

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 286 ♦ 1 of 17

- 1- Frost Construction
- 1- Huron Mail Center Closing
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Flags half mast tomorrow
- 2- Walter 85th Birthday
- 2- Treeline Tree Service
- 3- Little Free Library dedicated
- 4- Omaha Steaks
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 6- Local Forecast
- 7- National Weather Map
- 7- Local Weather
- 8- Daily Devotional
- 9- News from the Associated Press

Thursday, May 14

Birthdays: Linda Johnson • Pam Rix • Sheila Johnson • Kevin Radke • Madisyn Waage • Alesha Peterson • Ryan Schelle

School Breakfast: Cook's choice.

School Lunch: Chicken, French fries, fruit, lettuce.

Senior Menu: Roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, apple sauce, Molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.

CANCELLED: JH NEC Track at Britton-Hecla

Friday, May 15

Birthdays: Beth Hendrickson • Betty Weihrauch • Pearl Dean • Brandee Sundstrom • Casey Dennert • Marcy Blackmun

School Breakfast: Cook's choice.

School Lunch: Cook's choice.

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken, boiled potato, green beans, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

2:00 p.m.: DARE Graduation at GHS Gym

Saturday, May 16

10:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Roseood Court

Huron mail center to close in July

Reports are that the Dakota Central mail processing center at Huron is now scheduled to close in early July. This is not necessarily news; previous reports had the Huron plant closing sometime this summer. The closing of the Huron mail processing center is part of a larger USPS plan to shutter more than 80 processing centers around the country.

SDNA and others have argued that these closures will significantly affect the timely delivery of newspapers and other classes of mail. The Huron center handles mail for much of eastern South Dakota and Pierre. Work now done at Huron will be merged into the Sioux Falls processing center.



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.



Walter to celebrate 85th birthday

Jean Walter will celebrate her 85th birthday on May 18th. Greetings may be sent to PO Box 594, Groton, SD 57445.

Flags at Half Mast for Peace Officers' Memorial Day - May 15th, 2015

Peace Officers Memorial Day is an observance that pays tribute to the local, state, and Federal peace officers. The Memorial takes place on Friday, May 15th and President Obama has ordered the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions from sunrise until sunset on 05-15-2015. You can view President Obama's proclamation [here](#).

Fly the US flag at half-staff from sunrise until sunset on May 15th, 2015. For U.S. flags displayed on a short staff or for indoor flags that cannot be lowered to half-staff, place a Black Mourning Ribbon Above the full staffed U.S. flag.

With a telescoping pole it is acceptable to put the USA flag on the second set of rings instead of the top set. In this case the top set would be left empty.

When the United States flag is flown at half-staff, state & other flags should be removed or flown at half-staff as well.

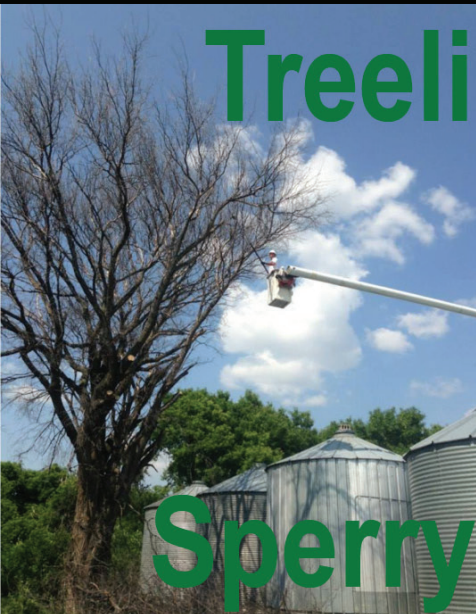
Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915**

**Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 286 ♦ 3 of 17



Pastor Matt Richards from the United Methodist Church gave a few words and a blessing as the Little Free Library was dedicated Wednesday after Vacation Bible School. Last year, the tree on the left was planted and donated by Weber Landscaping. The bench was added earlier this year and the Little Free Library was purchased and installed.



Carna Atherton-Pray and Kim Weber unveiled the new Little Free Library.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 286 ♦ 4 of 17



Home. Cooked. GOODNESS.

The taste of togetherness.



PERFECT FOR
FATHER'S DAY!



The Favorite Gift

- 2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
- 4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 4 Stuffed Baked Potatoes
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets

49377LPH
Reg. \$164.00 | Now Only **\$49⁹⁹**



ORDER
NOW &
**SAVE
69%**

Plus get
4 more burgers
FREE



1-800-795-0946 ask for 49377LPH | www.OmahaSteaks.com/dad55

Limit 2 pkgs. Your 4 free burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes The Favorite Gift 49377. Limit of 1 free box of 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers per shipment. Standard S&H will be added per address. Not valid with other offers. Expires 6/30/15. ©2015 OCG | 505B120 | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

Today in Weather History

May 14, 1982: Heavy rain pushed the Bad River over the banks at Fort Pierre. One house four miles outside of Fort Pierre was sandbagged. Rainfall amount of 3.83 inches was recorded in Pierre.

1686: The inventor of the thermometer Gabriel Fahrenheit was born.

1923: An early morning violent F5 tornado cut a 45 mile path of destruction through Howard and Mitchell counties in Texas. 23 people lost their lives and 250 sustained injuries. The path width of the tornado reached 1.5 miles at one point and entire farms were "wiped off the face of the earth".

1990: Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from northwest Texas to western Missouri. Severe thunderstorms spawned seventeen tornadoes including nine in Texas. Four tornadoes in Texas injured a total of nine persons. Thunderstorms in Texas also produced hail four inches in diameter at Shamrock, and hail four and a half inches in diameter near Guthrie. Thunderstorms over northeastern Kansas produced more than seven inches of rain in Chautauqua County between 9 PM and midnight.

1896 - The mercury plunged to 10 degrees below zero at Climax, CO. It was the lowest reading of record for the U.S. during the month of May. (David Ludlum)

1898 - A severe thunderstorm, with some hailstones up to 9.5 inches in circumference, pounded a four mile wide path across Kansas City MO. South-facing windows were broken in nearly every house in central and eastern parts of the city, and several persons were injured. An even larger hailstone was thought to have been found, but it turned out to be a chunk of ice tossed out the window of a building by a prankster. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Seven cities across the western U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as unseasonably hot weather made a comeback. The record high of 103 degrees at Sacramento CA was their ninth in eleven days, and also marked a record seven days of 100 degree heat for the month. Their previous record was two days of 100 degree heat in May. (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - Sunny and dry weather prevailed across the nation. Temperatures warmed into the 80s and lower 90s in the Great Plains Region and the Mississippi Valley. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced severe weather in south central Texas and the Southern High Plains Region during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms produced softball size hail at Spearman and Hitchcock, TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from northwest Texas to western Missouri. Severe thunderstorms spawned seventeen tornadoes, including nine in Texas. Four tornadoes in Texas injured a total of nine persons. Thunderstorms in Texas also produced hail four inches in diameter at Shamrock, and hail four and a half inches in diameter near Guthrie. Thunderstorms over northeastern Kansas produced more than seven inches of rain in Chautauqua County between 9 PM and midnight. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 286 ♦ 6 of 17

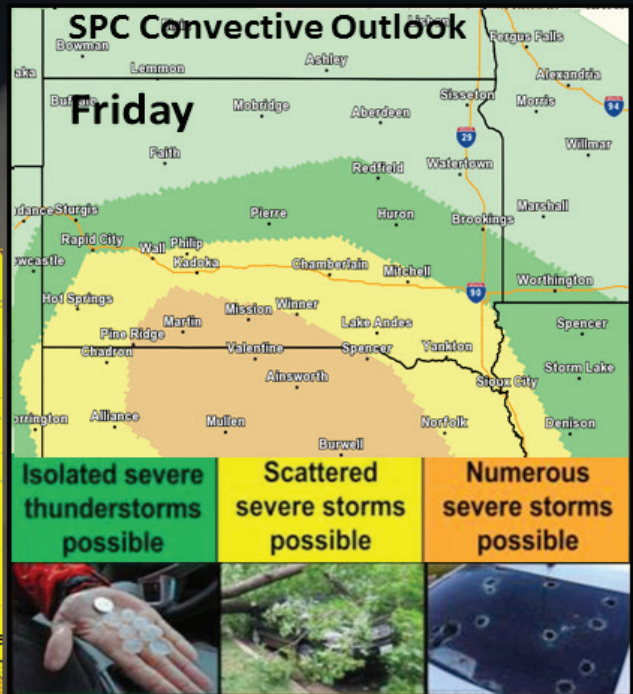
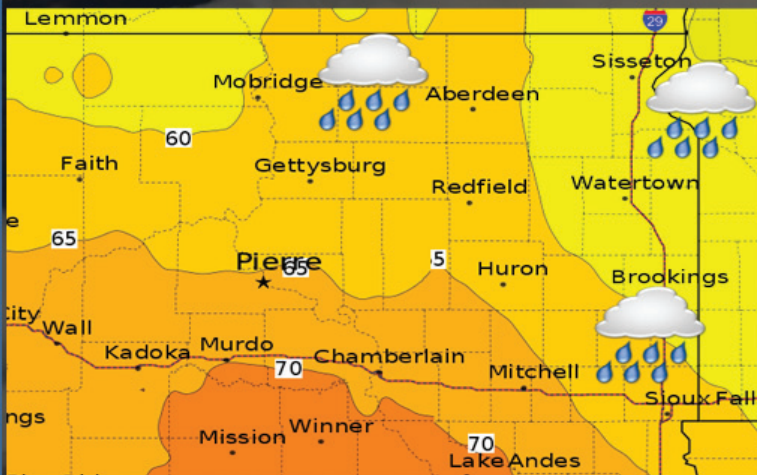
Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
80%			60%	40%	70%	70%
Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Thunderstorms Likely	Chance Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms Likely	Showers Likely
High: 62 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 65 °F



Showers Today – Thunderstorms on Friday

Headlines

- Shower today
- Thunderstorms, some severe, push north Friday late afternoon/evening



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD


weather.gov/Aberdeen

[National Weather Service Aberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/NWSAberdeen)

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen) | Updated: 5/14/2015 5:34 AM Central

Published on: 05/14/2015 at 5:40AM

Scattered to numerous showers are expected today. This system will move off to the east tonight with dry conditions through Friday afternoon. Then our next system will move into the region with strong to severe storm possible. Locations along and south of Interstate 90 will have the best potential of seeing severe storms.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 286 ♦ 7 of 17

Yesterday's Weather

High: 73.3 at 4:05 PM

Low: 49.0 at 2:50 AM

High Gust: 43 at 1:14 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 94° in 1932

Record Low: 24° in 2004

Average High: 68°F

Average Low: 44°F

Average Precip in May: 1.43

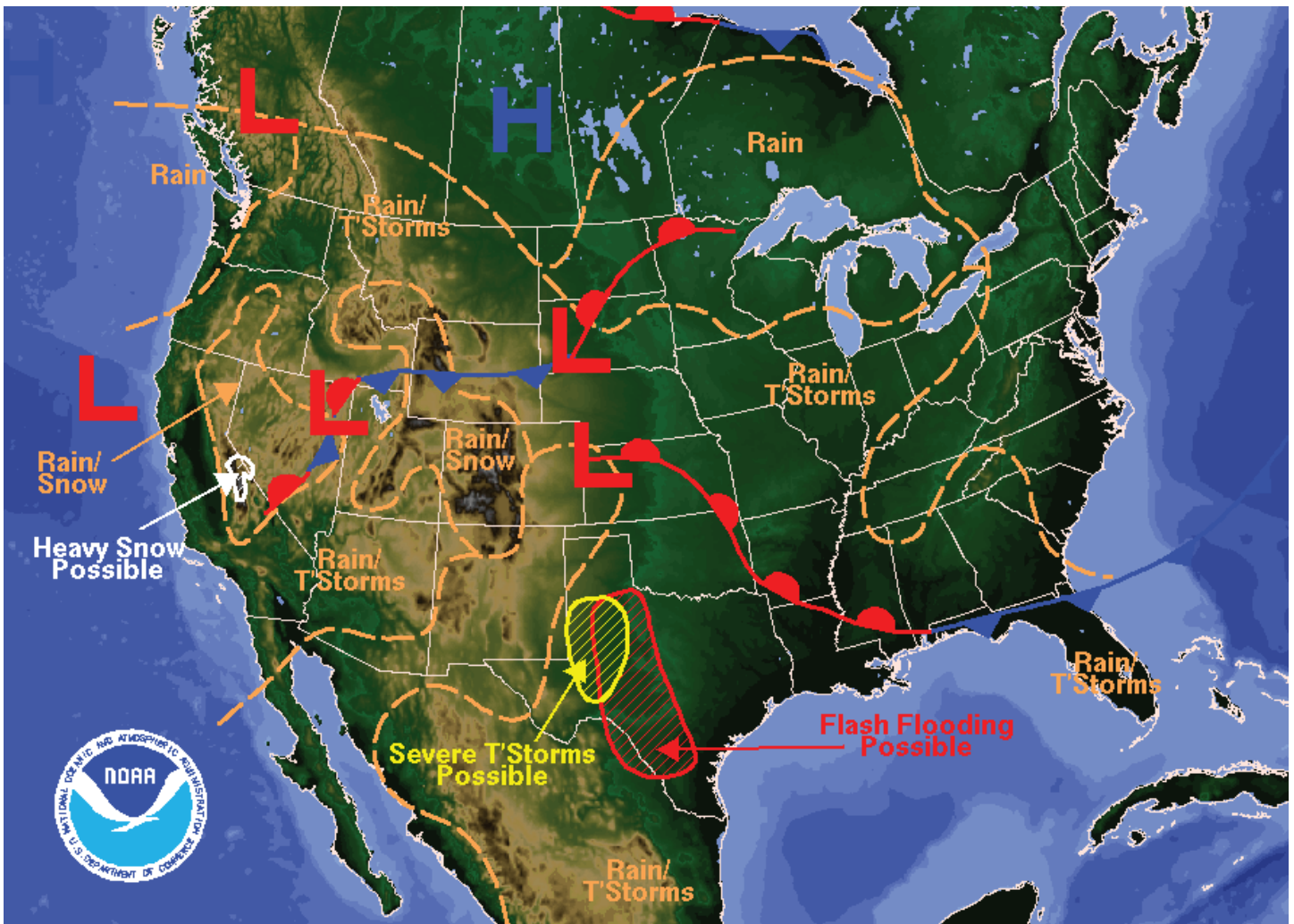
Precip to date in May: 2.61

Average Precip to date: 5.46

Precip Year to Date: 4.25

Sunset Tonight: 8:56 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:03 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, May 14, 2015, issued 4:40 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 286 ♦ 8 of 17



IS YOUR LIGHT SHINING?

It was in the darkness of night that we called on a mechanic to fix a problem with our car. As he worked under the hood his helper stood by holding a flashlight so he could see what he was doing.

After a short amount of time, the helper became bored, began to watch our dog and turned the light away from the problem the mechanic was repairing.

"Shine your light here," demanded the mechanic. "That's why you're here."

Jesus said that His followers were like "a city on a mountain, glowing in the night, for all to see." What an interesting picture for us to consider.

If you have ever flown in an airplane at night and looked out of the window, you have no doubt been fascinated to see the lights of the cities below. Those cities cannot be hidden: their "glow" can be seen for miles in every direction when the night is clear.

What is true of the lights of those cities is true of the Christian. We always have the opportunity to glow like those lights for Christ. As His witnesses in His world, we are to be known for the light we can provide to those looking through the darkness for direction. Our faith must be seen if we are to have any value to the lost who are looking for their way in the world. Jesus said, "Don't hide your light, let it shine!"

Prayer: Help us, Jesus, to be the light You need in this world that we may lead and guide others to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota could see extra revenue in this budget year

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — The state of South Dakota's coffers may end up with slightly more revenue for the current budget year than lawmakers anticipated during the legislative session if recent tax collection levels continue.

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisors met Wednesday to discuss the state and national economy. Jim Terwilliger, the state economist, said sales tax collections jumped in April and year-to-date sales tax growth is slightly above the "pretty lousy" 1.6 percent increase lawmakers anticipated during the session when they revised the state budget for the full fiscal year ending in June.

Lawmakers adopted a conservative revenue estimate for sales tax growth during the budget year, and sales taxes account for roughly 60 percent of general state revenue. The cautious overall estimate from lawmakers, who anticipated about \$7 million less revenue for the current budget year than projected in December, largely came from a slowdown in the state's agricultural economy.

Sales tax collected on farm equipment alone is estimated to have dropped roughly \$10 million between 2013 and 2014, and farm income has sunk from record levels.

"Much of the prosperity we saw in the last two or three years, a lot of it was anchored to (agriculture) and the spinoff of all the other industries," Bureau of Finance and Management Commissioner Jason Dilges said. "Right now I think some of the softening that we're seeing from the state side is probably linked to that."

Sales tax collections surged in April, and the 2.1 percent year-to-date sales tax growth is slightly above the 1.6 percent growth lawmakers anticipated for the full budget year, according to a report to the Council of Economic Advisors. Terwilliger said it would likely mean more money for the state if most state taxes continue performing like they have over the last two months.

But lackluster growth before the end of the fiscal year could drag those gains back down.

Judge sides with Sioux Falls in ambulance contract dispute

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has ruled in favor of Sioux Falls officials in a lawsuit challenging the city's process to award a contract for a local ambulance service.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange has dismissed the antitrust suit filed by provider Med-Star Paramedic Ambulance. The company unsuccessfully bid to become the city's new ambulance service provider.

Sioux Falls council members in November granted a contract for the service to Texas-based provider Paramedics Plus. Med-Star's federal lawsuit claimed unfair competition.

Lange dismissed the antitrust lawsuit with prejudice, meaning the same case can't be brought before the court again.

Lange's ruling follows a circuit judge's decision to dismiss another lawsuit filed by Med-Star against the city.

Med-Star representatives couldn't immediately be reached.

Red Cross opening resource center to help Delmont residents

DELMONT, S.D. (AP) — The Red Cross is partnering with local disaster relief organizations to open a resource center in Delmont to help those affected by the recent tornado.

The humanitarian organization says it will open the Multi-Agency Resource Center at noon on Thursday at the American Legion in Delmont.

The center will have trained Red Cross caseworkers available to help people create personal recovery plans, navigate paperwork and find assistance.

Representatives from 10 non-profits, religious groups and government agencies will also be on hand to assist people impacted by Sunday's tornado that injured nine people and damaged at least 84 structures in and around Delmont.

A donations management center has also been opened in Delmont for anyone wanting to donate to affected residents.

Motorcyclist dies in crash in industrial area near Tea

TEA, S.D. (AP) A motorcyclist died after he lost control on a curve and collided with a pickup truck in an industrial area northeast of Tea.

Authorities did not immediately identify the victim of the incident about 8:45 a.m. Wednesday.

The motorcyclist was pronounced dead at the scene.

2 flown to burn unit after fiery crash in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two people were flown to a burn unit in Minneapolis after a fiery crash in Sioux Falls.

Authorities say the 21-year-old woman and a man whose identity was not immediately confirmed were in a car that crashed late Tuesday while traveling at a high rate of speed.

The car was engulfed in flames after it struck a traffic signal pole and rolled. The woman was thrown from the vehicle. The man was pulled through a window by a passer-by.

Delmont tornado victims urged to be wary as rebuild begins

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley and South Dakota's Department of Public Safety are urging tornado victims in Delmont to be wary of shady contractors as they begin the recovery process.

Officials say people who need repair work done quickly following a disaster often are targets of unscrupulous business practices.

Jackley says most contractors are legitimate, but there are some who will seek to take advantage of a tragic situation. He says Delmont residents should take necessary steps to evaluate a bidder before contracting for a job, and avoid transient contractors.

The Sunday tornado damaged at least 84 structures in and around Delmont.

Winter wheat production down in the Dakotas from 2014

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — This year's winter wheat crop in the Dakotas is expected to be quite a bit smaller than last year's.

The Agriculture Department estimates South Dakota's crop at 48.4 million bushels, down 19 percent from 2014. North Dakota's crop is pegged at 11.2 million bushels, down 59 percent.

Winter wheat is not a main crop in North Dakota, making it subject to larger swings in production.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 286 ♦ 11 of 17

Acres for harvest in North Dakota are estimated to be down 60 percent from last year.

In South Dakota, they're estimated to be up 2 percent over the year. The production drop is due to a 20 percent drop in average yield.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.5 billion bushels, up 7 percent from 2014.

Delmont tornado damaged 84 structures, countless trees

DELMONT, S.D. (AP) — The mayor of Delmont said the tornado that struck the town at the weekend completely wiped out four blocks, as officials confirmed that 84 structures were damaged or destroyed by the twister.

Six of the damaged or destroyed structures were in rural areas in Douglas and Charles Mix counties, and 78 were in Delmont, according to state Public Safety spokesman Tony Mangan. The twister Sunday morning also heavily damaged trees in the southeastern South Dakota community. National Guard soldiers as of early Wednesday had removed 81 loads of downed trees and branches.

"Are we going to rebuild in Delmont?" Mayor Mae Gunnare said. "That's going to be a major question for a lot of our residents. We have four solid blocks of nothing. I have mixed feelings on what people are going to do."

The tornado injured nine people. One remained hospitalized in stable condition late Tuesday.

Electricity and water service have been restored to the community, though a water boil order remains in place until at least Thursday. Access to the community is still restricted to residents, who are being allowed to remain in habitable homes. Some homes are beyond repair.

"We have some folks who need to make closure with their homes, unfortunately," Gunnare said.

The town's business district remains mostly intact, though the destroyed structures in the community of about 200 people include the town's new fire hall and the 100-year-old old Zion Lutheran Church. Members of the church held a prayer service Tuesday evening to say goodbye to the building. Officials plan to take apart the collapsed fire hall Thursday to assess whether vehicles inside can be salvaged.

The National Weather Service rated the tornado as an EF-2, with a peak wind speed of 130 mph, a 17-mile-long path and a maximum width of 400 yards.

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.

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. SAFETY TECHNOLOGY MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED AMTRAK CRASH

"We feel that had such a system been installed in this section of track, this accident would not have occurred," says National Transportation Safety Board member Robert Sumwalt.

2. WHO CLAIMS ATTACK ON KABUL GUESTHOUSE THAT KILLED 14

The Taliban spokesman in an email distributed to media says the group targeted the hotel because of the presence of foreigners, including Americans there.

3. WHY OBAMA CONVENES CAMP DAVID SUMMIT WITH GULF ARAB LEADERS

He is seeking to reassure key allies that U.S. overtures to Iran will not come at the expense of commitments to their security.

4. YEMEN'S HUMANITARIAN TRUCE BARELY HOLDS

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 286 ♦ 12 of 17

It is disrupted by a Saudi-led coalition airstrike, fighting between rival sides in a strategic province and shelling by coalition warships west of the port city of Aden.

5. WHAT LEADS TO RISING MIGRANT DEATHS ON HIGH SEAS

There is no single reason for the soaring numbers of those trying to reach Europe, but rather a chain of factors including more ruthless smugglers and the end of a major rescue mission.

6. JURY DELIBERATING FATE OF BOSTON MARATHON BOMBER

Prosecutors call him a "remorse-free" terrorist and his lawyer says he deserves a chance at redemption.

7. IN WISCONSIN CAPITAL CITY, POLICE PROTESTS STAY PEACEFUL

Existing relationships, local traditions and cooler heads help demonstrators in Madison avoid violence seen in Ferguson and Baltimore — at least so far.

8. CHINESE E-COMMERCE GIANT SELLS TRUST

Billionaire Richard Liu says the success of his JD.com site rests on a powerful selling point: allowing only genuine merchandise in a land of fakes.

9. TEHRAN BILLBOARDS SHOWCASE FAMOUS ARTWORKS

The 10-day project shows "Iranians are art lovers, too," says Tehran businessman Ehsun Fathipour.

10. JOHNNY DEPP'S DOGS FACE DEATH IN AUSTRALIA

Australian quarantine authorities order the actor to fly his Yorkshire terriers Pistol and Boo out of the country by Saturday or they will be put down.

AP News in Brief

Investigators know Amtrak train in deadly Philadelphia wreck was speeding, but not why

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Federal investigators have determined that an Amtrak train that crashed in Philadelphia, killing at least seven people, was careening through the city at 106 mph before it ran off the rails along a sharp curve where the speed limit drops to just 50 mph, but they still don't know why it was going so fast.

Robert Sumwalt, of the National Transportation Safety Board, said a data recorder and a video camera in the train's front end could yield clues to what happened. Amtrak inspected the stretch of track on Tuesday, just hours before the accident, and found no defects, according to the Federal Railroad Administration.

Sumwalt said the engineer applied the emergency brakes moments before the crash but slowed the train to only 102 mph by the time the locomotive's black box stopped recording data. The speed limit just before the bend is 80 mph, he said.

The engineer, whose name was not released, refused to give a statement to law enforcement and left a police precinct with a lawyer, police said. Sumwalt said federal accident investigators want to talk to him but will give him a day or two to recover from the shock of the accident.

Mayor Michael Nutter said he was frustrated to learn how fast the train was going. "Part of the focus has to be, what was the engineer doing?" Nutter said. "Why are you traveling at that rate of speed?"

—

Long-sought safety technology might have prevented deadly Amtrak crash in Philadelphia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The deadly Amtrak derailment near Philadelphia appears to be yet another accident that didn't have to happen.

It could have been avoided if a long-sought safety technology had been installed on its tracks and trains, according to information gathered by accident investigators.

Seven years ago, Congress gave Amtrak and freight and commuter railroads until the end of this year to install the technology, called positive train control, on their trains and tracks. But few, if any, railroads are expected to meet the deadline. Now lawmakers are proposing to give railroads another five to seven years to get the task done.

The technology uses GPS, wireless radio and computers to monitor train position. It can automatically brake to prevent derailments due to excessive speed, collisions with other trains, trains entering track where maintenance is being done or going the wrong way because of a switching mistake. It's all aimed at preventing human error, which is responsible for about 40 percent of train accidents.

A preliminary review of the Amtrak train's event data recorder, or "black box," shows it was traveling at 106 mph in an 80 mph zone just before it entered a curve where the speed limit is 50 mph, National Transportation Safety Board member Robert Sumwalt said Wednesday. The train's engineer applied maximum braking power seconds before the crash, but it was too late.

Taliban attack on Kabul guesthouse killed 14, including 9 foreigners, Afghan official says

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Taliban attack on a Kabul guesthouse left 14 people dead, including nine foreigners, in the most audacious assault by the insurgents in the Afghan capital since the start of their spring offensive, a government official confirmed Thursday.

Among the nine foreigners killed in Wednesday's attack, seven were men and two were women, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media. The full breakdown of the nationalities was not immediately known but an American and four Indians have been confirmed dead.

Gunmen stormed the restaurant of the Park Palace Hotel in the Afghan capital as it was hosting a party for foreigners on Wednesday evening, and authorities said the victims were killed during an hours-long siege that ended early Thursday morning. At least 54 hostages were rescued, according to Afghan officials.

Five Afghans were also among the dead — four men and one woman — and seven were wounded, including one Afghan policeman.

The U.N. mission in Afghanistan condemned the assault, saying in a statement Thursday that it was an "atrocious."

Malaysia turns away 2 boats carrying more than 800 Rohingya, Bangladeshi migrants

LANGKAWI, Malaysia (AP) — Thousands of Rohingya Muslims and Bangladeshis abandoned at sea by human traffickers had nowhere to go Thursday as Malaysia turned away two boats crammed with more than 800 migrants, saying it could not afford to keep being "nice."

Indonesia and Thailand also appeared unwilling to provide refuge to desperate men, women and

children, despite appeals by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, international aid agencies and rights activists, who warned lives were at risk.

Fearing arrests, captains tied to trafficking networks have in recent days abandoned ships in the busy Malacca Strait and surrounding waters, leaving behind their human cargo, in many cases with little food or water, according to survivors.

Around 1,600 have been rescued but an estimated 6,000 remain stranded at sea.

Phil Robertson of Human Rights Watch Asia accused Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia of playing "a three-way game of human ping pong."

Emboldened smugglers among chain of factors leading to rising migrant deaths on high seas

PARIS (AP) — Nearly nine times more migrants have died so far this year in Mediterranean crossings compared to last year at this time — swallowed by the sea as Europe beckons.

Why is this the year of so many deaths? There is no single reason. A chain of factors interlock, overlap and unfold into catastrophe on the high seas.

Smugglers are bolder and increasingly ruthless. They're taking more risks with unseaworthy vessels, and sometimes sending migrants out with no one at the helm.

The phasing out last fall of Italy's Mare Nostrum rescue operation, which used big ships to comb the sea far and wide, has left a gaping void that is filled in part by hulking merchant ships ill-equipped to pluck panicked souls from small, capsizing vessels.

The International Organization for Migration, or IOM, estimates that as of May 7 Mediterranean deaths stood at 1,829, compared to 207 in the same period in 2014. This year's rate soared before the onset of the warm season when crossings multiply, and despite a boom in successful crossings last year.

Obama convenes Camp David summit with Gulf state leaders to hash out differences on Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and leaders from six Gulf nations are trying to work through tensions sparked by the U.S. bid for a nuclear deal with Iran, a pursuit that has put regional partners on edge.

Obama is seeking to reassure the Gulf leaders gathering at Camp David that U.S. overtures to Iran will not come at the expense of commitments to their security. He is expected to offer them more military assistance, including increased joint exercises and coordination on ballistic missile systems.

But when Thursday's meetings at the presidential retreat in the Maryland mountains conclude, it's unlikely Obama will have fully assuaged the Gulf's deep-seated fear of Iranian meddling in the region.

"My guess is that the summit is going to leave everybody feeling a little bit unsatisfied," said Jon Alterman, the Middle East director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Obama and the leaders from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain opened their talks with a private dinner Wednesday night at the White House. Just two heads of state are among those meeting Obama, with other nations sending lower-level, but still influential representatives.

In Wisconsin's capital, relationships, demographics, tradition keep police protests peaceful

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — When a white police officer killed an unarmed biracial teen in Wisconsin's capital city, the shooting quickly heightened tensions and stirred up protests.

But no one has hurled so much as a pebble, broken anything or thrown any punches in protests since Officer Matt Kenney shot 19-year-old Tony Robinson in March in a home near the Capitol building. The approximately two dozen arrests so far have involved protesters blocking traffic.

Instead, police-community relationships, demographics, traditions and cooler heads helped keep Madison's streets peaceful — at least so far.

"I think the people in this city are ... pretty good about voicing their emotions without running around and tearing things up," said Andrea Irwin, Robinson's mother. "I don't think that's ever happened in Madison."

Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne raised the ante Tuesday when he announced he would not charge Kenny in Robinson's death, saying the officer's actions were justified because Robinson, who was high on hallucinogenic mushrooms, punched Kenny in the head.

Nepal's prime minister: 'We were not prepared' for 2nd strong quake in less than 3 weeks

CHARIKOT, Nepal (AP) — Nepal has been overwhelmed by its second massive earthquake in less than three weeks, its prime minister said Thursday as he visited this normally placid foothills town, now a center for frightened villagers desperate for government help.

Thousands of people now crowd the streets of Charikot, the administrative center of the isolated district hit hardest by Tuesday's magnitude-7.3 quake, which killed at least 96 people and injured more than 2,300. The magnitude-7.8 earthquake that hit April 25 killed more than 8,150 people, injured tens of thousands more and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

"After the first quake, we were not prepared for a second one so big," Prime Minister Sushil Koirala told reporters after arriving in Charikot by helicopter.

He said the coming monsoon rains now loomed large, with hundreds of thousands of people left homeless.

"We need tents. Our people need shelter. With the rainy season, it will be difficult for people to survive in the open," he said.

AP PHOTOS: Below the chaos of the Egyptian capital, the trains somehow run on time

CAIRO (AP) — Far below the gridlocked streets of Egypt's capital, a virtual second city thrives.

The Cairo Metro system sprawls across the city, delivering an estimated 3.6 million passengers per day over three different lines and approximately 78 kilometers (49 miles) of train track, both above ground and below the city center.

In a city known, as much as anything, for its dysfunction, the Cairo Metro stands as a singular achievement. It's reliable, well-maintained and relatively clean. And it may be the only place in Egypt where no-smoking rules are actually enforced. At 1 Egyptian pound (13 cents) per ticket, the Metro is a bargain even in a country like Egypt where nearly half the population of 90 million lives near or below the poverty line.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 286 ♦ 16 of 17

"It's like the life train," said Leila Abdel Basset, a 24-year-old journalist who has taken the Metro to work every weekday for the past three years. "It's crowded in some stations, and empty in others, but it always gets me to my station."

Veteran Metro riders know all the tricks and unwritten rules. For starters, men have to be careful not to accidentally step onto one of the women-only cars; those who forget could receive a hostile reaction from the women onboard.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 14, the 134th day of 2015. There are 231 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 14, 1955, representatives from eight Communist bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, signed the Warsaw Pact in Poland. (The Pact was dissolved in July 1991.)

On this date:

In 1643, Louis XIV became King of France at age four upon the death of his father, Louis XIII.

In 1796, English physician Edward Jenner inoculated 8-year-old James Phipps against smallpox by using cowpox matter.

In 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the Louisiana Territory as well as the Pacific Northwest left camp near present-day Hartford, Illinois.

In 1900, the Olympic games opened in Paris as part of the 1900 World's Fair.

In 1913, the Rockefeller Foundation was founded in New York.

In 1925, the Virginia Woolf novel "Mrs Dalloway" was first published in England and the United States.

In 1940, the Netherlands surrendered to invading German forces during World War II.

In 1948, according to the current-era calendar, the independent state of Israel was proclaimed in Tel Aviv.

In 1961, Freedom Riders were attacked by violent mobs in Anniston and Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1973, the United States launched Skylab 1, its first manned space station. (Skylab 1 remained in orbit for six years before burning up during re-entry in 1979.) The National Right to Life Committee was incorporated.

In 1988, 27 people, mostly teens, were killed when their church bus collided with a pickup truck going the wrong direction on a highway near Carrollton, Kentucky. (Truck driver Larry Mahoney served 9 1/2 years in prison for manslaughter.)

In 1998, singer-actor Frank Sinatra died at a Los Angeles hospital at age 82. The hit sitcom "Seinfeld" aired its final episode after nine years on NBC.

Ten years ago: The U.S. military in Iraq wrapped up Operation Matador, a major offensive in a remote desert region near the Syrian border.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama heatedly condemned what he called a "ridiculous spectacle" of oil executives shifting blame for the BP oil spill in congressional hearings and denounced a "cozy relationship" between their companies and the federal government. Space shuttle Atlantis thundered away on what turned out to be its next-to-last voyage into orbit. NBC canceled the long-running police/courtroom drama "Law & Order" after 20 seasons on the air.

One year ago: A wildfire erupted in the north San Diego suburb of Carlsbad, destroying eight houses, two businesses and an apartment complex. Canadian-born U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz officially renounced his birth country's citizenship amid speculation he could make a run at the White House in 2016.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Patrice Munsel is 90. Photo-realist artist Richard Estes is 83. Ac-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 14, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 286 ♦ 17 of 17

ress Sian Phillips (TV: "I, Claudius") is 82. Former Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., is 73. Movie producer George Lucas is 71. Actress Meg Foster is 67. Movie director Robert Zemeckis is 64. Rock singer David Byrne is 63. Actor Tim Roth is 54. Rock singer Ian Astbury (The Cult) is 53. Rock musician C.C. (aka Cecil) DeVille is 53. Actor Danny Huston is 53. Rock musician Mike Inez (Alice In Chains) is 49. Fabrice Morvan (ex-Milli Vanilli) is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Raphael Saadiq is 49. Actress Cate Blanchett is 46. Singer Danny Wood (New Kids on the Block) is 46. Movie writer-director Sofia Coppola (KOH'-pah-lah) is 44. Actor Gabriel Mann is 43. Singer Natalie Appleton (All Saints) is 42. Singer Shanice is 42. Actress Carla Jimenez is 41. Rock musician Henry Garza (Los Lonely Boys) is 37. Alt-country musician-singer Ketch Secor is 37. Rock singer-musician Dan Auerbach is 36. Rock musician Mike Retondo (Plain White T's) is 34. Actress Amber Tamblyn is 32. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is 31. Actress Miranda Cosgrove is 22.

Thought for Today: "The family you come from isn't as important as the family you're going to have." - Ring Lardner, American humorist (1885-1933).