

James Crawford and his wife, Thelma, rode out the storm in their mobile home in the area with some of Van's worst damage.

They were in bed and did not have time to run, she said. All she could do was roll over and give her husband a bear hug while they held on.

Thelma Crawford said she believes the home lifted off the ground a bit, then came back down.

"We're like family in that neighborhood," she said. "When one of them gets hurt, I hurt."

In some cases, the fronts of homes were sheared off, revealing living room furniture tossed in a jumble. Houses were spray painted with an X to indicate they had been searched by emergency workers.

Kimberli Shane held a muddy hand to her forehead as she watched friends and neighbors salvage furniture from the home she rented.

"All I could really hear was the house pulling apart," she said. "And my son saying, 'Oh, no, it's right over us.'"

Preliminary reports indicate 20 to 25 tornadoes formed Sunday in South Dakota, Iowa, Oklahoma and Texas, according to meteorologist Greg Carbin of the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

"This is certainly not an atypical system for spring where you've got the remnants of winter but the onset of summer," Carbin said.

The same storm system dumped 11 inches of rain in some places and caused widespread flooding. Firefighters in Corsicana, Texas, 60 miles southwest of Van, recovered the body of a driver who had ventured into the floodwaters after his vehicle stalled in a swollen creek.

The heavy rain caused a huge sinkhole to open up in Granbury, some 40 miles southwest of Fort Worth. The 40-foot-wide sinkhole swallowed the parking lot of a supermarket and damaged water and sewer lines beneath, WFAA-TV reported.

## **Burn permits in parts of SD won't be issued until Nov. 1**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture says burn permits within the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District will not be issued until Nov. 1.

Ag officials say that although some areas in western South Dakota saw considerable snow accumulations over the weekend, the temperatures in the forecast will quickly melt the required soil moisture

for a burn.

A record-breaking winter-like storm dumped more than a foot of snow in the Black Hills over the weekend. It broke daily snowfall records in Rapid City on both Saturday and Sunday.

The department says the district is still at risk for escaped fires because of the critical fire danger conditions that the area saw before the snow storm.

## 5 killed, homes destroyed as tornadoes hit Texas, Arkansas

**CLAUDIA LAUER, Associated Press**

**DAVID WARREN, Associated Press**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Emergency responders searched through splintered wreckage Monday after a line of tornadoes battered several small communities in Texas and Arkansas, killing at least five people, including a young couple who died trying to shield their daughter from the storm.

The couple, both in their late 20s, died when a twister hit their mobile home late Sunday in the Arkansas town of Nashville.

Michael and Melissa Mooneyhan were trying to protect their daughter when the parents' trailer flipped over and "exploded," Howard County Coroner John Gray said.

"That poor little girl is never going to know them," Gray said. "But she's young enough that she'll never remember what happened."

The girl, who is about 18 months old, was taken to the hospital and later released to relatives.

The two parents met when they were teenagers attending different high schools and were married in April 2004, before they even graduated.

Polly McCammack, who also lives in Nashville, is Melissa's third cousin. A week ago, she said, the close-knit family lost their grandmother who "practically raised" Melissa and her siblings.

"The family has been hit hard. They're strong, but it's almost like to the point you're afraid to breathe," McCammack said.

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Family members went to the site of the destroyed home looking for mementos, toys and other things they could salvage for the little girl, McCammack said.

National Weather Service investigators confirmed a tornado with a preliminary EF2 rating and winds estimated at 125 mph touched down in Nashville, meteorologist Travis Washington said.

The county's tornado sirens were sounded for so long during Sunday's first tornado warning that the battery was drained, Howard County Emergency Management Coordinator Sonny Raulerson said.

When a second warning was issued for about 16 miles south of Nashville, the sirens could not be sounded, Raulerson said.

In neighboring Texas, a tornado pummeled the small city of Van, damaging or destroying scores of homes and the local schools, according to Chuck Allen, fire marshal and emergency management coordinator for Van Zandt County.

Authorities confirmed two deaths.

For much of the day, eight people were still unaccounted for in Van, population 2,600, about 70 miles southeast of Dallas. But by late Monday night, Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Jean Dark

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said everyone on the missing list had been accounted for. However, she said that just to be safe, cadaver dogs were checking the area.

Officials confirmed that the tornado was an EF3, with winds from 135 mph to 140 mph, Allen said.

Rescuers went door to door. Damage was widespread, with trees uprooted and numerous homes and buildings flattened or ripped apart. The American Red Cross said late Monday that crews had determined that nearly 120 homes were destroyed or sustained substantial damage.

At least 42 people were injured, according to two East Texas hospitals. Four patients were in critical condition.

James Crawford and his wife, Thelma, rode out the storm in their mobile home in the area with some of Van's worst damage.

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Preliminary reports indicate 20 to 25 tornadoes formed Sunday in South Dakota, Iowa, Oklahoma and Texas, according to meteorologist Greg Carbin of the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

The storm system was expected to slowly move east. Thunderstorms were forecast from Texas to the Great Lakes region.

"This is certainly not an atypical system for spring where you've got the remnants of winter but the onset of summer," Carbin said.

The same storm system dumped 11 inches of rain in some places and caused widespread flooding. Firefighters in Corsicana, 60 miles southwest of Van, recovered the body of a driver who had ventured into the floodwaters after his vehicle stalled in a swollen creek.

The heavy rain caused a huge sinkhole to open up in Granbury, some 40 miles southwest of Fort Worth. The 40-foot-wide sinkhole swallowed the parking lot of a supermarket and damaged water and sewer lines beneath, WFAA-TV reported.

Farther north, in Lake City, Iowa, a suspected tornado tore the roof from a high school as about 150 students, family and faculty attended an awards ceremony inside Sunday night.

Dave Birks, girls' basketball coach at South Central Calhoun High School, said people were able to flee to the basement and locker room area about two minutes before the twister arrived.

"The lights went off, and everyone's ears kind of popped," Birks said, adding that school windows were blown out and insulation was scattered nearby. He also said the high-jump pit from the school's outdoor athletic complex was missing, and hurdles were scattered everywhere.

## Authorities warn South Dakota residents about running event

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in southeast South Dakota are warning residents about a seemingly legitimate running event that could be a scam.

The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office says the "Color 5 Mile" organization lists Sioux Falls as a city that will host a race, but when authorities attempted to contact the group, they were unable to reach

anyone.

The sheriff's office says the organization's phone number has been disconnected and its Facebook and Twitter accounts are not active.

The Better Business Bureau has also issued a warning against the organization. The bureau says "Color 5 Mile" has scheduled races in more than 100 locations nationwide, but many of the venues where the runs will supposedly take place have not heard from the organizers.

Event representatives couldn't be reached by The Associated Press Monday.

## **Delmont residents being allowed back to assess damage**

DELMONT, S.D. (AP) — Residents of the tornado-ravaged South Dakota town of Delmont returned to their community Monday to assess their properties and see what's left of their belongings and their town.

The tornado that hit the town of about 200 people Sunday spread debris across ditches, lawns, roads, farms and windbreaks. They had to battle brutal winds on Monday led brutal winds to salvage anything they could: important papers, clothes, photos, farm equipment and vehicles.

"That was a brand-new rider mower," Dennis Streyle told the Argus Leader as he gestured toward a damaged piece of metal. "I used it once."

The tornado touched down around 10:45 a.m. Sunday, as some residents were returning from church and children were at Sunday school. Nine people were injured and two were still hospitalized Monday, state public safety spokesman Tony Mangan said.

The National Weather Service rated the storm an EF-2, with a peak wind speed of 130 mph. Its path was 17.3 miles long, and it had a maximum width of 400 yards, according to preliminary data.

Mayor Mae Gunnare on Monday said the number of severely damaged or destroyed structures has been raised to more than 40, and 12 others have minor damage. No businesses were destroyed, but the twister took away the town's new firehouse, which was only waiting for a table for the community room to celebrate a dedication ceremony.

"We're thankful there were no fatalities," Gunnare said.

Equipment and vehicles from the fire department, including the community's ambulance, were trapped by the rubble. Crews were able to pull one fire truck from under the wreckage, but the rest remain pinned by a steel beam.

Among the buildings damaged was 100-year-old Zion Lutheran Church, which lost its roof, stained glass windows and pipe organ. Children who were in Sunday school took shelter in the basement when the tornado hit.

Crews on Monday continued working to restore water and electricity service in Delmont. Utility trucks and crews have been on site since Sunday assessing and repairing downed lines and poles. Public safety spokeswoman Kristi Turman said landline phone service has been restored to the town, but only corded phones are working because of the lack of electricity.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross of the Dakotas is asking people to hold off on physical donations because the needs of the residents have not been determined and there's no storage space for the items. Cash donations are being encouraged and the money would be used to feed residents and responders at the scene.

"It is going to be several weeks or even months before this community is back on their feet again," regional spokesman Brian Shawn said.

U.S. Sen. John Thune and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem were in Delmont Monday to see damage and talk to residents.

Turman said about 25 soldiers from the South Dakota National Guard were taking debris from public streets and rights of way. Inmates from a minimum-security unit of a state correctional facility may be sent to the area over the next few days to help clean up.

## **2 adults, boy arrested in SD after boy takes pot to school**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in South Dakota say a 9-year-old boy, his mother and stepfather have been arrested on drug charges after police discovered that the boy took a baggie with marijuana to school.

Sioux Falls Police spokesman Sam Clemens says staff members at the elementary school alerted the school's resource officer that the boy had shown the bag to other students.

The officer talked to the boy and took him home, which was later searched after the officer noticed an odor of marijuana coming from the house. Clemens says officers found marijuana, methamphetamine and over a pound of another substance.

The boy was charged with possession of marijuana and released to a relative. The charges against his 31-year-old mother and 29-year-old stepfather include marijuana possession and abuse and neglect of a child

## **Snow storm in Dakotas breaks records, helps moisture**

**BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A record-breaking winter-like storm that brought heavy snow to the Dakotas could help ease dry conditions and lessen the danger of wildfires, officials said.

The storm dumped more than 8 inches of snow on southern North Dakota and more than a foot on western South Dakota's Black Hills over the weekend. It continued into Monday morning in southeastern North Dakota and north central South Dakota, with another couple of inches of snow and strong winds making travel hazardous in some areas.

There were no immediate reports of livestock losses in North Dakota, according to Julie Ellingson, executive vice president of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

In South Dakota, where ranchers are still recovering from a devastating early fall blizzard in 2013, "I think we're going to come through this one OK," said Silvia Christen, executive director of the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association.

"Some areas certainly have deep snow — 8 to 15 inches — and it certainly wasn't easy on the livestock," she said. "But many of our ranchers were still on their winter pasture where (cattle) have protection, there was a very very accurate forecast, and the wind didn't blow so strong."

The storm broke daily snowfall records in Rapid City on both Saturday and Sunday that had stood for a half century or more, according to National Weather Service reports.

The 13 total inches of snow also was the second-most for a May storm in Rapid City, behind 15 inches on May 3-4, 1905, weather service meteorologist Susan Sanders said.

High temperatures in the two states are expected to climb into the 50s, 60s and 70s the rest of the week. A quick snow melt combined with expected rain later in the week could lead to flooding from the Black Hills into central South Dakota, mainly in rural areas, Sanders said. There also could be some localized flooding in rural areas in North Dakota, said Zack Hargrove, a weather service meteorologist in Bismarck.

"The good thing is, since we haven't had a lot of precipitation, the ground is going to be able to absorb



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a lot of it," he said.

The moisture should help green up lawns and boost newly planted crops. Before the storm, the U.S. Drought Monitor map showed 27 percent of North Dakota and 78 percent of South Dakota being in drought, with much of the rest of the two states rated abnormally dry.

Precipitation for the month of May in Rapid City went from being 2.5 inches below normal last Tuesday to a half inch above normal on Monday, thanks to the snow storm and rain that preceded it, Sanders said.

"We've made it up pretty good in the last five days," she said.

The moisture also should help ease worries about wildfires, which have plagued both states during the dry spring.

"This should help with the fire weather concerns quite a bit. It should help with the green-up quite a bit," Hargrove said. "That's definitely one very positive byproduct of this."

## Wild Card 2 ticket sold in Rapid City worth \$6,000

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Wild Card 2 ticket sold in Rapid City is worth \$6,000 in the Saturday drawing.

Lottery officials say the ticket matched all five white ball numbers but missed the Wild Card to pick up the game's second prize. The odds of winning it are 1 in about 127,000.

The winner has about six months to claim the prize.

Wild Card 2 is played in Idaho, Montana and the Dakotas. The jackpot is at \$215,000 for the Wednesday drawing.

## Haiti fixes adoption system, but some fear too few adopted

**BEN FOX, Associated Press**

**DAVID CRARY, Associated Press**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Anne-Marie Saintou walks with a megaphone along the dusty lanes of a Haitian fishing village, imploring people not to make the same mistake she did.

"Ladies, say 'NO!' she shouts. "We will not give away our children anymore."

Saintou is part of a public awareness campaign that reflects a growing disenchantment with international adoption in Haiti. Women are going out daily to warn poor Haitians about recruiters for orphanages who roam the countryside offering money, or false promises, to desperate parents struggling to raise children in the Western Hemisphere's most impoverished country.

She speaks from bitter personal experience.

The 42-year-old woman, walking the unpaved streets in a long skirt and blouse with two companions, said she placed her 3-year-old daughter, Mikerline, up for adoption 12 years ago with the understanding that the child would get an education and come back. She received photos and a letter but lost contact after three years. "I never heard from her again."

An overhaul of the child-welfare system is drawing wide praise for addressing serious flaws. Some were exposed in the chaotic aftermath of the devastating January 2010 earthquake, and others by accounts from people like Saintou, victimized by spotty regulation in a country that has become a favored choice for Americans seeking a child.

The Haitian government, through its Institute of Social Well-Being and Research, has prohibited pri-

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vate adoptions, restricted the number of foreign adoption agencies accredited to work in the country and set a quota that limits the number of children who can be adopted internationally per year. It also imposed regulations aimed at addressing longstanding complaints that Haitian parents were too often pressured or manipulated into giving up children for adoption without fully understanding the ramifications.

Experts in child welfare say the changes, which went into full effect as of April 1, 2014, when Haiti became a signatory to the Hague Convention on International Adoption, have gone a long way to cleaning up a murky and corruption-prone process.

Since the earthquake, which killed more than 300,000 people according to the official estimate, the government has worked with UNICEF to rewrite the adoption code and bolster social services in a country where 60 percent of the population gets by on less than \$2 a day. The government has also closed about 40 substandard orphanages and added regulations to limit opportunities for corruption within the system.

"It has been too easy to adopt children internationally here and in some countries of Africa," said Kristine Peduto, chief of the child protection unit in Haiti for UNICEF. "People were coming as if they were coming to the market."

The new system requires counseling for families considering giving children up for international adoption that explains they may never see their child again, and a cooling-off period to allow for a change of mind. It requires social workers to try to find a relative or even a neighbor who could step in to help. "The reforms are intended to keep children with their families because that is the best place for them," said Arielle Jeanty Villedrouin, director-general of the country's social services agency.

Some proponents of international adoption, however, feel the pendulum may have swung too far in the opposite direction. The social services agency approved 653 adoptions last year, about half the number approved annually before the earthquake, and a small fraction of the estimated 50,000 children in Haitian orphanages, the vast majority of whom have at least one living parent.

The quota "does not even come close," to being sufficient for the many children who could be adopted but instead face a life in an orphanage, often in grim conditions, said Diana Boni, Haiti program coordinator for All Blessings International, one of 18 U.S. adoption agencies accredited by the government to work in the country under the new regulations.

"Thousands of children growing up in institutions with no hope of a normal, healthy adulthood is a very unhappy prospect," said Boni, who lives in South Dakota and has adopted five children of her own in Haiti.

Prospective parents, meanwhile, wait back in the U.S., Europe or Canada, the places that account for most adoptions from Haiti, and work through the more regimented adoption process that typically takes about three years.

"It takes a lot of patience, a lot of prayer," said Jill Sperling, a resident of Orland Park, Illinois, who began the adoption process in late 2013. "I definitely feel that's the plan God has for me, to be the mom for a little boy from Haiti."

Sperling plans to arrange her adoption through Bethany Christian Services, a major U.S. adoption agency which believes it could place many more children in loving U.S. homes than currently allowed under Haiti's new quota system.

"Things have slowed to a crawl," said Kristi Gleason, Bethany's international programs director, who says the Haitian social services agency lacks the staff and budget to fully carry out its goals.

The criticism is muted in part because many advocates welcome the reforms overall, particularly efforts to make sure families understand the full implications of giving up parental rights.

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There have long been accounts of Haitians putting their children in orphanages for what they thought was a temporary stay, only to find them gone when they returned for them. Susan Krabacher, a U.S. citizen who founded Mercy & Sharing, a Haitian nonprofit that runs residential centers and schools for disabled and abandoned children, said she saw the stories often enough that she launched the public awareness campaign with volunteers like Saintou.

The volunteers warn people to be wary of promoters who have been known to offer a small amount of money, typically portrayed as transportation money to cover a few visits to the orphanage for the impoverished parents, in exchange for a signature on a document abdicating custody. Sometimes parents are told the child will send them money or help them get to the United States or Europe or come back to Haiti after a few years. Saintou says she was led to believe her daughter would come home. "I didn't know I was giving up my rights," she says.

Mercy & Sharing is working with the government and mobile phone company Digicel to produce a national campaign. For now, though, it's done on foot or with a speaker from a truck. The teams have been going out each day in three areas, two of which are in the capital, where the organization runs residential centers. Saintou was accompanied by two other women, Rose Marie Hilaire and Phadia Fils-Aime, down a dirt road lined with cactus and scrub toward the village of Luly, where people live in small concrete shacks and get by fishing from small boats in the Caribbean Sea.

As she and the others made their way past street stalls selling water and mobile phone minutes, villagers listened curiously and a few stopped and chatted with them, making note of the phone numbers they offered for people in need of medical care or some other form of help. Thirty-year-old Zina Bazile paused while sweeping the entrance to her small house and nodded in agreement at the message. "You can't give away your kids just so they can have a better life," she said.

Saintou said that at the time she and her husband decided to give their daughter away, they were struggling to raise five other children, the oldest of whom is now 23. Mirkeline, she says, was adopted by a family in France and the agency representative told her that they would stay in contact. She received three sets of photos and a letter but all communication stopped abruptly after three years. She went back for answers but got the brush off. "She told me she has no information."

## Ellsworth bomber pilot sentenced for child pornography

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A B-1 bomber pilot at Ellsworth Air Force Base has been sentenced on a child pornography charge.

Michael Fech on Monday pleaded guilty to possessing, manufacturing and distributing child porn. He was sentenced to serve about three months in prison and five years on probation.

Defense attorney John Rusch says the 31-year-old Air Force captain who has flown 2,500 combat hours also loses his military career and benefits.

Investigators say they found pornographic images of children as young as 3 years old on Fech's computer.

## New aquatic invasive species rules in effect in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Boaters and anglers in South Dakota must follow new rules aimed at slowing the spread of invasive species in waterways.

The new rules finalized earlier this year by the state Game Fish and Parks Commission took effect Monday. Among the requirements is removing vegetation and aquatic invasive species from boats and

boat trailers. And transporting bait or fish in water taken from a lake, river or stream is not allowed. The website <http://sdleastwanted.com> features details of the new rules and also has information on invasive species such as zebra mussels and Asian carp.

## 3-time national champ to lead Dickinson State wrestling team

DICKINSON, N.D. (AP) — One of the most decorated wrestlers in Dickinson State University history has been named the North Dakota school's head coach.

Justin Schlecht won three straight NAIA national championships while wrestling for the Blue Hawks, beginning in 2006. He also holds or shares six school records.

The standout from Whitewood, South Dakota, over the weekend was named to replace 20-year veteran coach Thadd O'Donnell, who resigned. Schlecht had been O'Donnell's assistant the past four years. Before that he was the wrestling coach at Belle Fourche High School in South Dakota from 2008-11.

## NFL suspends Brady 4 games for deflated footballs

JIMMY GOLEN, AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady and the New England Patriots are preparing for a fight.

The reigning Super Bowl MVP will appeal his four-game suspension, his agent said, and the team threw its "unconditional" support behind its quarterback after the NFL came down hard on its biggest star in the "Deflategate" scandal.

"Tom Brady has our unconditional support," Patriots owner Bob Kraft said in a statement issued on Monday night. "Our belief in him has not wavered."

Five days after an NFL investigator reported that it was "more probable than not" that the Patriots broke the rules, the league handed down its punishment: Brady was banished for four games, and the Patriots were penalized \$1 million — matching the largest fine in league history — and docked two draft picks for using improperly inflated footballs in the AFC Championship game.

NFL executive vice president of football operations Troy Vincent also indefinitely suspended the two equipment staffers who carried out the plan, including the one who referred to himself in text messages obtained by the league as "The Deflator."

In letters to the team and Brady, Vincent wrote that the league's investigation found "substantial and credible evidence" that the quarterback knew the employees were deflating footballs. It also said he failed to cooperate with investigators.

The investigation by attorney Ted Wells found that Brady "was at least generally aware" of plans by two Patriots employees to prepare the balls to his liking, below the league-mandated minimum of 12.5 pounds per square inch.

"Each player, no matter how accomplished and otherwise respected, has an obligation to comply with the rules," Vincent wrote, "and must be held accountable for his actions when those rules are violated and the public's confidence in the game is called into question."

Unless the suspension is overturned on appeal, Brady would miss the first four games of the season — including the league's marquee Sept. 10 opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers at which the Super Bowl championship banner would be traditionally raised. He would also miss games against Buffalo in Week 2, a home game against Jacksonville and a game at Dallas.

Brady would return the week of a Patriots-Colts AFC championship rematch in Indianapolis. Backup Jimmy Garoppolo, a 2014 second-round selection from Eastern Illinois who won the Walter Payton award as the best player in the FCS, has thrown 27 NFL passes, including one touchdown.

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Brady has three days to appeal the suspension to Commissioner Roger Goodell or his designee.

"The discipline is ridiculous and has no legitimate basis," Brady's agent, Don Yee, said in a statement that questioned the NFL's integrity and opened the still-raw wound of the league's botched investigation of the Ray Rice domestic abuse case.

"The NFL has a well-documented history of making poor disciplinary decisions that often are overturned when truly independent and neutral judges or arbitrators preside," Yee said. "Sadly, today's decision diminishes the NFL as it tells its fans, players and coaches that the games on the field don't count as much as the games played on Park Avenue."

The Patriots would lose next year's first-round pick and a fourth-round choice in 2017. Kraft, who said after the Wells Report was released that he would abide by the league's decision, reversed himself on Monday, saying in his statement that said the punishment "far exceeded any reasonable expectation."

It's the second time in eight years the Patriots have been punished for violating league rules. In 2007, the team was fined \$500,000 and docked a first-round draft pick, and coach Bill Belichick was fined \$250,000 for videotaping opposing coaches as a way to decipher their play signals.

In his 243-page report released by the league last week, Wells found that the team broke the rules again, this time by deflating the game footballs after they had been checked by officials.

Although the report did not conclusively link Brady to the illegal activity, text messages between the equipment staffers indicated that the quarterback "was at least generally aware" of it. Investigators said Brady's explanation for the messages was implausible.

"It is unlikely that an equipment assistant and a locker room attendant would deflate game balls without Brady's knowledge and approval," the report said.

The NFL allows each team to provide the footballs used by its offense — a procedure Brady played a role in creating — but it requires them to be inflated in that range of 12.5-13.5 pounds per square inch. Footballs with less pressure can be easier to grip and catch, and Brady has expressed a preference for the lower end of the range.

The league owners will discuss the pregame handling of footballs next week at their meetings in San Francisco.

Vincent told the Patriots that it did not matter whether the flatter footballs affected the outcome of the 45-7 win over the Colts. He said it was likely that was not the first time the footballs had been improperly inflated, citing evidence referring to games before the start of the 2014 season.

"It is impossible to determine whether this activity had an effect on the outcome of games or what that effect was," Vincent said.

The Patriots went on to beat the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl 28-24 — their fourth NFL title since the 2001 season. In his only public comments since the release of the Wells Report, Brady said that the scandal hasn't taken away from the team's accomplishments.

"Absolutely not," he said at a previously planned appearance in Salem, Massachusetts, Thursday night. "We earned everything we got and achieved as a team, and I am proud of that and so are our fans."

Fans chanted "Brady" and "MVP," then gave him a standing ovation as he entered the arena in the town made famous by the colonial witch trials. Since the airing of the scandal in the hours after the Colts game, New England fans have been unwavering in their support for the team, blaming the investigation on grudges by opponents jealous of the team's success.

But the odds for the Patriots winning another championship dropped from 7-1 to 10-1, according to the Glantz-Culver line.

In Oakland to play the Athletics, Red Sox manager John Farrell said he thought the punishment for

his football counterparts was severe. Fortunately, he said, it wasn't something he has to worry about. "Baseballs are solid," he said.

## Verizon says it will buy AOL

NEW YORK (AP) — Verizon says it will buy AOL in deal worth \$4.4B to strengthen mobile, ad offerings.

## The Latest on Nepal: Death toll rises to 19 in latest quake

The Associated Press

4:45 p.m. (1100 GMT)

A Nepalese government official says the death toll from Tuesday's magnitude-7.3 earthquake has risen to at least 19.

Home Ministry official Laxmi Dhakal says the quake also left at least 981 people injured.

The earthquake hit a remote mountains region of Nepal early Tuesday afternoon, triggering landslides and toppling buildings less than three weeks after the country was ravaged by its worst quake in decades.

— Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu, Nepal

3:30 p.m. (0945 GMT)

The magnitude-7.3 earthquake that struck Nepal on Tuesday was felt across the border in Tibet's Jilong and Zhangmu regions, and was felt slightly in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa.

Jilong county government vice chief Wang Wenxiang was quoted as saying by China News Service that "rocks fell from the mountains" and that "there might be some houses collapsed or damaged. We are now checking on the condition of the people."

2:40 p.m. (0855 GMT)

An official with the International Organization for Migration says at least four people were killed and a number of buildings collapsed in the isolated town of Chautara after Nepal's latest strong earthquake.

IOM spokesman Paul Dillon says a search and rescue team has already begun searching through the wreckage of the small town following Tuesday's magnitude-7.3 quake.

Chautara has become a hub for humanitarian aid in the wake of the massive April 25 quake, with dozens of aid workers now based there to send help deeper into the countryside.

— Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu, Nepal

2:15 p.m. (0830 GMT)

Norway's Red Cross says there were "many injured, several killed" in a strong earthquake that hit Nepal on Tuesday, less than three weeks after a massive quake struck the South Asian country.

The Norwegian Red Cross, which was helping people from the April 25 earthquake at a 60-bed hospital in Chautara in central Nepal, added in a Twitter posting that their hospital tents already had received patients.

— Jan Olsen, Copenhagen, Denmark

1:25 p.m. (0740 GMT)

Another major earthquake has hit Nepal near the Chinese border between the capital, Kathmandu,

and Mount Everest.

The U.S. Geological Survey says Tuesday's quake hit with a magnitude of 7.3 in an isolated area just after lunchtime.

It comes after a magnitude-7.8 earthquake on April 25 killed more than 8,150 people and injured over 17,860, flattening mountain villages and destroying buildings.

In Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, Tuesday's quake sent people rushing outside of their homes into the streets. Police gave no immediate estimate on damage.

— Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu, Nepal

## **First-time buyers face hurdles to homeownership this spring**

**ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writers**

**JOSH BOAK, AP Business Writers**

Young people aspiring to buy their first home are already facing disappointment this year.

Rising prices are putting more homes out of reach, and pickings are slim because few properties have come onto the market this spring, when sales are supposed to take off.

Millennials are also burdened by heavy school debt and depleted savings that hurt their ability to qualify for a mortgage. Until their incomes start to rise meaningfully, many will be forced to keep hunting for a home while delaying the dream of ownership. This has weighed on overall home sales and economic growth throughout the rebound in housing the past three years.

"People need to see more money in their paychecks before they'll take the plunge into homeownership," said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate.

If early signs are any indication, there won't a noticeable jump in new homeowners during the spring.

Amy Arnold and her husband began looking at listings in Denver late last year. The 28-year-old apparel buyer quickly found that the few homes in the couple's price range got snapped up for more than asking price, leaving her exasperated at how "crazy" the market seemed.

For now, the couple has decided to keep renting a two-bedroom, one-bath house for \$1,300 a month, hoping to have more money and find a better selection of homes once they jump back into the market.

"It's very discouraging," said Arnold. "Hopefully next year we will be able to buy, but there's a chance we may have to rent again."

Home prices nationwide have risen at more than double the pace of average hourly wages, making it harder for buyers to find the extra funds to save for a down payment.

In Denver, a limited roster of homes has fueled the rising prices and given sellers the upper hand. Forty percent of homes that sold in February went for more than the asking price, according to online real estate broker Redfin. That's up from 21 percent a year earlier. In addition, half of the homes on the market went under contract in eight days or fewer.

"Typically, January, February even March are not quite as highly competitive as when you go into the spring months," said Ilona Botton, a Redfin agent in Denver. "That's not how it was this year. It has been multiple offer situations every single month."

The limited supply of homes is widespread. In March, one measure showed it would take fewer than five months to sell all the previously occupied homes in the U.S. In a market more balanced between buyers and sellers, it would take about six, according to the National Association of Realtors.

What's more, heavy demand for low-priced homes means their prices are rising faster. Homes priced at \$135,000 or less jumped 9 percent for the year ending in February, according to data from CoreLogic. Homes that priced at \$226,800 or more climbed 5 percent over the same period.

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Beyond offering more money, some buyers are willing to waive home inspection or give sellers several weeks to move out following a sale, said Redfin's Botton.

In general, areas with fewer homes for sale have stronger job growth that eclipses the pace of construction. Areas with larger inventories tend to keep the availability of housing in line with job growth.

In Columbus, Ohio, aviation company executive Ryan Holtmann had plenty of options. He and his wife started shopping for their first home at the end of last year. The couple visited about 15 to 20 houses before buying a three-bedroom home for \$154,900 at the end of February.

"I was really surprised at how much was out there for the time of year," said Holtmann, 33. "There were three or four we liked and would have been more than happy to go with."

One factor preventing more houses from hitting the market is that many homeowners still owe more on their mortgage than their home is worth. That's known as an underwater mortgage, or being in negative equity.

While millions of homes have returned to positive equity as values come back, some 5.4 million, or 10.8 percent of all homes with a mortgage, remained underwater as of the October-December quarter, according to CoreLogic. Nevada topped the list. Nearly a quarter of its homes with a mortgage were underwater.

More construction would help buyers, but activity has recovered slowly since 2010. That's one reason a recent report by mortgage buyer Freddie Mac forecast that the U.S. housing market will continue to see low levels of homes for sale for the next several years.

As a result, even successful buyers are settling for less.

Brett Singley, a first-time buyer in Los Angeles and a father of four, knew the kind of house he wanted and how much he could afford. But after six months of searching, the civil engineer shifted his sights to smaller and less expensive townhomes. In March, he bought one in Santa Clarita, a northern suburb. He got a three-bedroom for just under \$300,000 — \$100,000 less than what he was prepared to pay for a house.

"We were originally looking for a four-bedroom house," said Singley. "But we didn't have a lot of options."

## 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. ANOTHER MAJOR QUAKE STRIKES NEPAL

It hits with a magnitude of 7.3 in an isolated area between the capital of Kathmandu and Mount Everest, killing at least four people less than three weeks after the country was ravaged by another deadly quake.

### 2. WHO IS IN RUSSIA FOR TALKS WITH PUTIN

Secretary of State John Kerry is meeting with the Russian president as relations between Washington and Moscow plummet to post-Cold War lows.

### 3. U.S. OK'D MOST BILL CLINTON SPEECH REQUESTS WITHIN DAYS

When Hillary Rodham Clinton was secretary of state, her husband won hasty approval from her department to make lucrative speeches around the world.

### 4. SAUDI ARABIA MOSTLY UNTOUCHED BY SCARS OF WAR

If not for the huge propaganda posters, it would be easy to forget that the kingdom is leading an offensive against Yemen.

### 5. U.S. COUPLE DIED TRYING TO SHIELD DAUGHTER FROM TWISTER



The Mooneyhans are among five people killed after a line of tornadoes battered several communities in Texas and Arkansas.

## 6. HOW AMERICANS VIEW IRAN DEAL

Many like the idea of the preliminary agreement with Tehran, but very few believe that the Iranian leaders will follow through with the accord, a new poll suggests.

## 7. IRAQ SAYS ISLAMIC MILITANTS DEMOLISH RUINS TO COVER UP LOOTING OPERATIONS

The large pieces are destroyed with sledgehammers for the benefit of the cameras, while the more portable items are smuggled to dealers in Turkey.

## 8. WHAT UKRAINE TRIES TO DITCH

Ukrainian leaders are eager to be seen as reinventing the nation and see erasing reminders of the communist past as an important step toward that goal.

## 9. ONLY 3 OF 7 MIDSIZE SUVs PERFORM WELL IN CRASH TESTS

The Nissan Murano and Jeep Wrangler four-door get the highest, or "good," rating in the latest round of Insurance Institute for Highway Safety testing.

## 10. MLB PUMPS UP BALL SECURITY AFTER TOM BRADY FLAP

Starting this year, a representative watches the baseballs while a clubhouse assistant carries them from the umpires' room to the field.

## AP News in Brief

### **Another major quake hits Nepal, epicenter between capital Kathmandu and Mount Everest**

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A major earthquake hit Nepal in a remote region near the Chinese border on Tuesday, killing at least four people less than three weeks after the country was ravaged by another deadly quake.

The U.S. Geological Survey said Tuesday's quake hit in the early afternoon with a magnitude of 7.3 in an isolated, conservation area between the capital of Kathmandu and Mount Everest.

Several buildings collapsed in the isolated town of Chautara, with at least four people killed, according to Paul Dillon, a spokesman with the International Organization for Migration.

A rescue team from the agency has begun searching through the wreckage of the little town, he said. Chautara has become a hub for humanitarian aid in the wake of a major April 25 quake that killed more than 8,150 people and injured more than 17,860 as it flattened mountain villages and destroyed buildings.

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### **US Secretary of State Kerry arrives in Russia to meet Putin amid Ukraine, Syria tensions**

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is in Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin with an eye on easing badly strained relations over conflicts in Ukraine and Syria.

Kerry laid a wreath at a World War II memorial in the Black Sea resort city Tuesday before holding talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Later, he was to meet Putin on the brief visit, his first to Russia since May 2013 and the advent of the Ukraine crisis.

The top U.S. diplomat plans to test Putin's willingness to push pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine to comply with an increasingly fragile ceasefire agreement, according to U.S. officials traveling with him.

Kerry will also seek to gauge the status of Russia's support for embattled Syrian President Bashar

Assad, whose forces have been losing ground to rebels, and press Moscow to support a political transition that could end that war, the officials said.

In addition, Kerry will make the case to Putin that Russia should not proceed with its planned transfer of an advanced air defense system to Iran.

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## **Yemen offensive reflects new era for Saudi Arabia, mostly untouched by scars of war**

NAJRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Khatim Umm Salem's quiet, secure life betrays no signs of the war taking place just a few miles away.

In the mornings, the elderly woman sits in front of a fan outside her tiny shop in the old market of Najran. In the evenings, she listens to the Quran on the radio. She sleeps with the door unlocked, since all her neighbors know her.

When asked about the war, she shrugs and says a prayer. As a widow, she receives free health care and the little she needs, 1,000 Saudi riyals or \$267, from the government each month.

"Sometimes I make a profit, sometimes I don't," says the Saudi villager, who does not know how old she is.

Saudi Arabia, an oil-rich nation with about 20 million citizens, is now leading an offensive against the Shiite Houthi rebels in neighboring Yemen, who are supported by its arch-rival Iran. Yet if not for the huge propaganda posters and the state media, you would never know this was a country at war, in much the same way that life in the United States sometimes seemed distant from the conflict in Iraq.

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## **State Department rarely raised concerns over Bill Clinton speeches when wife led agency**

WASHINGTON (AP) — State Department officials under Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton moved quickly when aides to Bill Clinton asked them in March 2010 to approve plans for the former president to address clients of a British bank under investigation for violating international sanctions. Within four days, the department's ethics office signed off on the request — as it did for hundreds of others from the former president during his wife's four-year tenure leading the agency.

Its standard response, fired off in a short memo: "We have no objection."

That decision remained unchanged even after the Justice Department announced just months later, in August 2010, that London-based Barclays Bank agreed to pay nearly \$300 million in penalties for violating financial sanctions against Iran, Cuba, Sudan, Libya and Burma. The long-running case had hardly been secret: Barclays had openly acknowledged in its annual reports — as recently as the same month as Clinton's 2010 request — that it was under investigation by the Justice Department and others for sanctions violations, and it cautioned that the impact on its profits "could be substantial."

By the end of January 2011, Clinton had mingled with top Barclays clients at a private dinner in Davos, Switzerland and at a conference in Singapore — and collected \$650,000 in fees for his work.

During Hillary Rodham Clinton's tenure as the top U.S. diplomat, lawyers and other ethics officials in the State Department's Office of the Legal Adviser gave near-blanket approval to at least 330 requests for Bill Clinton's appearance at speeches, dinners and events both in the U.S. and around the globe. More than 220 paid events earned the family nearly \$50 million, according to a review of State Department documents and Hillary Clinton's financial disclosure forms by The Associated Press.

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## **Arkansas couple died trying to protect daughter from twister that hit family's mobile home**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Melissa and Michael Mooneyhan met as teenagers who attended different high schools. The two quickly fell in love and were married in 2004, even before they graduated.

More than a decade later, the pair died shielding their young daughter from a tornado as the twister chewed up the family's mobile home in Nashville, Arkansas.

The trailer "was just picked up and flipped over," said Howard County Coroner John Gray, who said the home looked "like it had exploded." He said it was "a miracle that little girl survived."

"That poor little girl is never going to know them," he added. "But she's young enough that she'll never remember what happened."

The Mooneyhans were among five people killed Sunday after a line of powerful tornadoes battered several small communities in Texas and Arkansas. Three people died in Texas. Scores of others were hurt, some critically.

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## **Iraq says Islamic State's destruction of historical sites is cover for sophisticated looting**

BAGHDAD (AP) — The videos of Islamic State militants destroying ancient artifacts in Iraq's museums and blowing up 3,000-year-old temples are chilling enough, but one of Iraq's top antiquities officials is now saying the destruction is a cover for an even more sinister activity — the systematic looting of Iraq's cultural heritage.

In the videos that appeared in April, militants can be seen taking sledge hammers to the iconic winged-bulls of Assyria and sawing apart floral reliefs in the palace of Ashurnasirpal II in Nimrud before the entire site is destroyed with explosives. But according to Qais Hussein Rashid, head of Iraq's State Board for Antiquities and Heritage, that was just the final step in a deeper game.

"According to our sources, the Islamic State started days before destroying this site by digging in this area, mainly the palace," he told The Associated Press from his office next to Iraq's National Museum — itself a target of looting after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein. "We think that they first started digging around these areas to get the artifacts, then they started demolishing them as a cover up."

While there is no firm evidence of the amount of money being made by the Islamic State group from looting antiquities, satellite photos and anecdotal evidence confirm widespread plundering of archaeological sites in areas under IS control.

Nimrud was also the site of one of the greatest discoveries in Iraqi history, stunning golden jewelry from a royal tomb found in 1989, and Rashid is worried that more such tombs lie beneath the site and have been plundered. He estimated the potential income from looting to be in the millions of dollars.

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## **Survey: Americans becoming less Christian, more secular amid marketplace of American religion**

NEW YORK (AP) — The number of Americans who don't affiliate with a particular religion has grown to 56 million in recent years, making the faith group researchers call "nones" the second-largest in total numbers behind evangelicals, according to a Pew Research Center study released Tuesday.

Christianity is still the dominant faith by far in the U.S.; 7 in 10 Americans identify with the tradition. However, the ranks of Christians have declined as the segment of people with no religion has grown,

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the survey says.

Between 2007 and 2014, when Pew conducted two major surveys of U.S. religious life, Americans who described themselves as atheist, agnostic or of no particular faith grew from 16 percent to nearly 23 percent. At the same time, Christians dropped from about 78 percent to just under 71 percent of the population. Protestants now comprise 46.5 percent of what was once a predominantly Protestant country.

Researchers have long debated whether people with no religion should be defined as secular since the category includes those who believe in God or consider themselves "spiritual." But the new Pew study found increasing signs of secularism.

Last year, 31 percent of "nones" said they were atheist or agnostic, compared to 25 percent in 2007, and the percentage who said religion was important to them dropped.

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## **Activist: Hundreds of Rohingya abandoned on ship plead for rescue; 3 days without food, water**

LANGKAWI, Malaysia (AP) — A ship carrying hundreds of Rohingya Muslims sent out a distress call asking to be rescued Tuesday, saying they were abandoned by their captain without fuel and have been without food or water for three days.

Chris Lewa, director of the nonprofit Arakan Project, which has been monitoring the movement of fleeing Rohingya for more than a decade, says she spoke by phone with one of the migrants on board the Thai vessel.

"They asked to be urgently rescued," she said, adding there were an estimated 350 people on board, 50 of them women.

"They are not sure exactly where they are, possibly near Langkawi," Lewa said, of the Malaysian resort island that has been the dropoff point in recent days for more than 1,000 Rohingya and Bangladeshis. "They say they can see shore."

Malaysia's maritime commander for the northern region, Tan Kok Kwee, said there have been no sightings so far of any other boats packed with migrants.

## **Today in History** **The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, May 12, the 132nd day of 2015. There are 233 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On May 12, 1975, the White House announced the new Cambodian government had seized an American merchant ship, the *Mayaguez*, in international waters. (U.S. Marines gained control of the ship three days after its seizure, not knowing the 39 civilian members of the crew had already been released by Cambodia.)

### **On this date:**

In 1780, during the Revolutionary War, the besieged city of Charleston, South Carolina, surrendered to British forces.

In 1870, an act creating the Canadian province of Manitoba was given royal assent, to take effect in July.

In 1922, a 20-ton meteor crashed near Blackstone, Virginia.

In 1932, the body of Charles Lindbergh Jr., the kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was found in a wooded area near Hopewell, New Jersey.

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In 1937, Britain's King George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey; his wife, Elizabeth, was crowned as queen consort.

In 1949, the Soviet Union lifted the Berlin Blockade, which the Western powers had succeeded in circumventing with their Berlin Airlift.

In 1955, Manhattan's last elevated rail line, the Third Avenue El, ceased operation.

In 1965, West Germany and Israel exchanged letters establishing diplomatic relations. The Rolling Stones recorded the final version of "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" at RCA Studios in Hollywood.

In 1970, the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Harry A. Blackmun as a Supreme Court justice.

In 1982, in Fatima, Portugal, security guards overpowered a Spanish priest armed with a bayonet who attacked Pope John Paul II. (In 2008, the pope's longtime private secretary revealed that the pontiff was slightly wounded in the assault.)

In 1985, Amy Eilberg was ordained in New York as the first woman rabbi in the Conservative Jewish movement.

In 1994, British Labor Party leader John Smith died at age 55.

**Ten years ago:** The Foreign Relations Committee voted 10-8 along party lines to advance John Bolton's nomination to be U.N. ambassador without the customary recommendation that the Senate approve it. Microsoft officially unveiled its Xbox 360 video game console.

**Five years ago:** An Afriqiyah Airways Airbus A330 jetliner plunged into the Libyan desert less than a mile from the runway in Tripoli after a flight from Johannesburg; a 9-year-old Dutch boy was the sole survivor of the crash that killed 103 people. An attacker hacked seven children and two adults to death in a rampage at a kindergarten in northwest China before taking his own life. Republicans chose Tampa, Florida, as the site of their 2012 presidential convention. Bowler Kelly Kulick, the first woman to win a PBA Tour title when she beat the men in the Tournament of Champions, won the U.S. Women's Open for her second women's major victory in 15 days.

**One year ago:** Scientists expressed concern during a NASA news conference over a pair of studies which said the huge West Antarctic ice sheet was starting a glacially slow collapse in an unstoppable way, a melt that could eventually add 4 to 12 feet to current sea levels.

**Today's Birthdays:** Baseball Hall-of-Famer Yogi Berra is 90. Critic John Simon is 90. Composer Burt Bacharach is 87. Actress Millie Perkins is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jayotis Washington is 74. Country singer Billy Swan is 73. Actress Linda Dano is 72. Actress Lindsay Crouse is 67. Singer-musician Steve Winwood is 67. Actor Gabriel Byrne is 65. Actor Bruce Boxleitner is 65. Singer Billy Squier is 65. Blues singer-musician Guy Davis is 63. Country singer Kix Brooks is 60. Actress Kim Greist is 57. Rock musician Eric Singer (KISS) is 57. Actor Ving Rhames is 56. Rock musician Billy Duffy is 54. Actor Emilio Estevez is 53. Actress April Grace is 53. Actress Vanessa A. Williams is 52. TV personality/chef Carla Hall is 51. Country musician Eddie Kilgallon is 50. Actor Stephen Baldwin is 49. Actor Scott Schwartz is 47. Actress Kim Fields is 46. Actress Samantha Mathis is 45. Actress Jamie Luner is 44. Actor Christian Campbell is 43. Actress Rhea Seehorn is 43. Actor Mackenzie Astin is 42. Country musician Matt Mangano (The Zac Brown Band) is 39. Actress Rebecca Herbst is 38. Actress Malin (MAH'-lin) Akerman is 37. Actor Jason Biggs is 37. Actor Rami Malek (RAH'-mee MA'-lihk) is 34. Actress-singer Clare Bowen is 31. Actress Emily VanCamp is 29. Actor Malcolm David Kelley is 23. Actor Sullivan Sweeten (TV: "Everybody Loves Raymond") is 20.

**Thought for Today:** "We are taught you must blame your father, your sisters, your brothers, the school, the teachers - but never blame yourself. It's never your fault. But it's always your fault, because if you wanted to change you're the one who has got to change." - Katharine Hepburn, American actress (born this date in 1907, died 2003).