

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Wednesday, May 27

**Birthdays:** Dean Kramer • Susan Knudsen • Shirley Meister

**Senior Menu:** Tater tot hot dish, green beans, grape juice, sour cream apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Vacation Bible School

## Thursday, May 28

**Birthdays:** Kim Zerr • Darliss Larson • Lora McMahan • Marty Sippel • Jim Stearns • Joyce Grenz • Steven Jones • Braeden Fliehs

**Senior Menu:** Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, winter mix vegetables, buttermilk biscuits, banana pudding with bananas.

9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Vacation Bible School

11:30 a.m.: James Valley Telecommunications Annual Meeting lunch and registration with meeting at 12:30 p.m. at GHS Gym/Arena.

## Friday, May 29

**Birthdays:** Clare Brotherton • DeLoris Knoll • Howard Gengerke • Jerry Ray Johnson • Jeff Ringgenberg • Michelle Osterman

**Senior Menu:** Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend vegetables, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

State Track Meet at Spearfish

**The Groton Area School District is seeking applicants for a full-time custodian. Daytime shift during summer months, afternoon/evening shift during school year. Starting wage \$11.00/hour. Benefits include paid sick leave, vacation, holidays, health insurance, matching retirement. Interested parties should contact Joe Schwan at 605-397-2351. More information available at [www.grotonarea.com](http://www.grotonarea.com).**

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## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

## 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.

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## Freshmen Students of the Month

Back: Hannah Lewandowski, Jenifer Fjelstad, Madison Sippel, Alex Stange

Front: Alexis Gustafson, Lisa Taylor, Madilyn Wright

Missing Emilie Crosby



## Sophomores Students of the Month

Back: Kelby Hawkins, Landon Marzahn, Nathan Fjelstad, Paityn Bonn

Front: Alexis Harder, Erin Smith, Keri Pappas, Macy Knecht



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## Juniors Students of the Month

Back: Hailey Hanson, Lily Cutler, Carly Wheeting, Maggie Simon

Front: Emily Raap, Marlee Jones, Jasmine Schaller, Megan Unzen



## Seniors Students of the Month

Back: Kasey Waage, Luke Smith, Rachel Blackmun

Front: Maryn Howard, Katie Groeblichhoff, Taylor Gustafson

Missing: Jacob Milbrandt, Gabe Dohman



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## 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
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- 4 Stuffed Baked Potatoes
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets

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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.



## President's Education Awards Program

Twelve students in the Class of 2015 have qualified for the President's Education Awards Program. The awards are an effort by the U.S. Department of Education to recognize outstanding educational achievement and effort. The criteria have been developed to reflect changes occurring in the schools and to provide schools with both clear guidelines and flexibility. They are meant to reflect the state, local and national efforts to raise academic standards as embodied in the National Education goals.

"It is really nice to be able to recognize these seniors. They have worked hard for four years, have exceptional grade point averages, and have performed well on standardized testing," stated Jodi Sternhagen, Groton Area High School Counselor. The President's Award for Educational Excellence is signed by the President, Secretary of Education, and the school principal. Criteria include a grade point average of 3.5 or above and standardized test achievement at the 85th percentile or higher in math or reading.

Those qualifying in the Class of 2015 are pictured above:

**Back - Matthew Knecht, Kathleen Groeblichoff, Maddison Colestock, Maryn Howard, Haley Unzen, Taylor Gustafson, Lucas Sternhagen**

**Front - Jacob Milbrandt, Gabriel Dohman, Natalia Dohman, Jackson Doeden, Luke Smith**



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## Principal's Student Service Award

Fifteen seniors at Groton Area High School, have been nominated for the Principal's Student Service Award. To be eligible for this award the students had to document exemplary community service during high school and complete an application and essay. The award winners in 2015 are pictured above:

**Back - Kasey Waage, Kathleen Groeblichhoff, Kennedy Clark, Taylor Gustafson, Ashley Gibbs, Maddison Colestock, Haley Unzen, Courtney Kurtz, Kiana Kokales, Katie LaMee**

**Front - Matthew Knecht, Breanna Marzahn, Rachel Blackmun, Natalia Dohman, Luke Smith**

"These students have made significant contributions to our community," stated School Counselor Jodi Sternhagen. "They have always been willing to volunteer when help is needed. When we've needed someone to help with a project, these students have stepped forward. Community service is extremely important in today's world and they have shown that they can make a difference."

The students' service areas included: peer tutoring, participating in the Food Drive, tutoring, helping youth, organizing events, and helping with youth activities such as coaching and refereeing. Each student received a pin from the National Association of Secondary School Principal's for service.

## One of Groton's finest homes looking for a new family



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## **USDA Farming Rule Creates New Loopholes**

By John Crabtree, johnc@cfra.org, Center for Rural Affairs

**A draft rule issued by USDA aims to define what it means to be 'actively engaged' in farming. The proposed rule makes some important changes, but those improvements are immediately undermined by two new loopholes introduced in the rule.**

**The draft rule, somewhat unabashedly, only applies to farms that are large enough to "require" quadruple the statutory limit. You can abuse the rules, as long as you only abuse them up to \$500,000 (\$1 million if you're married) each year.**

**Moreover, as drafted, farms made up solely of family members are excluded from the requirement that partners be actively engaged in the farm. The proposed rule allows a large operator to skirt payment limits by adding extended family members to the books. For each relative they add, the farm can get another payment up to the limit.**

**This means a large operation can add their cousin in New York or their grandchild in San Francisco. If you have 16 cousins scattered around the country, you can pull down 16 times the limit. In Washington, this passes for reform.**

**We are disappointed, but not surprised. This has always been a fight for the ages between big business interests on one hand and everyday farmers and taxpayers on the other hand.**

**The public is on record supporting policy reform that directs farm program payments to family-scale operators. Multiple polls, including one commissioned by the Center for Rural Affairs, show that farmers and rural people overwhelming support closing farm program loopholes.**

## Today in Weather History

May 27, 1942: One barn was destroyed, and 27 trees were uprooted in a brief estimated F2 touch-down on the western edge of Bryant.

May 27, 1996: On May 26th, anywhere from 4 to 6 inches of rain fell in a 24 hour period over the lower Bad River Basin. In addition, 3 to 5 inches of rain fell over much of Western South Dakota. This runoff caused the Bad River at Fort Pierre to crest at 26.25 feet or about 5 feet above flood stage late on the 27th before falling back below flood stage on the 30th. The entire length of the Bad River Road from U.S. Highway 83 near Fort Pierre to U.S. Highway 14 near Midland was closed to all except local traffic on the 27th. Twenty five to 35 volunteers were filling sandbags all day on the 27th around two homes along the river. Most of the damage was associated with flooding of agricultural land and some county roads. One resident along the river said the river was the highest it has been in 32 years.

1771: In Virginia, a wall of water came roaring down the James River valley following ten to twelve days of intensive rain. As water swept through Richmond, buildings, boats, animals, and vegetation were lost. About one hundred fifty people were killed as the river reached a flood stage of forty-five feet above normal. A monument to the flood was inscribed by Ryland Randolph, of Curles, in 1771-72: " ... all the great rivers of this country were swept by inundations never before experienced which changed the face of nature and left traces of violence that will remain for ages."

1896: A massive tornado struck Saint Louis, Missouri killing 306 persons and causing thirteen million dollars damage. The tornado path was short but cut across a densely populated area. It touched down six miles west of Eads Bridge in Saint Louis and widened to a mile as it crossed into East Saint Louis. The tornado was the most destructive of record in the U.S. up until that time. It pierced a five-eighths inch thick iron sheet with a two by four inch pine plank. A brilliant display of lightning accompanied the storm.

1997: An F5 tornado killed 27 people in Jarrell, Texas. Although tornado warnings were issued 30 minutes in advance and local sirens were sounded, there were few places to go for safety. Most homes were on slabs, with no basements to shelter in. Houses were swept clean off their foundations, with little debris left behind. Total damage was \$20 million dollars. The same thunderstorm complex produced a wind gust to 122 mph at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio.



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**Tyler Sperry:  
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## Sperry Stump Removal



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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
20%	60%	50%	50%	20%		
Slight Chc Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms Likely	Chance Thunderstorms	Chance Thunderstorms	Slight Chc Showers	Breezy	Sunny
High: 82 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 63 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 63 °F



## Warm Temps Today, Thunderstorms West

Increasing Probability For Storms West to East: Afternoon - Evening - Overnight

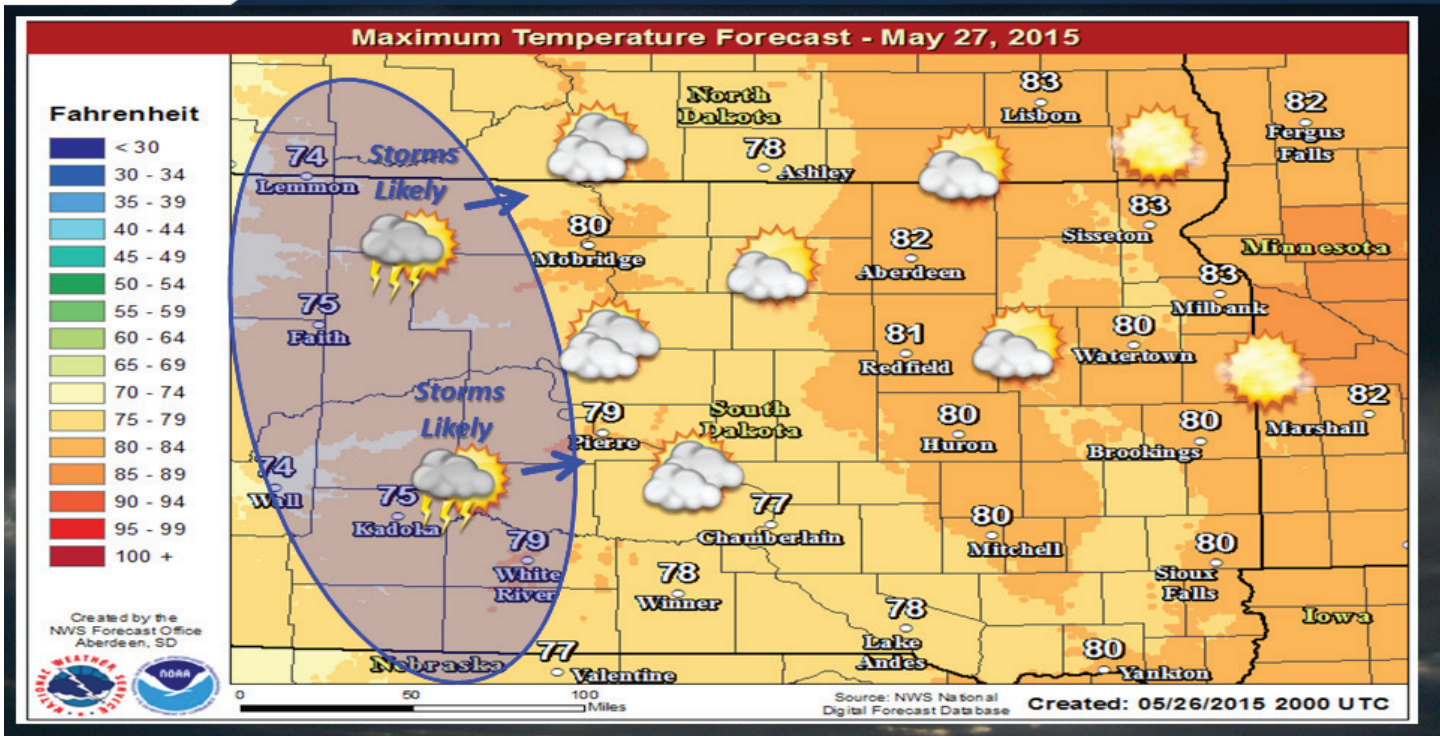
[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 05/27/2015 at 5:22AM

Temperatures will be a bit warmer today across the region compared to Tuesday. Much of northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota is expected to rise into the low 80s. Thunderstorms are forecast to develop over western South Dakota this afternoon and move into central South Dakota by late afternoon or early evening. This activity will spread east across portions of the area overnight.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 80.2 at 5:12 PM

**Low:** 47.4 at 7:08 AM

**High Gust:** 26 at 6:01 PM

**Precip:** 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 98° in 1934

**Record Low:** 28° in 1907

**Average High:** 72°F

**Average Low:** 48°F

**Average Precip in May:** 2.71

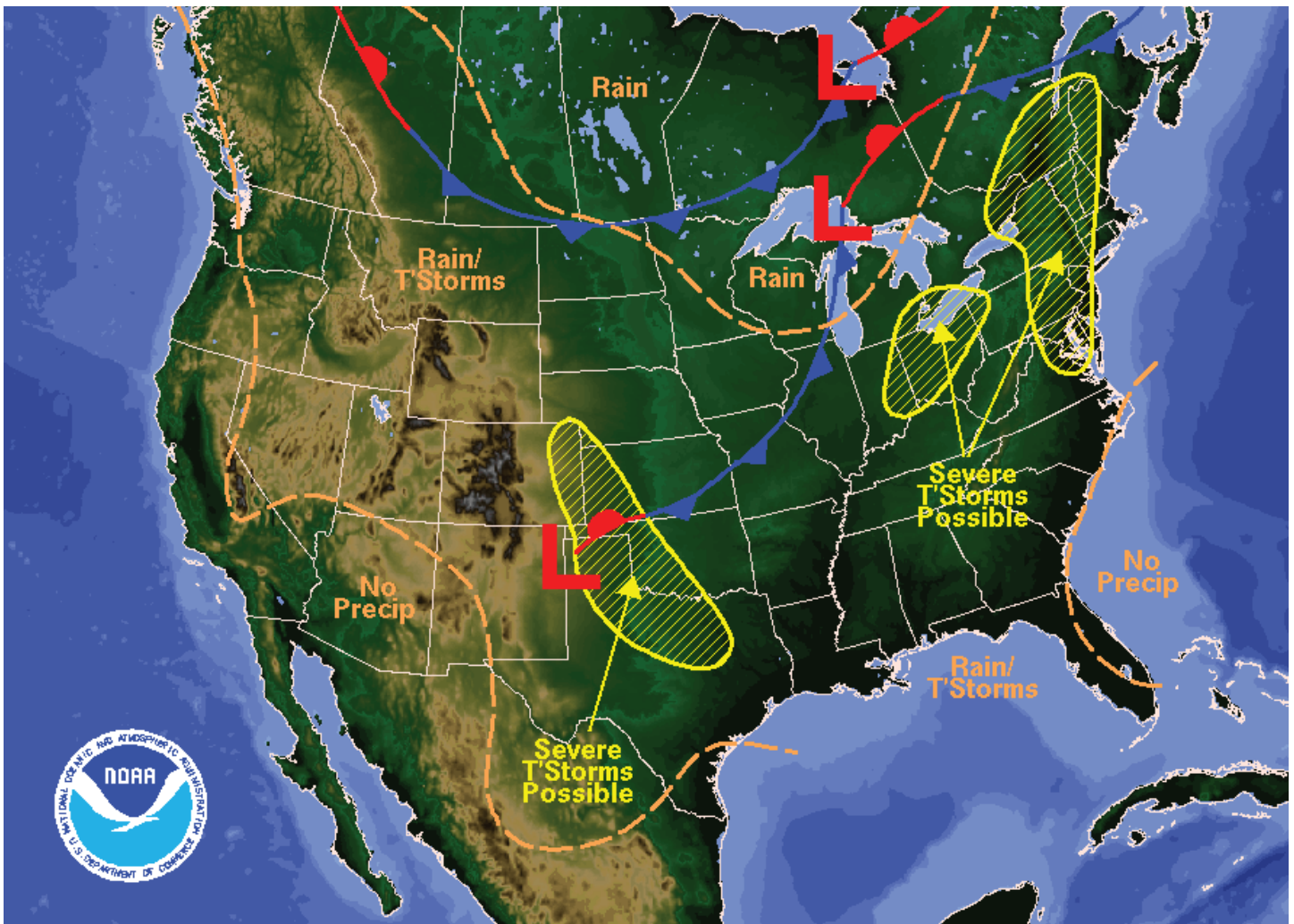
**Precip to date in May:** 4.04

**Average Precip to date:** 6.74

**Precip Year to Date:** 5.68

**Sunset Tonight:** 9:10 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 5:51 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, May 27, 2015, issued 3:56 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts





## WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

The angry husband approached the terminal gate obviously upset that the door was closed and the plane was leaving. Turning to his wife he said, "If you hadn't taken so long to get ready, we would be on that plane."

"Yes," she answered graciously, "and if you hadn't hurried me so, we wouldn't have to wait so long for the next one."

Some people count their minutes rather than making their minutes count. However, we must always remember that time is a God-given gift, and once gone will never be returned. Though others may have more talents or more treasures, no one has more time. We are all given twenty-four hours each day. God gives to all equally.

Alan Lakein said that "Time is life. It is irreversible and irreplaceable. To waste your time is to waste your life, but to master your time is to master your life and make the most of it."

David accomplished much in his life. Author, poet, musician, politician, judge, leader of an army – the list goes on and on. No doubt the reason he was able to accomplish so much was his attitude toward time. He put everything in perspective when he said, "Remember how short my time is and what a fleeting life is mine."

**Prayer:** Help us, Father, to make the most of every moment, using every minute we have to honor You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Psalm 89:47 Remember how short my time is; For what futility have You created all the children of men?

## Rapid City woman claims \$30,000 third prize in Powerball

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City woman has claimed a \$30,000 Powerball prize.

South Dakota lottery officials say Mary Watson won the money in the May 20 drawing.

Watson matched four of five white ball numbers and the Powerball to win the \$10,000 third prize, and an option purchased for an additional dollar tripled the prize. The odds of hitting the third prize in Powerball are 1 in about 649,000.

Powerball is played in 44 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The jackpot is at \$154 million for the Wednesday drawing.

Watson's winning ticket was purchased at a Big D Oil store in Rapid City. The store will receive a \$3,000 bonus for the sale.

## Officials warn of high, fast creek water in Rapid City area

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in the Rapid City area are warning of high creek levels and fast-moving currents as releases from Pactola Reservoir increase.

A joint press release from officials says the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers are bumping up the water release Wednesday morning to 450 cubic feet per second.

That could go up to 500 cubic feet per second Thursday, and Pennington County Emergency Management Director Dustin Willett says that hasn't happened since 1965.

Rapid City spokesman Darrell Shoemaker says parts of the city could see flooding, and residents should take caution along the city's bike path. Some flash flooding occurred in Rapid City earlier this week after heavy weekend rains.

## Oklahoma man identified as victim in South Dakota park crash

WALL, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified an Oklahoma man killed in a one-vehicle crash in Badlands National Park in South Dakota.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says 51-year-old Richard Vasquez of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, was killed in the crash Saturday afternoon. According to the Highway Patrol, the pickup driven by Vasquez went off state Highway 240 and down a steep embankment, rolling twice.

The patrol says Vasquez was thrown from the pickup and died at the scene. An investigation is ongoing.

## Annette Bosworth's election law violation trial to resume

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The trial of former South Dakota US. Senate candidate Annette Bosworth is set to begin again for jury instructions and closing arguments.

Bosworth's trial is scheduled to resume Wednesday afternoon after a break for the long weekend.

The Sioux Falls physician is accused of election law violations that include being out of the country during a time when her petitions to get on the ballot say she was gathering signatures.

Bosworth has admitted she was out of the country at that time.

Under state law, the person circulating petitions must witness the signings from registered voters. Bosworth's defense says she made a mistake by listening to the advice of former attorney Joel Arends.

Bosworth received 6 percent of the vote in the 2014 Republican U.S. Senate primary.



## Parts of Delmont to be closed for tornado debris removal

DELMONT, S.D. (AP) — Parts of Delmont will be closed to vehicle and foot traffic for two days this week as crews use heavy equipment and trailers to haul debris from the tornado that hit the town earlier this month.

State public safety officials have scheduled the closure for Wednesday and Thursday. The volunteer reception center will be closed those days, but the donations management center at the Delmont American Legion Hall will remain open.

The May 10 tornado damaged or destroyed 84 structures in and around Delmont and injured nine people. The National Weather Service rated it as an EF-2, with a peak wind speed of 130 mph.

Officials say the heavy equipment will be used so removal of large debris can be done uninterrupted. They say the closure is for safety reasons.

## Police in Rapid City identify fatal shooting victim

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Police in Rapid City have identified the victim of a fatal shooting that occurred early Monday.

Police on Tuesday identified the victim as 22-year-old Charles Metcalf of Rapid City. Authorities say preliminary results from an autopsy indicate the cause of death to be multiple gunshot wounds.

Authorities say a 20-year-old male suspect was arrested on drug and alcohol charges at the scene when officers responded to a report of an assault about 12:10 a.m. Monday and found Metcalf's body. The suspect is from Rapid City.

A 20-year-old Sioux Falls woman who returned to the scene while police were there also was arrested on drug and alcohol charges.

Police Capt. James Johns says all of the people knew one another, and the death was not a random act of violence.

## Ballot proposals for 2016 election include medical marijuana

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota medical marijuana supporter hopes to begin gathering signatures within a month to put a proposal on the 2016 ballot to allow people with serious medical conditions to use marijuana.

Melissa Mentele, an activist from Emery, South Dakota, said Tuesday that the ballot language she's been working on is now under review at the state Attorney General's office. Mentele and other organizers need 13,871 signatures by Nov. 8 to get the proposal on the 2016 ballot.

Mentele, 38, said she's attempting to help patients similar to herself — she suffers from reflex sympathetic dystrophy — who have debilitating medical conditions ranging from cancer to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Mentele said she's pushing a ballot proposal because state lawmakers haven't been receptive to enacting a South Dakota medical marijuana program through the Legislature. The proposal would allow patients with a physician's recommendation to purchase or cultivate marijuana and possess up to 3 ounces of the plant.

"We're trying to bring compassionate access onto the ballot, because that's what we need in South Dakota," she said. "If somebody doesn't fight to change the law, it's going to stay a bad law."

Activists have failed to legalize medical marijuana in South Dakota at least twice over the past decade using the voter initiative process. A 2006 proposal received 47.7 percent of the vote, and a 2010 effort

got 36.7 percent. Mentele said she's concerned about raising money for the 2016 campaign, but she said organizers are planning fundraising efforts including soliciting donations at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and other large gatherings.

Bob Newland, 67, is an activist from Hot Springs, South Dakota, who has long supported efforts to allow medical marijuana in the state. Newland, who pleaded guilty to felony possession of the drug in 2009, is co-sponsoring two recently proposed voter initiatives that would prohibit the sale and transfer of tobacco and alcohol in South Dakota.

Andrew Ziegler, 52, is also sponsoring the two ballot measures. He said the efforts in part stem from pro-marijuana activism, and he said it's about getting "fed up" with the state government.

Newland said he wants consistency in the law.

"For several decades now, most states, including South Dakota, have been putting people in jail or shooting them for using a benign herb," Newland said. "Meanwhile, most states, South Dakota included, have been receiving a substantial portion of their budgets from taxation of the sale of deadly drugs."

Newland acknowledges it's unlikely alcohol sales will be banned by a vote, but he said he believes prohibiting the transfer and sale of tobacco would have an "excellent" chance of becoming law.

An explanation of the two proposals from the Attorney General's office says they would cost the state tax revenue if they're enacted.

## **Northern SD city breaks century-old precipitation record**

MOBRIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The northern South Dakota city of Mobridge has broken a century-old precipitation record.

Meteorologist Ken Gillespie with the National Weather Service in Aberdeen says the community of 3,500 residents is having its wettest month on record with 9.16 inches of precipitation so far in May.

The city's previous highest rainfall total was 8.85 inches, a record that set in June 1915.

The National Weather Service has kept weather statistics for the area since 1893.

## **Police: Thieves dig holes in walls to rob apartment garages**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls say thieves in the past few months have dug holes in the drywall separating apartment garages and have burglarized over 10 of them.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the most recent incident in which police believe a suspect moved from one garage to another through holes in the walls happened Monday.

Clemens police went through a hole and found the suspect, covered in drywall dust, hiding under a car in another garage.

Clemens says the 22-year-old Colton man had various items that police believe were stolen. The man is in custody on various charges including six counts of third-degree burglary.

Clemens says police aren't sure whether the suspect is connected to other 10 to 15 cases where garages were burglarized after thieves entered through the walls.

## **SD man gets more than 24 years in reservation assault case**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has been sentenced to more than 24 years in prison after being convicted of seriously injuring a woman in 2008 on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

The sentencing of Stoney End Of Horn on charges of serious bodily injury and sexual abuse of a minor came this month in federal court in Aberdeen, months after a federal judge dismissed a murder conviction against the Wakpala man.



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End Of Horn, 37, was convicted in September of second-degree murder for the fatal beating of Pauline Brave Crow. Prosecutors said Brave Crow suffered injuries so severe to her face and brain in September 2008 that the surgeon that repaired the Brave Crow's face described the bones as "busted up so bad they were like a bag of potato chips." She died in June 2010 after spending four months in a Mandan, North Dakota, hospital due to complications caused by the beating.

Federal authorities said the sexual abuse counts are unrelated to the beating and stem from incidents that occurred in 2010, when End Of Horn engaged in repeated sexual acts with a minor.

End Of Horn faced a jury trial in September and was convicted of second-degree murder for Brave Crow's death. But U.S. District Judge Charles Kornmann dismissed the murder conviction in October under the argument that a death must happen within a year and a day in order to constitute a punishable homicide.

"I felt strongly that higher courts should address this very important issue," Kornmann wrote at the time. "I determined specifically and advised counsel that I wanted the issues of fact to go to the jury, it being my intention to dismiss the murder charge if the defendant were to be found guilty by the jury. I predicted that this issue should ultimately be decided by the United States Supreme Court."

End Of Horn's attorney, Terence Sutton, on Tuesday said his client plans to appeal the assault and sexual abuse convictions.

End Of Horn is under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

## **10-year-old boy dies in crash of car driven by brother**

LAKE NORDEN, S.D. (AP) — A one-vehicle crash west of Lake Norden killed a 10-year-old boy from Bryant.

The Highway Patrol says Colton Beld was a passenger in a car driven by his 14-year-old brother, Dillon Beld. The car went off state Highway 28 and rolled about 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Colton Beld was killed and Dillon Beld suffered minor injuries in the crash.

## **Military families to access over dozen SD museums for free**

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Active-duty military personnel and their families will have free access to more than a dozen South Dakota museums this summer.

The Blue Star Museum program that kicks off this week and runs through Labor Day has included 11 museums across the state in its annual effort to offer free admission to military families, including National Guard and Reserve.

Nationwide, more than 2,000 museums are participating in the program sponsored by the National Endowment of the Arts, Blue Star Families and the Department of Defense.

The South Dakota museums participating in the program include the National Music Museum in Vermillion; the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in Philip; Days of '76 Museum and Historic Adams House in Deadwood; and the Museum of Geology in Rapid City.

## **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. SWISS OPEN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IN 2018, '22 WORLD CUP VOTES

The move throws FIFA deeper into crisis only hours after six soccer officials were arrested and 14 indicted in a separate U.S. corruption probe.

## 2. FLOODWATERS DEEPEN IN HOUSTON AFTER CITY GETS MORE RAIN

The search goes on for about a dozen people, including a group that disappeared after a vacation home was swept down a river and slammed into a bridge.

## 3. AFGHANISTAN'S FIRST LADY BREAKS CONVENTIONS

Rula Ghani's biggest taboo breaker is perhaps simply being the country's first presidential spouse to be seen and heard in public.

## 4. TRAVEL BAN ENDS FOR GUANTANAMO INMATES SWAPPED FOR BERGDAHL

It raises the possibility that the five can move freely around the world as early as Monday.

## 5. WHO RELIVES TERROR IN COURTROOM

For many survivors of the Colorado theater shooting who have testified in the gunman's murder trial, the experience is a combination of terror and relief.

## 6. WHICH CANDIDATE FACES STEEP CLIMB IN SECOND WHITE HOUSE RUN

Republican Rick Santorum is all but certain to enter the contest — one that would test his clout in a dramatically different presidential field.

## 7. BANGLADESHIS CAUGHT IN ASIAN BOAT CRISIS

Many of the migrants are lured by fast-talking traffickers from tiny villages where almost no one earns more than a few dollars a day.

## 8. IRS: THIEVES GOT ACCESS TO 104,000 TAX RETURNS

Personal tax information can be used to claim fraudulent refunds — a growing business for identity thieves.

## 9. WHAT IS AT CENTER OF CLEVELAND POLICE REFORM PLAN

The centerpiece of the agreement on how to reform the city's police department is creating an organization that is more accountable and engaged with the people it serves.

## 10. LEBRON LEADS CAVALIERS INTO NBA FINALS

He averages 30.3 points, 11 rebounds and 9.3 assists, the first player in postseason history to put up that statistical line.

## **Punishing storms in Texas test government emergency response**

**PAUL J. WEBER, Associated Press**

**JUAN A. LOZANO, Associated Press**

WIMBERLEY, Texas (AP) — Deadly severe weather over the long holiday weekend tested government alert and evacuation procedures, as officials scrambled to deal with storms and historic flooding that left more than a dozen people dead and a similar number missing.

Crews will resume searches Wednesday for the 11 people who have now been missing for three days in the small tourist town of Wimberley, where the usually calm Blanco River swelled to an ocean-like squall that crested three times above flood stage. In Houston, where nearly a foot of rain submerged roads and stranded hundreds of motorists, Mayor Annise Parker said two people who capsized in a boat that was helping with rescue efforts Tuesday have not been found.

At least 17 people were killed in the Memorial Day weekend storms in Texas and Oklahoma.

Authorities defended their warnings to residents ahead of the weather, which included alerts via phone and in person, but acknowledged challenges with reaching tourists and said a messaging system in Houston is still waiting for improvements.

"Nobody was saying, 'Get out; get out; get out,'" said Brenda Morton of Wimberley. "We're pretty trained, so we were calculating. We knew the flood plain. People who were visiting or had summer homes, you have company from out of town, you don't know. You don't know when that instant is."



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Morton lives three houses down from a two-story vacation home that authorities say was swept off its 10-foot pylons by a wall of water early Sunday morning with eight people inside, which included three children, ages 6 and 4. The house slammed into a bridge after being carried downstream on the Blanco.

Authorities in surrounding Hays County said warnings included multiple cellphone alerts and calls to landlines. Some received in-person warnings to evacuate, but officials could not say whether those in the washed-away home talked to police.

"Law enforcement made notification along that street. Whether they made contact with somebody at their residence, I can't say," Hays County Emergency Management Coordinator Kharley Smith said.

Wimberley, a popular bed-and-breakfast getaway near Austin and surrounded by wine vineyards, thrives on weekends like Memorial Day. Some of the missing had homes in the area, but officials have acknowledged that their electronic alerts may not reach tourists.

"Most definitely, most definitely that will certainly be part of our discussion," Hays County Commissioner Will Conley said.

In Houston, warnings from the National Weather Service buzzed on mobile phones, but city officials say they haven't yet installed a system that would allow them to alert residents with more targeted warnings. The city was still working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to get that framework running, said Michael Walter, spokesman for Houston's Office of Emergency Management.

Floodwaters in Houston affected virtually every part of the city and paralyzed some areas. Firefighters carried out more than 500 water rescues, most involving stranded motorists. At least 2,500 vehicles were abandoned by drivers seeking higher ground, officials said.

"A number that we don't know, and we will never know, is the number of lives that have been saved by the effective response of first responders," Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said in Houston.

Small cars weaved between massive 18-wheelers as other drivers stared at them in disbelief. With no end to the backup in sight, some drivers got off the freeway, only to be held up again by water covering nearby access roads. Some motorists were stuck on I-45 all night, sleeping in their cars until the backup was cleared shortly after sunrise.

NBA fans at the Toyota Center, where the Rockets hosted a Western Conference finals game against Golden State on Monday, were asked with about two minutes left in the game not to leave the arena because of the severe weather.

The game ended before 11 p.m., but about 400 people remained in their seats at 1:30 a.m., choosing to stay in the building rather than brave the flooded roads that awaited them outside.

A spokeswoman for the flood district of Harris County, which includes Houston, said up to 700 homes sustained some level of damage.

Abbott said 46 counties in Texas have state disaster declarations. President Barack Obama has said he expressed condolences to Abbott and anticipates significant requests for federal assistance.

Crews were also searching for victims and assessing damage just across the Texas-Mexico border in Ciudad Acuna, where a tornado killed 13 people Monday.

The deaths in Texas included a man whose body was pulled from the Blanco; a 14-year-old who was found with his dog in a storm drain; a high school senior who died Saturday after her car was caught in high water; and a man whose mobile home was destroyed by a reported tornado.

The drenching rain threatened to linger. National Weather Service forecasts called for a 20 to 40 percent chance of thunderstorms through the rest of the week in Houston, and more storms were also in store for Central Texas.

## AP News in Brief

### Swiss federal prosecutors open criminal proceedings related to 2018 and 2022 World Cups

ZURICH (AP) — Swiss federal prosecutors opened criminal proceedings related to the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, throwing FIFA deeper into crisis only hours after six soccer officials were arrested and 14 indicted Wednesday in a separate U.S. corruption probe.

FIFA, meanwhile, said Friday's presidential election would go ahead as planned with Sepp Blatter going for a fifth term. Blatter was not named in either investigation.

FIFA also ruled out a revote of the World Cups won by Russia in 2018 and Qatar in 2022.

The Swiss prosecutors' office said in a statement they seized "electronic data and documents" at FIFA's headquarters on Wednesday as part of their probe. And Swiss police said they will question 10 FIFA executive committee members who took part in the World Cup votes in December 2010.

The Swiss investigation against "persons unknown on suspicion of criminal mismanagement and of money laundering" again throws into the doubt the integrity of the voting.

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Police raid FIFA hotel following corruption allegations: FIFA says election will go ahead

ZURICH (AP) — Latest developments following the launching of criminal proceedings against FIFA officials in separate U.S. and Swiss corruption probes.

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1131 a.m.

FIFA spokesman Walter de Gregorio told a hastily convened news conference in Zurich that FIFA's presidential election will take place as planned on Friday. Sepp Blatter is running for a fifth term. De Gregorio also ruled out any revote for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups won by Russia and Qatar.

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### Punishing storms in Texas over holiday weekend test government's emergency response

WIMBERLEY, Texas (AP) — Deadly severe weather over the long holiday weekend tested government alert and evacuation procedures, as officials scrambled to deal with storms and historic flooding that left more than a dozen people dead and a similar number missing.

Crews will resume searches Wednesday for the 11 people who have now been missing for three days in the small tourist town of Wimberley, where the usually calm Blanco River swelled to an ocean-like squall that crested three times above flood stage. In Houston, where nearly a foot of rain submerged roads and stranded hundreds of motorists, Mayor Annise Parker said two people who capsized in a boat that was helping with rescue efforts Tuesday have not been found.

At least 17 people were killed in the Memorial Day weekend storms in Texas and Oklahoma.

Authorities defended their warnings to residents ahead of the weather, which included alerts via phone and in person, but acknowledged challenges with reaching tourists and said a messaging system in Houston is still waiting for improvements.

"Nobody was saying, 'Get out; get out; get out,'" said Brenda Morton of Wimberley. "We're pretty trained, so we were calculating. We knew the flood plain. People who were visiting or had summer homes, you have company from out of town, you don't know. You don't know when that instant is."

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## **Islamic State suicide bombs in Iraq's Anbar province hit army, kill 17 troops, official says**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Islamic State extremists unleashed a wave of suicide attacks targeting the Iraqi army in western Anbar province, killing at least 17 troops in a major blow to government efforts to dislodge the militants from the sprawling Sunni heartland, an Iraqi military spokesman said Wednesday.

The attacks came just hours after the Iraqi government announced the start of a wide-scale operation to recapture areas under the control of the IS group in Anbar.

Brig. Gen Saad Maan Ibrahim, the spokesman for the Joint Military Command, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the attacks took place outside the Islamic State-held city of Fallujah late the previous night.

The militants struck near a water control station and a lock system on a canal between Lake Tharthar and the Euphrates River where army forces have been deployed for the Anbar offensive, he said.

Ibrahim added that the Islamic State extremists used a sandstorm that engulfed most of Iraq on Tuesday night to launch the deadly wave of bombings. He said it was not clear how many suicide attackers were involved in the bombings but they hit the military from multiple directions.

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## **AP Interview: Afghanistan's first lady breaks taboos but insists she 'doesn't do politics'**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan's first lady has broken numerous conventions in a society that traditionally sequesters women behind closed doors — speaking out on issues such as violence against women, the rule of law and the power of religion. But perhaps Rula Ghani's biggest taboo breaker is simply being the country's first presidential spouse in decades to be seen and heard in public.

When her husband, President Ashraf Ghani, took the helm of the nation eight months ago, he did something unprecedented — he introduced his wife in his inaugural speech.

From that moment on, Rula Ghani has done what first ladies often do in democracies, attending public events alongside her husband and speaking before audiences on current issues. But her words have always been soft-spoken, measured and delivered away from the center stage of the Afghan political scene.

"I don't do politics," she tells The Associated Press. What she does do, she says, is listen.

Since September, hundreds of people have streamed through her cool, wood-paneled meeting room to share their problems and seek the first lady's advice. She says she sees herself as "a counsellor ... a listening post" — someone fulfilling a need for a feminine presence close to the heart of the Afghan government.

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## **Travel ban ending for 5 former Taliban Guantanamo detainees exchanged for Army Sgt. Bergdahl**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A one-year travel ban is expiring for five senior Taliban leaders held in U.S. detention at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, until they were released last year in exchange for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, raising the possibility that the five can move freely around the world as early as Monday.

Under terms of the exchange in May 2014, the five detainees were sent to Qatar where officials there agreed to monitor their activities and prevent them from traveling out of the country. In return, Bergdahl was released to the U.S. military after being held captive by the Taliban for nearly five years after he walked away from his Army post in Afghanistan.

U.S. officials have discussed with the Qataris the possibility of extending the travel ban after it expires



on June 1. But so far, the White House has not publicly announced any new agreement with Qatar, meaning the five could leave the tiny nation on the Arabian Peninsula at the end of the month.

"In Congress, we spent a lot of time debating whether the Qataris were going to adequately keep an eye on them in the course of the 12 months," said Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence committee. "My point all along was that I'm more worried about month No. 13 than the first 12."

Schiff has been privy to the details of the still-secret memorandum of understanding the U.S. reached with Qatar that put the five under a 12-month watch following their release.

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## **Fleeing poverty and duped by traffickers, Bangladeshi boat people describe harrowing journeys**

UKHIYA, Bangladesh (AP) — The traffickers spun stories that were unimaginable to their listeners, many who hailed from tiny Bangladeshi villages where almost no one earns more than a few dollars a day.

First, there would be the boat: A huge boat where people could spread out comfortably, where the food would be plentiful and delicious. They would be treated with decency while on board and at the end of a week or so they would be quietly dropped off in Malaysia and given high-paying jobs.

After that, they would have plenty of money to send home to their families. There would be enough for food and house payments and school fees for their children. Maybe, if they worked hard enough, there would be enough to build monuments to their success.

"Since my childhood I have dreamed of building a two-story mosque in my area," said Shafiq Mia, a 23-year-old who spent weeks on one of the traffickers' boats.

Instead they were taken to fetid ships so crowded they could not lie down without touching someone else. They spent weeks at sea. Some were dropped off to fend for themselves in the jungles of Thailand or in Burmese villages they still cannot name. Some never reached dry land at all, and found themselves shuttled from one creaky boat to another, bought and sold by traffickers looking to maximize their profits. In the end, most were taken back to Bangladesh, dumped onto beaches from fishing boats, only after their families finally paid ransoms to the traffickers.

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## **Colorado theater shooting survivors recall terror, experience catharsis in courtroom**

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — From the witness stand, Christina Blache could finally do what she had most wanted and most feared: She looked for the first time at the man who shot her, who killed her friend, who ravaged so many lives.

Her muscles tensed. Her nerves tingled. She fought back tears.

"I'd never faced him before. I wanted to see who did it and I wanted to be able to try to look him in the eye," Blache said. "You go through three years of healing and learning, you know, how to walk again and how to swim, how to skate, how to do everything you've learned from the age you were born. All over again. And to look at him ..."

Blache, an Iraq war veteran, went on to describe the sharp bursts of gunfire, the searing pain of bullets through both her legs, the sight of her friend Alex Sullivan, lifeless on the floor.

Prosecutors have called more than 144 witnesses in the first month of the death penalty trial of James Holmes, who has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. Fifty-one of these witnesses were shooting

survivors, and for many, testifying has provided a combination of catharsis and terror.

## On eve of announcement, Rick Santorum faces steep climb in second White House run

WASHINGTON (AP) — He exceeded the political world's expectations by scoring a second-place finish in the race for the Republican presidential nomination four years ago. Yet as he readies a second White House run, Rick Santorum may struggle even to qualify for the debate stage in 2016.

An aggressive advocate for conservative family values, the 57-year-old Republican is announcing his presidential intentions on Wednesday. He is all but certain to enter the contest — one that would test his clout in a dramatically different presidential field.

The former Pennsylvania senator planned to make his announcement surrounded by factory workers on the floor of a thriving business near his western Pennsylvania hometown, a carefully scripted setting designed to showcase his focus on the working class. A major player in 2012, he opens this political season almost as an afterthought in a 2016 race expected to feature more than a dozen high-profile Republicans — most of them newcomers to presidential politics.

Santorum says his experience could pay dividends the second time around. Most of the GOP's recent presidential nominees, Mitt Romney and President Ronald Reagan among them, needed more than one campaign to find success in the nomination race.

"This is a long process," Santorum told reporters recently. "One of the things that I feel very comfortable with — I've been through this process before." He said it's a "completely wide open race."

## Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 27, the 147th day of 2015. There are 218 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On May 27, 1935, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States*, unanimously struck down the National Industrial Recovery Act, a key component of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" legislative program.

### On this date:

In 1896, 255 people were killed when a tornado struck St. Louis, Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois.

In 1929, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr. married Anne Morrow in Englewood, New Jersey.

In 1933, the Chicago World's Fair, celebrating "A Century of Progress," officially opened. Walt Disney's Academy Award-winning animated short "The Three Little Pigs" was first released.

In 1936, the Cunard liner RMS Queen Mary left England on its maiden voyage to New York.

In 1937, the newly completed Golden Gate Bridge connecting San Francisco and Marin County, California, was opened to pedestrian traffic (vehicles began crossing the next day).

In 1941, the British Royal Navy sank the German battleship Bismarck off France, with a loss of some 2,000 lives, three days after the Bismarck sank the HMS Hood.

In 1942, Navy Cook 3rd Class Doris "Dorie" Miller became the first African-American to receive the Navy Cross for his "extraordinary courage and disregard for his own personal safety" during Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1944, Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialist play "Huis clos" (known in English as "No Exit") was first performed in Paris.

In 1962, a dump fire in Centralia, Pennsylvania, ignited a blaze in underground coal deposits that

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continues to burn this day.

In 1964, independent India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, died.

In 1985, in Beijing, representatives of Britain and China exchanged instruments of ratification for an accord returning Hong Kong to Chinese control in 1997.

In 1995, actor Christopher Reeve was left paralyzed when he was thrown from his horse during a jumping event in Charlottesville, Virginia.

**Ten years ago:** Speaking out for the first time in favor of controversial base closings, President George W. Bush told the Naval Academy commencement the nation was wasting billions of dollars on unnecessary military facilities and needed the money for the war on terrorism. Testimony ended in the Michael Jackson child molestation trial after prosecutors showed jurors a video of the accuser being interviewed by police and the defense rested. (Jackson was later acquitted.)

**Five years ago:** On the defensive more than five weeks into the nation's worst-ever oil spill, President Barack Obama insisted his administration, not oil giant BP, was calling the shots in the still-unsuccessful response. The Senate Armed Services Committee and the full House approved measures to repeal the 1993 "don't ask, don't tell" law that allowed gay people to serve in the armed services provided they hid their sexual orientation. Activist Lori Berenson walked out of a prison in Peru after serving three-quarters of a 20-year term for aiding leftist rebels. (Under her parole, Berenson cannot leave Peru until her sentence ends in 2015, or her sentence is commuted.)

**One year ago:** Charting an end to America's longest war, President Barack Obama announced plans for keeping nearly 10,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan after 2014 but then withdrawing virtually all by the close of 2016 and the conclusion of his presidency. Michelle Obama struck back at House Republicans trying to weaken healthier school meal standards as she met with school nutrition officials who said the guidelines were working at their schools; the first lady called any effort to roll back the guidelines "unacceptable."

**Today's Birthdays:** Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Herman Wouk (wohk) is 100. Actor Christopher Lee is 93. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is 92. Former FBI Director William Sessions is 85. Author John Barth is 85. Actress Lee Meriwether is 80. Musician Ramsey Lewis is 80. Actor Louis Gossett Jr. is 79. Rhythm-and-blues singer Raymond Sanders (The Persuasions) is 76. Country singer Don Williams is 76. Actor Bruce Weitz is 72. Singer Cilla Black is 72. Motion Picture Association of America Chairman Christopher Dodd is 71. Singer Bruce Cockburn (KOH'-burn) is 70. Singer-actress Dee Dee Bridgewater is 65. Actor Richard Schiff is 60. Singer Siouxsie Sioux (The Creatures, Siouxsie and the Banshees) is 58. Rock singer-musician Neil Finn (The Finn Brothers) is 57. Actress Peri Gilpin is 54. Actress Cathy Silvers is 54. Comedian Adam Carolla is 51. Actor Todd Bridges is 50. Rock musician Sean Kinney (Alice In Chains) is 49. Actor Dondre Whitfield is 46. Actor Paul Bettany is 44. Rock singer-musician Brian Desveaux (Nine Days) is 44. Country singer Jace Everett is 43. Actor Jack McBrayer is 42. Rapper Andre 3000 (Outkast) is 40. Rapper Jadakiss is 40. TV chef Jamie Oliver is 40. Alt-country singer-songwriter Shane Nicholson is 39. Actor Ben Feldman is 35. Actor Michael Steger is 35. Actor Darin Brooks is 31. Actor-singer Chris Colfer is 25. Actor Ethan Dampf is 21.

**Thought for Today:** "A man who limits his interests limits his life." - Vincent Price, American actor (born this date in 1911, died 1993).