

Groton Daily Independent

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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.



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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

Saturday, May 30

Birthdays: Hazel McKittrick • Kami Lipp • Kellie Townsend • Teresa Krueger

State Track Meet at Rapid City

Sunday, May 31

Anniversary: Steve & Tami Herron

Birthdays: Joyce Schaller • Linda Anderson • Carol Osterman • Josephine Doeden

9:00 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran worship.

10:00 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship in Pierpont

10:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran worship.

3:00 p.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Golden Living Center

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.

3M Provides Grant to Groton Area School District on Behalf of 3M Volunteers

3Mgives has donated \$750 to the Groton Area School District in recognition of Peter Jewett, Steve Tye, and Clint Fjelstad's commitment to the community.

Peter Jewett, a resident engineer of 3M Aberdeen, designated his contribution to the school's participation in the MathCounts program. MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program that promotes excellence and challenging enrichment for middle school mathematics students. 3M Aberdeen sponsors MathCounts competitions in the Aberdeen area.

Steve Tye and Clint Fjelstad contributed their volunteer hours toward the school's Destination Imagination (DI) program. DI is a volunteer-led nonprofit organization whose purpose is to inspire and equip students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders.

"3M employees and alumni generously give their time and skills to help improve lives," said Kimberly Price, vice-president, 3Mgives. "We are pleased to recognize their commitment to their communities."

As part of the 3Mgives Volunteer Match, 3M donates \$250 to eligible non-profit organizations for which a 3M employee volunteers 20 hours or a 3M retiree volunteers 25 hours or more per calendar year. Since 2000, Volunteer Matches totaling over \$5.6 million have gone to over 3,000 schools or non-profit organizations in 50 states plus the District of Columbia.

3M is a recognized global leader in corporate giving, strategic philanthropy, volunteerism and community engagement. In 2014, 3M donated more than \$78 million to non-profit organizations in the United States, and 3M employees and alumni devoted 300,000 hours to volunteer activities.

The Groton Area School District appreciates the awarding of this grant and the ongoing and generous support given by 3M Aberdeen and the 3M Foundation.

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Recreation Sites on Forest Continue to be impacted by Wet Conditions

Rapid City, SD – Recreation sites on the Black Hills National Forest continue to be impacted by wet conditions.

Flume Loop A trail is closed below Sheridan Lake Dam Creek due to flooding and bridges that have washed out.

"The trail is closed for public safety and will remain closed until the water subsides and we can assess the damage and repair bridges," said Ben Schumacher, Recreation Trails, Black Hills National Forest. (See map of affected area). The map has been posted at the nearby trailheads to inform users.

Vet's Point trail near Pactola Reservoir is covered with water in places and may not be accessible for all users until the water level in Pactola reservoir recedes.

Day use sites, including beaches, picnic grounds and most boat launches remain open for use although some tables and beaches are underwater.

"A very difficult launching situation exists at Pactola Reservoir as the south ramp remains closed and the north ramp, although open, is flooded," said Amy Ballard, Recreation Specialist, Black Hills National Forest.

All ramps at Deerfield and Sheridan remain open with docks in place but high water levels may require wading out to the docks.

The campgrounds at the large lakes and reservoirs, except Cook Lake which remains closed, are open and no sites are currently affected by the high water levels.

The marinas at Sheridan and Pactola are open for business.

For more information on the Black Hills National Forest, call (605) 673-9200 or visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills>.

Fort Sisseton Historic Festival Returns June 5-7

PIERRE, S.D. – The oldest standing fort in South Dakota is once again bringing history to life. Fort Sisseton's annual festival will take place June 5-7. The festival boasts over 15,000 visitors on average.

The exhibit dedication of the last U.S. flag to fly over Fort Sisseton will take place Saturday at 12:15 p.m. The thirty-eight star flag was recently discovered in storage and has been painstakingly restored. Lt. Gov. Matt Michels and GFP Secretary Kelly Hepler will speak at the dedication.

Highlights of this year's festival include a wagon train, Civil War Songs, art exhibits, blacksmith demonstrations, chuck wagons, Black Powder shoots, Cavalry Drills and more. A full schedule of events is available at gfp.sd.gov.

Camping is available at the fort for the weekend. Reservations are suggested but not required. To reserve your spot, visit campsd.com or call 1.800.710.2267.

Admission is \$5 per person. Kids 12 and under get in free of charge.

For more information, call 605.448.5474 or go online to gfp.sd.gov.

-GFP-

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Labor Day Camping Reservations in State Parks Open Soon

PIERRE, S.D. – Whether gardens, vacations or camping trips, it's time to plan! This weekend, South Dakota State Parks are opening up camping reservations for Labor Day weekend.

Reservations for a Friday, Sept. 4, arrival open on June 6 at 7 a.m. CT. As one of the most popular camping weekends of the year, spots fill up quickly.

To reserve your spot, visit www.campsd.com or call 800-710-2267. Reservations open at 7 a.m. CT 90 days prior to arrival, both online and through the call center. Reservations can be made 24 hours a day.

Camping fees are paid at the time a reservation is made, and a park entrance license is required in addition to camping fees.

Custer State Park is currently accepting reservations for all campsites. Group lodges at South Dakota state parks statewide are also accepting reservations at this time.

For more detailed information on making reservations or to view the 90-day window calendar, visit www.gfp.sd.gov or contact the Division of Parks and Recreation at 605-773-3391 or email parkinfo@state.sd.us.

-GFP-

Gov. Dugaard Proclaims June as "Great Outdoors Month"

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Dugaard has proclaimed June as "Great Outdoors Month" in South Dakota joining with many states across the nation to celebrate the nature and resources of their states.

In the proclamation, Gov. Dugaard noted South Dakota's abundance of natural resources not only provides entertainment and recreation opportunities, but also drives our economy. This celebration of the Great Outdoors is designed to promote safe and healthy fun and a connection to nature.

Game, Fish and Parks is providing opportunities to connect with nature through events, hikes and programs in their continued effort to protect, enhance and care for our state parks and help others do the same.

Notable events taking place throughout Great Outdoors Month include:

National Trails Day, June 6 - A day set aside to celebrate America's magnificent trail systems and their countless supporters and volunteers. Several state parks will be hosting trail-related events that day. Info: www.gfp.sd.gov or www.AmericanHiking.org

National Fishing and Boating Week, June 6-14 – A national celebration of fishing and boating. National Fishing and Boating Week is the perfect reason to get out on the water and experience the joys of boating and fishing. Info: www.takemefishing.org/nfbw

National Get Outdoors Day, June 13 – National Get Outdoors Day is an annual event to encourage healthy, active outdoor fun. Info: www.nationalgetoutdoorsday.org

Parks across the state will hold events throughout June such as hikes, day camps, archery and disc-golf demonstrations, kids' fishing derbies, educational nature programs and environmental events.

For a full list of events, go online to gfp.sd.gov.

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State Parks Host Hikes, Events on National Trails Day

PIERRE, S.D. – As parks and individuals across the nation celebrate National Trails Day, South Dakota State Parks are joining in with plenty of events, hikes and programs to choose from!

American Hiking Society's National Trails Day celebrates hiking and trails across the U.S.

Friday, June 5

A Haunting We Will Go Hike – Lewis and Clark Recreation Area, Yankton. 10 a.m., CT. Info: 605.688.2985

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Saturday, June 6

National Trails Day Hike: Prairie Trail – Custer State Park, Custer. 9 a.m., MT. Info: 605.255.4464

History Hike – Lake Thompson Recreation Area, Lake Preston. 10 a.m., CT. Info: 605.847.4893

Spring Birdwatching Hike – Indian Creek Recreation Area, Mobridge. 10 a.m., CT. Info: 605.845.7112

Archery for Beginners – North Point Recreation Area, Pickstown. 10 a.m., CT. Info: 605.487.7046

Nature Hunt – Good Earth State Park at Blood Run, Sioux Falls. 11 a.m., CT. Info: 605.987.2263

Hug a Tree – Newton Hills State Park, Canton. 1 p.m., CT. Info: 605.987.2263

Wolves Prairie Trail Hike – Richmond Lake Recreation Area, Aberdeen. 1 p.m., CT. Info: 605.626.3488

Creative Nature Crafts – Oakwood Lakes State Park, Bruce. 1 p.m., CT. Info: 605.627.5441

National Trails Day Hike: Little Devil's Tower Trail – Custer State Park, Custer. 1 p.m., MT. Info: 605.255.4464

Techno Treasure Hunt Walk in the Park – Oahe Downstream Recreation Area, Fort Pierre. 2 p.m., CT. Info: 605.223.7722

Jurassic Palisades State Park – Palisades State Park, Garretson. 2 p.m., CT. Info: 605.594.3824

National Trails Day Hike: Badger Clark Trail – Custer State Park, Custer. 4 p.m., MT. Info: 605.255.4464

Batman vs. Spiderman – Big Sioux Recreation Area, Brandon. 7 p.m., CT. Info: 605.594.3824

All events are free with a park entrance license. For more information on activities in South Dakota State Parks, visit gfp.sd.gov, contact the individual park office or call 605-773-3391.

-GFP-

Mickelson Trail Hosts Trolley on the Trail Events

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks will host this year's first Trolley on the Trail event June 2. The event uses a trolley to give people with impaired mobility the opportunity to enjoy the beauties of South Dakota's George S. Mickelson Trail.

The trolley leaves the Deadwood Trailhead at 1 p.m. MDT and tours the Mickelson Trail from Englewood to Rochford. To reserve a spot on the tour, call 605.578.1401.

"Trolley rides are an excellent way for people with physical limitations to get out and experience the Mickelson Trail," said Dana Garry-Reiprich, park manager. "Everyone has a wonderful time and learns a little about the trail."

Reservations are required. Each person reserving a space on the trolley will be required to have a handicapped parking permit. One assistant is allowed to accompany the person, if needed. The trolley has space available for up to two people who use wheelchairs.

Trolley on the Trail events will be held 5 times throughout the summer and early fall. Upcoming dates include July 7 and 15 and Sept. 1 and 9.

The trolley rides are a combined effort of the Hill City and Deadwood Chambers of Commerce, Neighborhood Housing, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department and the City of Deadwood.

For more information, go online to gfp.sd.gov or call 605.578.3896.

6 Ways Reading Brings Joy To Our Lives

A Good Book Can Transport Us To Other Worlds, Or Reveal More About This One, Author Says

The options for latching onto a great book – whether a classic by Victor Hugo or the latest bestseller by John Grisham – appear limitless these days.

Printed books remain popular, but e-readers provide additional choices. We can still visit bookstores and libraries, but a seemingly infinite selection of titles is available for ordering online.

And, despite periodic worries about the reading habits of the young, a Pew Research Center study released last year showed that young adults, ages 18-29, were the group most likely to have read a book in the previous 12 months.

It's not surprising people are still eager to lose themselves in a richly plotted novel, a well-researched biography or any title on a favorite topic, says Darlene Quinn, an author whose latest novel, "Conflicting Webs" (www.darlenequinn.net) is the fifth in her standalone Webs Series, which features stories steeped in family issues in today's rapidly paced world.

"Reading is beneficial for everyone, whether we do it for entertainment, to pass the time or to learn," Quinn says. "We can grow and change from the first page to the last page, and anywhere in between. A love for reading can open a lot of doors."

Quinn, a lifelong lover of books, suggests six ways reading brings joy to our lives:

- Relaxation factor. After a busy day, down time with a book can be a rewarding way to segue into bedtime. "Putting up your feet with a cup of tea and a timeless story can make the stress melt away," Quinn says. "What better way to unwind?" The beauty of ending the day with a good book is that you can still have mental stimulation even as you seek a distraction from personal issues, work concerns and the unexpected complications of life.

- Universal appeal, personal experience. People can read the same book, yet come away with an experience that is distinct for them, Quinn says. That puts her in agreement with Edmund Wilson, the American literary and social critic, who observed that "no two persons ever read the same book." Quinn says we often alter what is written – or at least our interpretations of it – to reflect our situations, personalities and opinions.

- Tech savvy welcome, but not required. E-readers are popular these days and it's not hard to understand why, Quinn says. They bring numerous benefits to the reading experience, such as the ability to instantly download new books or change the type size on the screen. But tried-and-true print versions of books remain strong and it's nice to be able to grab a book without charging its battery or bringing along a power cord, Quinn says. "And as far as I'm concerned, you just can't beat the intoxicating aroma of fresh book pages," she says.

- To infinity and beyond. Trains, planes and automobiles all have limits on where they can take us. Books don't. A science fiction novel can whisk us away to an alternate universe. A historical novel can plunk us down in the middle of the Salem witch trials. In the movie "Toy Story," Buzz Lightyear's catchphrase was "to infinity and beyond." That aptly describes the reach of books and the power they have to transport us. "Right in our hands we have the passageway to a new world, a new language or a new understanding," Quinn says. "We can be anywhere and we can be there at any time."

- Lessons within the pages. The opportunity to expand our creativity and knowledge is what reading is all about, Quinn says. Name a topic and a book exists that can help you learn more about it. The options are numerous – music, history, art, geography, exploration, science, nature, religion and more. "My goal has always been to be a lifelong learner and books are a fantastic asset for achieving that," Quinn says.

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John Green, author of such works as "The Fault in Our Stars" and "Paper Towns," has said, "Great books help you understand, and they help you feel understood." Quinn says that might be the best reason of all to read.

"The feeling that someone else knows our struggles and relates to our lives can give us a sense of completeness, and help us realize we aren't the only ones who feel or think the way we do," she says.

"Reading can make us happy when we are sad. It can make us laugh when we are depressed. And it can excite us when we are disheartened. Those are great accomplishments for such a simple activity."

About Darlene Quinn

Darlene Quinn (www.darlenequinn.net) is an author and journalist from Long Beach, Calif., whose novels about deceit, intrigue and glamour in the retail fashion industry were inspired by her years working in management with Bullocks Wilshire Specialty department stores. Quinn's novels are steeped in family issues in today's rapidly paced world. Her latest is "Conflicting Webs," the fifth book in her epic Web series. Previous titles in the standalone series have been "Webs of Fate," "Webs of Power," "Twisted Webs" and "Unpredictable Webs."

Groton Area Fourth Quarter Honor Roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Maryn Howard, Kathleen Groeblichhoff, Luke Smith, Natalia Dohman, Rachel Blackmun, Matthew Knecht, Kasey Waage, Taylor Gustafson, Jacob Milbrandt, Maddison Colestock, Lucas Sternhagen, Gabriel Dohman, Jocelyn Peterson, Sydney Thorson, Haley Unzen, Courtney Kurtz, Christine Herr, Alyssa Sippel, Kennedy Clark, Nicole Lewandowski, Kaitlin O'Neill

3.99-3.50: Ashley Gibbs, Katherine LaMee, Brittany Kjelden, Danielle Schinkel, Kyler Ell, Wyatt Larson, Breanna Marzahn, Austin Merkel, Stormy Bahr, Tori Bjerke, Spencer Knecht, Kiana Kokales, Sheldon Herr

3.49-3.00: Ethan Braun, Jackson Doeden, Zachary Crosby, Amanda Koens, Nicholas Dalchow, Chance Strom, William Hansen, Dylan Vogel, Michaela Cutler, Braden Crosby

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Marlee Jones, Maggie Simon, Megan Unzen, Martin Rygg, Lily Cutler, Hailey Hanson, Kelsey Iverson, Emily Raap

3.99-3.50: Carly Wheeting, Jasmine Schaller, Jaden Oliver, Mikaela Blumhardt, Laura Garcia, Kiernan McCranie, Jayleen Lier

3.49-3.00: Allison Weber, Kari Hanson, Adam Herman, Aubray Harry, James Thompson, Katie Miller, Brody Sombke, Keegan

Schelle, Magnus Jensen, Angela Locke, Kaili Aberle, Dustin Denison, Kyle Miller

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Landon Marzahn, Keri Pappas, Erin Smith

3.99-3.50: Macy Knecht, Nathan Fjelstad, Trey Wright, Patrick Gengerke, Kate Helmer, Kelby Hawkins, Jessica Adler, Sean Schuring, Alexis Harder, Paityn Bonn, Gabrielle Kramer, Whitney Voss, Katelyn Koehler, McClain Lone

3.49-3.00: Nicholas Achen, Tevin Abeln, Shane Simon, Tate Carda, Tage Taylor, Emily Locke, Kellyn Fluke, Colton Hokana, Braiden Craig, Katlyn Idt, Willow Seurer, Halie Yarborough

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Jenifer Fjelstad, Alexis Gustafson, Madison Sippel

3.99-3.50: Madilyn Wright, Marshall Lane, Alexandra Stange, Gia Gengerke, Anthony Sippel

3.49-3.00: Emma Donley, Lisa Taylor, Brenna Johnson, Hattie Weismantel, Emilie Crosby, Erika Herr, Brandon Keith, Hannah Lewandowski, Jessica Bjerke, Hsa Law Eh, Jackson Oliver

Eighth Grade

4.0 GPA: Alexis Simon, AnneMarie Smith, Emily Thompson

3.99-3.50: Ashley Garduno, Cassandra Townsend, Tylan

Glover, Paige Snyder, Taylor Holm, John Achen, Kaitlyn Anderson, Micah Poor, Kylie Kasube, Jennie Doeden, Kaitlyn Kassube

3.49-3.00: Shyla Larson, Samantha Menzia, Portia Kettering, Maggie Crosby, Miranda Hanson, Korbin Blackmun, Mitchell Koens

Seventh Grade

4.0 GPA: Kayla Jensen

3.99-3.50: Kaycie Hawkins, Nicole Marzahn, Rylee Rosenau, Payton Colestock, KaSandra Pappas, Katlyn Kyar, Grady O'Neill, Madeline Schuelke, Kya Jandel, Gabriel Taylor

3.49-3.00: Indigo Rogers, Tadyn Glover, Kaylin Kucker, Ashley Fliehs, Austin Jones, Noah Poor, Caitlynn Barse, Cade Guthmiller, Peyton Johnson, Mu Law Eh

Sixth Grade

4.0 GPA: Isaac Smith

3.99-3.50: Erin Unzen, Tanee Lipp, Samantha Pappas, Grace Wambach, Trey Gengerke, Alexis Hanten, Kale Pharis, Tessa Erdmann, Sage Mortenson, Jasmine Gengerke, Brooklyn Gilbert

3.49-3.00: Alexa Herr, Austin Anderson, Steven Paulson, Tiara DeHoet, Lucas Simon, Jack Achen, Kaden Carda, Gabriella Merkel, Hailey Monson, Chandler Larson, Connor Lehman, Grace Wiedrick, Alyssa Fordham, Abigail Long, Dragr Monson, Kenzie McInerney

Today in Weather History

1951 - A massive hailstorm, from Wallace to Kearney County in Kansas, caused six million dollars damage to crops. (David Ludlum)

1953 - A tornado, 600 yards wide at times, killed two persons on its 20 mile path from southwest of Fort Rice ND into Emmons County. Nearly every building in Fort Rice was damaged. The Catholic church was leveled, with some pews jammed four feet into the ground. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in West Texas produced softball size hail at Lamesa, and hail up to twelve inches deep east of Dimmitt. Thunderstorms also spawned seven tornadoes in West Texas, including one which injured three persons at Wolfforth. Thunderstorms deluged the Texas Hill Country with up to eleven inches of rain. Severe flooding along the Medino, Hondo, Seco, Sabinal and Frio rivers caused more than fifty million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A powerful cold front brought snow and high winds to parts of the western U.S. Austin, NV, was blanketed with ten inches of snow, and winds gusted to 75 mph at the Mojave Airport in California. Strong southerly winds and unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Glasgow, MT, equalled their record for the month of May with a high of 102 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Wintry weather gripped parts of the northwestern U.S. for the second day in a row. Great Falls, MT, was blanketed with 12 inches of snow, which pushed their total for the winter season to a record 117.4 inches. Six inches of snow whitened the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from north central Colorado to the northern half of Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, and there were seventy reports of large hail or damaging winds. Midday thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Hobart, OK, and produced up to three and a half inches of rain in eastern Colorado in four hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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Yesterday's Weather

High: 85.2 at 4:41 PM

Low: 62.1 at 5:38 AM

High Gust: 39 at 12:43 PM

Precip: 0.04

Today's Info

Record High: 99° in 1934

Record Low: 23° in 1947

Average High: 72°F

Average Low: 49°F

Average Precip in May: 2.91

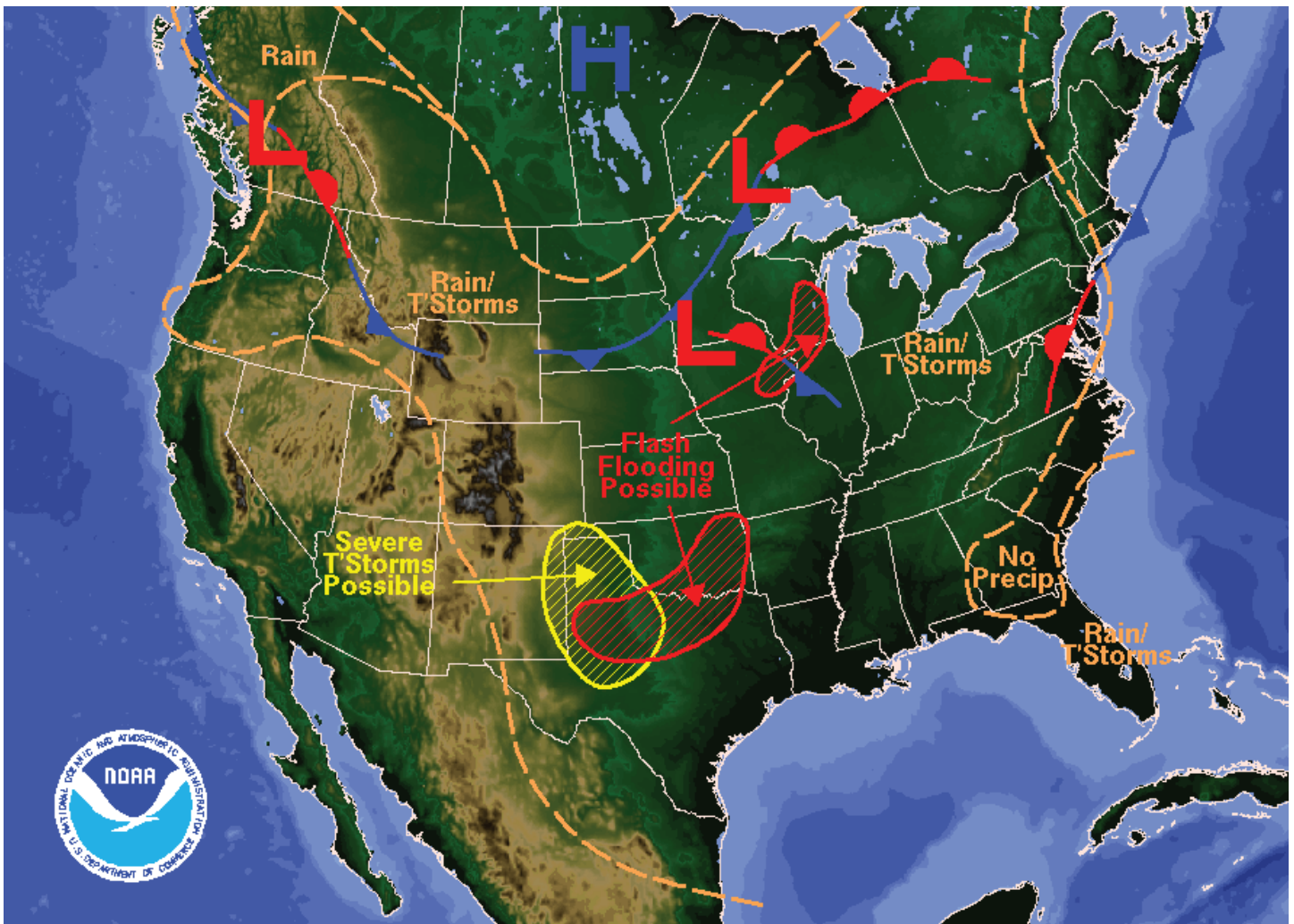
Precip to date in May: 4.08

Average Precip to date: 6.94

Precip Year to Date: 5.72

Sunset Tonight: 9:12 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:49 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, May 29, 2015, issued 4:19 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



WHERE THEY BELONG

Once I asked an appliance repairman to come to church with me. "No," he responded. "The church is full of hypocrites."

"Great!" I responded. The man was startled. Continuing, I said, "That's exactly where they belong. Let's join them. I'm sure they won't mind."

If I understand it correctly, a hypocrite is someone who says one thing and does another. Or as a friend said to me, "A hypocrite is a person who does not walk their talk. They profess what they do not possess."

Many who do not want to attend church say the reason they refuse to do so is because the church is full of hypocrites. For as long as I can remember that has been a frequent excuse of many. As I see it, it is a great reason for them to attend! They already know the difference between the saved and the unsaved. The saved are expected to behave like Jesus and the person who says he sees hypocrisy in Christians already knows what is expected of the born again.

We need to extend a warm welcome to those who use "the hypocrite excuse" as a reason not to attend church. Jesus said that He came to call sinners to be saved. Those who believe that they are already good enough will have a difficult time to admit they are sinners. But the hypocrite already knows his need.

Prayer: Lord, help me to live a life that will be an example, not an excuse, for people to seek You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Luke 19:10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

News from the Associated Press

Canadian woman dies after motorcycle hits deer

ALLADIN, Wyo. (AP) — A Canadian woman is dead after the motorcycle she was riding hit a deer in northwestern Wyoming.

The Wyoming Highway Patrol reports that 52-year-old Mary M. Sataya was driving a 2011 Suzuki when she hit a deer Wednesday evening about 2 miles west of the town of Aladdin, on State Highway 24.

After hitting the deer, Sataya's motorcycle crossed both lanes of the highway and hit a guardrail.

Sataya was transported to Lookout Memorial Hospital in Spearfish, South Dakota, where she later died.

Judge: Man accused of harassing kids at game won't get jail

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A judge says jail time is off the table for a South Dakota man accused of subjecting American Indian children to racial slurs and spraying them with beer at a minor league hockey game.

The judge's decision Thursday means 41-year-old Trace O'Connell's case won't go to a jury trial. The judge will decide whether he's guilty of disorderly conduct and should be levied a fine.

The charge has a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

O'Connell has pleaded not guilty to accusations that he harassed students from the American Horse School at a January hockey game. Rapid City Attorney Joel Landeen says school officials plan to bring the students and their families to the trial scheduled for July 22 and 23.

SD parks to begin accepting Labor Day weekend reservations

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota state parks this month will begin accepting camping reservations for Labor Day weekend.

Reservations for the weekend of Sept. 4 can be made starting at 7 a.m. June 6. A three-night stay is required during holiday weekends at all parks except Custer State Park.

The Game, Fish and Parks Department says Labor Day weekend is one of the most popular camping times of the year and spots fill up quickly.

Arrangements for campsites can be made as many as 90 days before arrival, except at Custer State Park, which accepts reservations one year out. More than 40 parks offer camping reservations on the 90-day schedule.

Reservations can be made 24 hours a day online and by phone.

Republican Wyoming on board with federal sage grouse policy

MEAD GRUVER, Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Many Republicans are wary of a large federal effort to protect the greater sage grouse — but not the Republican governor of Wyoming, the state with the biggest share of the birds and more energy development in their habitat than any other.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell praised Gov. Matt Mead's efforts to protect the ground-dwelling bird as she revealed plans Thursday to preserve sage grouse habitat on federal land in 10 Western states.

"From the get-go, this state has understood that the healthy sagebrush ecosystem and a healthy economy go hand-in-hand," Jewell said.

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"There is not a choice to say we're going to forget the bird. We've got to find a way forward," said Mead, whose Democratic predecessor, Dave Freudenthal, launched Wyoming's sage grouse "core area" strategy in 2007.

Aware that the greater sage grouse sooner or later would face listing as a federally protected endangered or threatened species, Wyoming leaders acted pre-emptively. They designated huge portions of Wyoming as key sage grouse habitat where energy development still could occur, but under a variety of restrictions.

Wyoming is the top coal and uranium mining state and a major producer of oil, natural gas and wind power. Its energy development occurs in the vast grass-and-sagebrush ecosystems that are home to sage grouse — a dusky-colored, chicken-sized bird famous for its elaborate courtship rituals. Wyoming's "core areas" create habitat, and the plans announced by Jewell mirror Wyoming's strategy:

BIG PLANS:

Never before has the federal government engaged in such a massive land-planning effort for a single species. The Interior Department proposes new rules to protect habitat for the greater sage grouse from oil and gas drilling, wind farms, power lines and other development in 10 states: California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

CLUSTERED DEVELOPMENT

In prime sage grouse habitat, oil and gas wells would be clustered in groups of a half-dozen or more under the federal plan. Drilling near breeding areas would be prohibited during mating season, and power lines would be moved away from prime habitat to avoid serving as perches for raptors that eat sage grouse. The government still intends to honor existing rights to develop resources on that land. The plan applies to federal lands in 10 states.

HIGH STAKES:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency within Interior, faces a Sept. 30 court-ordered deadline to decide whether the greater sage grouse warrants protection as a threatened or endangered species. Some environmentalists say such a listing is the only way to effectively protect the birds from extinction. Others warn listing the birds would be economically devastating for the region, costing thousands of jobs. Regardless of what Fish and Wildlife decides, a federal budget rider approved by Congress late last year withholds funding from the agency to implement any listing of the greater sage grouse through at least September, 2016.

POLITICAL REACTION

Utah GOP Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said the approach is "only about controlling land, not saving the bird." Nevada Sen. Harry Reid, a Democrat whose state also has large numbers of sage grouse, praised the federal policy as the best chance to keep the birds from being listed.

WHAT'S NEXT:

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management will take public comment and expects to adopt 14 resource management plans containing the new habitat protection measures by late this summer.

Common-law wife charged for role in Lemmon manslaughter case

BISON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have charged the common-law wife of a northwestern South Dakota man accused of shooting a man in their home for her role in the man's death.

Samantha Briscoe was indicted Wednesday and arrested Thursday on a charge of first-degree aiding and abetting manslaughter. Brady Hooker was charged in April with first-degree manslaughter for

shooting and killing 32-year-old Leon Paulsen in his home in Lemmon.

Randy Connelly, Hooker's attorney, tells The Associated Press that he's "shocked" and that Briscoe's charge adds "insult to injury."

Connelly says Hooker, Briscoe and a witness all say Hooker shot Paulsen in self-defense. Connelly says Briscoe initially brought out the AR-15 style rifle after Paulsen allegedly assaulted Hooker and a friend. Connelly says Hooker took the gun from Briscoe to keep Paulsen from getting it.

Planned pipeline needs OK from many North Dakota landowners

JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — A Texas company that already has obtained shipping commitments from oil companies to build a 1,100-mile pipeline from western North Dakota to Illinois is having a tougher time getting permission from North Dakota landowners.

Chuck Frey, vice president of engineering for Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners LP, told the state's Public Service Commission on Thursday that subsidiary Dakota Access LLC only has acquired 56 percent of the easements needed despite wanting to begin construction on the \$3.8 billion project this year.

"Our goal is to reach voluntary agreement with all landowners," Frey told the three-member panel that oversees a slew of public interests, from pipelines to grain elevators. He said the company "would be forced to use the eminent domain process" if agreements can't be reached.

Zachary Pelham, a lawyer working for the Public Service Commission, said the panel has had complaints from some landowners that the company had used "strong-arm tactics" and "some even felt threatened" if they refused to sign off on easements.

Frey told the panel that he was aware of the allegations and that the company has established a toll-free telephone number to report any concerns.

Energy Transfer Partners announced the Dakota Access pipeline last year only days after Gov. Jack Dalrymple urged industry and government officials to build more pipelines to keep pace with North Dakota's oil production, saying it will reduce truck and oil train traffic, curb natural gas flaring and create more markets for the state's oil and gas.

North Dakota Pipeline Authority Director Justin Kringstad said the project, if approved, would be the largest-capacity pipeline for the state's crude to date — moving 450,000 barrels daily though South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois, where shippers can access Midwest and Gulf Coast markets.

The company still needs to obtain federal and other states' permits but plans to have the pipeline in service late next year. Almost 360 miles of the pipeline would pass through North Dakota at a cost of about \$1.4 billion, the company said. The steel pipeline will vary in diameter from 12 inches to 30 inches and would be buried at least 4 feet below ground.

The pipeline's path in North Dakota would cross beneath the Little Missouri River once and the Missouri River twice, near Williston and Mandan. The pipeline also would employ safeguards such as leak detection equipment; workers monitoring the pipeline remotely in Texas could close block valves on the pipeline within three minutes if a breach is detected, Frey said.

That's of little salve to Sherilyn and Grant Johnson, who run a farm and ranch near Almont, about 40 miles west of Bismarck. The couple told The Associated Press that they joined about 60 other landowners to negotiate and express concerns.

"It's not that we're dead set against it," Sherilyn Johnson said. "We just want some assurances."

The Johnsons said they worry about their land, which has been in their family for three generations.

"What will happen 50, 100, 150 years from now when the pipeline has fulfilled its purpose?" Sherilyn Johnson said. "This pipeline is going to be in the ground for the end of time."

Roger Kaseman told the AP that he and his wife, Lenore, signed a 99-year easement with the company worth "just under \$50,000" for permission to place about a half-mile of pipeline on their farmland in south-central North Dakota. He said the company treated the couple professionally and fairly.

"We had a long list of questions concerning safety and liability and the impact on the land long-term," Kaseman said. "They answered every question in detail and to our satisfaction."

SD Supreme Court sides with panhandler in stop, frisk case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court has reversed the conviction of a panhandler who argued a police officer had no reasonable suspicion to stop and frisk him.

The high court ruled Thursday in an appeal from Rapid City resident David Walter, who received a three-year suspended sentence in June when he was found guilty of possession of a controlled substance. The court said methamphetamine evidence at trial "was the product of an illegal search" because the mere report of a panhandler at a park, who wasn't violating state or local laws, didn't give Walter's arresting officer a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity to pat him down.

Rapid City Police Officer Dale Ackland arrested Walter in October 2013 after he was sent to investigate reports of a panhandler near a park. Ackland arrived to find Walter, and said he feared a bulge in Walter's pocket might be a weapon.

When he told Walter he was going to pat him down, Walter responded: "You can't frisk me. I have needles on me."

Ackland searched anyway and found an open bottle of liquor in one of Walter's pockets. As the pat-down continued, according to court records, Walter manipulated something out of another pocket and a container with two syringes fell to the ground. The syringes tested positive for meth.

Walter was charged with possession of a controlled drug or substance and one count of consuming alcohol in public. Walter sought to suppress the meth evidence at trial, but his request was rejected.

In its brief filed with the Supreme Court, the state argued that the frisk was legal because it "was not the product of a mere hunch or idle curiosity, but instead was based on a complaint that defendant was panhandling."

"Officer Ackland was dispatched to the ice arena due to a report of a possible ongoing crime," the state explained in its brief. "... Because Officer Ackland had reasonable suspicion that criminal activity might be afoot and that Defendant might be presently armed and dangerous, the circuit court was correct to deny Defendant's suppression motion."

The Rapid City Police Department did not immediately return a call seeking comment on the court's decision Thursday.

Bosworth to appeal conviction for election law violations

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Former South Dakota U.S. Senate candidate Annette Bosworth plans to appeal to the state Supreme court over her conviction for election law violations, her attorney said Thursday.

Bob Van Norman, an attorney for the 43-year-old Sioux Falls physician, said she will appeal to the high court after her expected sentencing in July. A jury found Bosworth guilty Wednesday of six counts each of perjury and filing false documents. The charges stemmed from mishandling her candidate petitions for the 2014 Republican U.S. Senate primary.

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Bosworth faces a maximum punishment of 24 years in prison and \$48,000 in fines. Attorney General Marty Jackley has said prosecutors will review mitigating and aggravating circumstances before making a sentencing recommendation.

Van Norman said the defense will push for a sentence that would allow the conviction to disappear if Bosworth successfully completes probation. He said he plans to bring up the "political context this all arose in" during the sentencing process. Bosworth has said she's been the target of "political persecution" from the attorney general's office in her case.

But Jackley said in a recent interview that the "prosecution has simply been under the rule of the law and the letter of the law."

Bosworth's husband, Chad Haber, unsuccessfully ran against Jackley in the 2014 election as a Libertarian.

Van Norman said Bosworth is guaranteed an appeal to the Supreme Court after sentencing.

Bosworth admitted that she didn't personally gather some signatures on her nominating documents, despite attesting on the petitions that she had witnessed people signing them. Under state law, the person circulating petitions must witness the signings from registered voters.

Bosworth's defense team argued during the trial that she was a rookie candidate who knows more about medicine than politics and said that her actions were a mistake.

"She is devastated," Van Norman said on Thursday.

The convictions could also jeopardize Bosworth's medical license.

"I am going to miss being a doctor," Bosworth told The Associated Press in a text message. "I really love being a doctor."

Margaret Hansen, executive director of the South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners, declined in an email to speak specifically about Bosworth's case.

But she said generally a felony conviction could be grounds for revocation of a license, though it "is not an automatic disqualifier."

There have been two cases of physicians convicted of felonies before the board over the past five years, and the board revoked both of the physicians' licenses, she said.

Political activists who have watched Bosworth's case have mixed views about its potential political effects in South Dakota.

Drake Olson, vice chairman of the state Republican Party, said the party doesn't get involved in primary elections, where Bosworth's problems occurred.

Ann Tornberg, chairwoman of the state Democratic Party, said she's concerned with election law changes that came about in part as an "overreaction" to Bosworth's case. But she said the conviction likely wouldn't discourage candidates from running.

Cory Heidelberger, a liberal blogger and activist who challenged Bosworth's nominating documents, said he's noticed the trial has made people pay more attention.

"This trial has raised awareness," he said. "Regular folks on the street understand the petition process a little better."

Rules aim to protect imperiled bird's habitat in 10 states

MEAD GRUVER, Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell revealed plans Thursday to preserve habitat in 10 Western states for an imperiled ground-dwelling bird, the federal government's biggest land-planning effort to date for conservation of a single species.

The proposal would affect energy development. The regulations would require oil and gas wells to be

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clustered in groups of a half-dozen or more to avoid scattering them across habitat of the greater sage grouse. Drilling near breeding areas would be prohibited during mating season, and power lines would be moved away from prime habitat to avoid serving as perches for raptors that eat sage grouse.

Some will say the plans don't go far enough to protect the bird, Jewell said.

"But I would say these plans are grounded in sound science — the best available science," she said at a news conference on a ranch near Cheyenne.

Sage grouse are chicken-sized birds that inhabit grass and sagebrush ecosystems in 11 states from California to the Dakotas. The rules would not apply to a relatively small area of habitat in Washington state. The bird's numbers have declined sharply in recent decades, and some environmentalists warn they are at risk of extinction.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service faces a court-ordered deadline of Sept. 30 to decide whether the greater sage grouse needs protection as a threatened or endangered species. Many Western lawmakers and representatives of the oil-and-gas and agriculture industries say a threatened or endangered listing would devastate the region's economy.

Congress voted late last year to withhold funding to implement any listing until September 2016. Other measures pending before U.S. lawmakers aim to postpone any federal listing for five years or more as states develop their own plans for conserving habitat.

Republicans in Congress criticized the plans as federal overreach.

"This is just flat out wrong," said U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. "The state plans work. This proposal is only about controlling land, not saving the bird."

But Wyoming shows that sage grouse and energy development can co-exist, Jewell said. It is a top oil, natural gas and coal producer with a sage grouse conservation strategy being copied by other states and the federal government.

"There is no future for our economy if we don't take care of the sage grouse," said Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead, a Republican who took part in the announcement. "That's a fact. Some like it, some don't."

Several environmental groups welcomed the plans.

"The sage grouse's listing under the Endangered Species Act is an outcome from which no one stands to gain, least of all public lands sportsmen," said Land Tawney, executive director of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.

In what some environmentalists view as an accommodation to industry, the rules would not seek to block development across sage grouse habitat. The government still intends to honor valid and existing rights to develop resources on that land, the Interior Department said.

Even so, the Western Energy Alliance, a Denver-based petroleum industry advocacy group, pledged to support the federal legislation to postpone any sage grouse listing.

"The economic impact of sage-grouse restrictions on just the oil and natural gas industry will be between 9,170 and 18,250 jobs and \$2.4 billion to \$4.8 billion of annual economic impact across Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming," said Kathleen Sgamma, the alliance's vice president of government and public affairs.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management expects to adopt the new measures by late summer. They would apply to federal lands in California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

Federally identified habitat for the greater sage grouse across the Western U.S. totals an area about the size of Colorado. The Interior Department has classified about two-thirds of that range as priority habitat, including areas that could have restrictions on development.

Restrictions would vary between states. Wyoming, with as many as 500,000 greater sage grouse, is home to more of the birds than any other state by far.

BNSF, power plant owner settle long-running rate dispute

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Lincoln Electric System and other owners of a Wyoming power plant have settled their long-running rates dispute with BNSF Railway over what the railroad charged for delivering coal to the plant, which serves consumers in Nebraska and several other states.

The settlement terms weren't released, but officials said Lincoln Electric System, which owns almost 13 percent of the Laramie River Station, could get about \$10 million out of it.

"It's like any settlement: Both sides should be a little bit unhappy," the system's general counsel, Shelly Sahling-Zart, told the Lincoln Journal Star (<http://bit.ly/1JTFJnf>).

BNSF spokeswoman Roxanne Butler declined to provide details but said "both parties are satisfied with the outcome."

The parties asked the federal Surface Transportation Board to discontinue the proceeding. Board spokesman Dennis Watson said the board is examining the request, but he couldn't say when it might act because there is no statutory deadline for action.

The dispute began more than 10 years ago when the Missouri Basin Power Project, which owns the plant, filed a complaint with the transportation board, saying the railroad was gouging them on deliveries to the Laramie River Station. In 2009 the board awarded the project members \$345 million in rate relief. BNSF appealed, and the dispute has since been argued before the board and in federal courts.

The plant produces power for about 2 million consumers in Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The project's members are Basin Electric, of Bismarck, North Dakota; LES; Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association Inc. in Denver, which serves a 250,000 square-mile service territory across Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming; Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency; Heartland Consumers Power District, a public power district serving South Dakota agencies and municipal electric systems in South Dakota, Iowa and western Minnesota; and Wyoming Municipal Power Agency.

Daugaard asks Obama for Delmont tornado disaster declaration

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has requested a presidential disaster declaration to help South Dakotans whose homes and businesses were damaged by the severe storm and tornado May 10 in Douglas and Charles Mix counties.

The 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.

If President Barack Obama approves Daugaard's request, it will pave the way for federal assistance for people impacted by the storm.

South Dakota last received an individual assistance declaration in 2011 for widespread damage from Missouri River flooding.

Discovery of drugs in store prompts unusual police tactic

MOBRIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The discovery of a bag of methamphetamine at a ShopKo store in Mobridge prompted an unusual tactic by police.

Capt. Al Bohle tells the American News (<http://bit.ly/1G2KMCf>) a store employee found the drugs Tuesday. He says the amount isn't being disclosed, but it's more than what a single person would use.

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Bohle put a post on Facebook encouraging the owner to claim the drugs. It reads: "The MPD is very concerned and would like to find the owner of the methamphetamine. If you are missing methamphetamine and were in a Mobridge business on Tuesday, May 26, please notify the MPD and describe the packaging and we will see what we can do for you."

Several people who commented on the post found it humorous. Bohle says "it's funny, but serious."

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. HASTERT INDICTMENT OFFERS FEW CLUES

Allegations that the former U.S. house speaker agreed to pay a person millions in hush money does not reveal what he did wrong.

2. RUMBLE IN ZURICH: ALI VS. BLATTER

As he seeks another term, FIFA's president faces a stern challenge from Jordanian Prince Ali bin al-Hussein as soccer's governing body reels from the tumult of a corruption crisis — again.

3. ATTACKS ON TOP BAGHDAD HOTELS KILL 15

Nobody has claimed responsibility yet, but the bombings suggest the Islamic Sate group is able to strike at the most fortified locations in the Iraqi capital with impunity as the Taliban do in Kabul.

4. U.N. FALLOUT AMID ABUSE CASE PERSISTS

AP's Cara Anna finds that the U.N.'s poor handling of child sex abuse claims against French soldiers has human rights staffers fearing for their jobs.

5. MIGRANT TALKS OFF TO CONTENTIOUS START

A meeting to address the swelling tide of boat people in Southeast Asia begins with a Myanmar official criticizing those who blame his country for causing the crisis.

6. FLOOD WORRIES CONTINUE IN LONE STAR STATE

Officials are closely monitoring the levels of rivers in Texas engorged by the deluge of last weekend.

7. OK, SPELL 'SCHERENSCHNITTE'

That's what Vanya Shivashankar did correctly as she shared the Scripps National Spelling Bee with Gokul Venkatachalam, becoming the second co-champions in as many years.

8. HOW WOMEN EXECS ARE FARING

Female CEOs are outpacing their male colleagues in pay, although they remain vastly outnumbered in the top echelons of American companies.

9. NEW LAB CAN CREATE HURRICANE CONDITIONS

A 75-foot-long tank filled with seawater can simulate Category 5 conditions to help researchers understand why some storms fizzle while others grow into monsters.

10. TRAINER GROWS INTO ELDER STATESMAN

Bob Baffert, winner of 11 Triple Crown races, says a heart attack helped change his perspective — and his attitude.

AP News in Brief

Ahead of presidential election, Blatter says vote for Russia and Qatar the root of FIFA crisis

ZURICH (AP) — The worst corruption crisis in soccer history stems from the governing body's decision to award Russia and Qatar the next two World Cup tournaments, FIFA President Sepp Blatter said Friday.

Blatter spoke at the FIFA congress hours before the presidential election in which he is seeking a fifth term. He has refused calls to resign after FIFA was targeted by U.S. and Swiss authorities in separate corruption investigations.

In 2010, Russia was chosen to host the 2018 World Cup and Qatar was awarded the 2022 tournament amid widespread allegations of wrongdoing.

"If two other countries had emerged from the envelope, I think we would not have these problems today," Blatter said. "But we can't go back in time. We are not prophets. We can't say what would have happened."

The United States was one of the losing bidders for the 2022 World Cup. On Wednesday, U.S. authorities indicted 14 people on bribery, racketeering, fraud and money-laundering charges going back to the 1990s.

THE LATEST: Protesters in Zurich demand FIFA press 2022 host Qatar to improve workers' rights

ZURICH (AP) — The latest on FIFA developments:

11:50 a.m. (0950 GMT; 5:50 a.m. EDT)

A small group of protesters are demonstrating in Zurich outside the FIFA Congress hall, chastising FIFA for not doing more to prevent the abuse of migrant workers as Qatar builds the infrastructure needed to host the 2022 World Cup.

Signs reading "fans against apartheid" were put up by fans of Premier League champion Chelsea, Manchester United, Arsenal and Tottenham, among others.

Few clues about alleged misconduct as ex-House Speaker Hastert accused of paying hush money

CHICAGO (AP) — A newly unveiled indictment against former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert accuses the Illinois Republican of agreeing to pay \$3.5 million in hush money to keep a person from the town where he was a longtime high school teacher silent about "prior misconduct." But it offers few hints about a central question: What was the alleged wrongdoing?

The concise federal grand jury indictment handed down Thursday accuses Hastert, who once was second in line to the U.S. presidency, of agreeing to pay the money to a person identified in the document only as "Individual A," to "compensate for and conceal his prior misconduct against" that person.

It notes that Hastert, 73, was a high school teacher and coach from 1965 to 1981 in suburban Yorkville, about 50 miles west of Chicago. It goes on to say Individual A has been a resident of Yorkville, and has known Hastert most of Individual A's life, but doesn't describe their relationship.

Legal experts say the fact that federal prosecutors noted Hastert's tenure in Yorkville in the indict-

ment's first few sentences strongly suggests some connection between the allegations and that time and place.

"Notice the teacher and coach language," said Jeff Cramer, a former federal prosecutor and head of the Chicago office of the investigation firm Kroll. "Feds don't put in language like that unless it's relevant."

Myanmar decries 'finger pointing' during meeting on boat people, including persecuted minority

BANGKOK (AP) — Regional talks to deal with the swelling tide of boat people in Southeast Asia began Friday with a defensive Myanmar official criticizing those who blame his country for causing the crisis, saying "finger pointing" would not help.

Htin Linn, the acting director of Myanmar's Foreign Affairs Ministry, spoke after several officials urged delegates to address the root causes of the problem — a reference to minority Rohingya Muslim refugees who have fled persecution in predominantly Buddhist Myanmar for years — and a top U.N. official called for stateless Rohingya to be granted citizenship.

Asian nations have been struggling in the face of growing waves of desperate migrants who are landing on the shores of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. In the last few weeks alone, at least 3,000 people have washed ashore or been rescued by fishermen, and several thousand more are believed to still be at sea after human smugglers abandoned boats amid a regional crackdown.

Some are Bangladeshis who left their impoverished homeland in hope of finding jobs abroad. But many are Rohingya who have fled persecution in Myanmar, which has denied them basic rights, confined more than 100,000 to camps and denies them citizenship. There are more than 1 million Rohingya living in the country formerly known as Burma.

Volker Turk, the U.N.'s Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees responsible for protection, said there could be no solution if root causes were not addressed.

AP Exclusive: UN rights staffers fear for jobs as 'leak' of child sexual abuse claims pursued

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N.'s poor handling of child sexual abuse claims against French soldiers has human rights staffers fearing for their jobs as they struggle with how to respond to highly sensitive allegations in the future, according to a letter to the world body's human rights chief obtained by The Associated Press.

In a separate letter to the U.N. secretary-general, a woman who worked directly under the U.N. staffer who was suspended for alerting French authorities is protesting her dismissal last week, a day before she says she was to testify in support of him for an internal U.N. investigation.

A year after the U.N. first heard children as young as 9 describe how they were given cookies or water bottles in exchange for sodomy or oral sex by French soldiers protecting their displaced persons camp in conflict-torn Central African Republic, it seems the only person who has been punished is the staffer who told the French. France has not announced any arrests and this week said it was still investigating.

In statements marked "strictly confidential" and first reported by the AP this week, the U.N. deputy high commissioner for human rights in March said she had "failed to follow up" on the allegations gathered by her own office, even as French authorities pressed U.N. officials for several months for more information.

The two new letters indicate a crisis in an office that says it “represents the world’s commitment to universal ideals of human dignity.”

Russia’s army of online “trolls” at front line of campaign to shape opinion at home, in West

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Deep inside a four-story marble building in St. Petersburg, hundreds of workers tap away at computers on the front lines of an information war, say those who have been inside. Known as “Kremlin trolls,” the men and women work 12-hour shifts around the clock, flooding the Internet with propaganda aimed at stamping President Vladimir Putin’s world vision on Russia, and the world.

The Kremlin has always dabbled in propaganda, but in the past year its troll campaign has gone into overdrive, adding hundreds of online operatives to help counter Western pressure over its role in the pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine. The program is drawing Serbia, which harbors EU dreams, back toward the Russian orbit, and is targeting Germany, the United States and other Western powers. The operation has worried the European Union enough to prompt it to draw up a blueprint for fighting Russia’s disinformation campaign, although details have not yet been released.

Lyuda Savchuk, a single mother with two children, worked in the St. Petersburg “troll factory” until mid-March. The 34-year-old journalist said she had some idea of the Orwellian universe she was entering when she took the job, but underestimated its intensity and scope.

“I knew it was something bad, but of course I never suspected that it was this horrible and this large-scale,” she said in an interview in her apartment, which has colorful drawings on the walls for her two preschool-age children.

She described how the trolls manage several social media accounts under different nicknames. Those in her department had to bash out 160 blog posts during a 12-hour shift. Trolls in other departments flooded the Internet with doctored images and pro-Putin commentary on news stories that crop up on Russian and Western news portals.

In Afghanistan war with insurgents, biggest losers are civilians living on the new front lines

KUNDUZ, Afghanistan (AP) — When the Taliban descended a month ago on Dam Shakh, a hamlet on the wheat-growing plains of northern Afghanistan’s Kunduz province, nobody was prepared.

“They turned up suddenly and took us completely by surprise,” said resident Ghulam Sakhi of the night of April 24 when hundreds of Taliban militants launched a coordinated attack. “It was horrific. People just started running away as fast as they could and for those who stayed, we were on our own for 10 days. The government just couldn’t cope.”

Military and intelligence authorities were equally surprised. Armed gunmen took over homes and used residents as human shields. Army reinforcements didn’t arrive for days and then lacked supplies — ammunition, food, fuel — because of poor logistics, Gov. Mohammad Omer Safi said. As government forces rallied their defenses, the fighting raged for more than two weeks as the militants came within three kilometers (less than 2 miles) of the provincial capital, Kunduz city, Safi said.

For now, the city of Kunduz appears secured. A combined force of government troops and hastily recruited militiamen has pushed managed to push back the insurgents to Gor Tapa, some 15 kilometers (12 miles) from Kunduz city, and liberated occupied villages and hamlets such as Talawka and Dam

Shakh.

But the battle continues and Afghan officials concede it will be slow, bloody work to dislodge the insurgents much further. In the meantime, the region's civilian population will bear the brunt of living on Afghanistan's new northern front line. Already more than 100,000 people have been forced from their homes, many renting houses or staying with other families and receiving assistance from U.N. agencies and other charities.

Ruble rebound a relief for Russians but hurts revival of local industry competing with imports

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's ruble is on a roller-coaster. After being the world's second worst-performing currency against the dollar last year, it is among the best in 2015.

That will help keep a leash on inflation, to the relief of millions of Russians. But it is worrying one part of the economy — the local industry that had seen demand grow for its Russian-made goods when the falling ruble made imports hugely expensive.

Russian sectors, from building materials to craft beer, took advantage of the ruble's drop to undercut better-known imported rivals and gain a bigger domestic market share.

Nikita Filippov, co-owner of a St. Petersburg-based craft brewery, says it was a godsend.

"European beers finally hit the price roof, and bar owners realized that they can't raise their menu prices any more as the beer would become unaffordable," he says. "That was a crucial moment when the bar owners had to reconsider their profit margins for the first time in many years, and that was the time when they turned their faces to local craft breweries."

Japanese volcano erupts spectacularly, spewing ash 9 kilometers high; residents evacuate

TOKYO (AP) — A volcano erupted in spectacular fashion on a small island in southern Japan on Friday, spewing out rocks and sending black clouds of ash 9 kilometers (5.6 miles) into the sky. Authorities told people on the island to evacuate.

One person was reported to have suffered minor burns from falling debris after Mount Shindake erupted about 10 a.m. (0100 GMT), sending dense pyroclastic flows of rock and hot gases seaward, the Japan Meteorological Agency reported.

The injured man, another person who was feeling unwell and a third person were airlifted to nearby Yakushima island, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said.

Another 133 people were evacuated on a Coast Guard vessel and town-operated ferry and fishing boats.

"Ash was just raining down from the sky," said one elderly woman as she disembarked at Yakushima's port, wearing a safety helmet.

'Every year, they get better': Toughest words can't stump National Spelling Bee co-champs

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — For the second straight year, the Scripps National Spelling Bee ended with co-champions each holding onto one side of the golden trophy while they were showered with confetti.

Vanya Shivashankar and Gokul Venkatachalam were the last two standing Thursday after exhausting the 25 words reserved for the final three spellers without stumbling. Before last year, there hadn't been

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a tie since 1962.

No one was surprised to see Vanya and Gokul dueling for the title. They came in with high expectations — Vanya, the longtime darling of the bee, a five-time competitor and the sister of the 2009 champion; and Gokul, who last year had the trophy nearly in his grasp.

But the tie shocked Paige Kimble, the bee's executive director and the 1981 champion, who predicted last week that another half-century would go by before the bee would crown two winners. As impressive as Gokul and Vanya were, she couldn't believe they'd make it through.

"The most surprising words trip spellers up," Kimble said. "I thought something was going to surprise us here. But it never happened."

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 29, the 149th day of 2015. There are 216 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 29, 1765, Patrick Henry denounced the Stamp Act before Virginia's House of Burgesses.

On this date:

In 1790, Rhode Island became the 13th original colony to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1848, Wisconsin became the 30th state of the union.

In 1912, the ballet "L'Après-midi d'un Faune" (The Afternoon of a Faun), with music by Claude Debussy, premiered in Paris with Vaslav Nijinsky dancing the title role.

In 1913, the ballet "Le Sacre du printemps" (The Rite of Spring), with music by Igor Stravinsky and choreography by Vaslav Nijinsky, had its chaotic world premiere in Paris. The D.H. Lawrence novel "Sons and Lovers" was first published by Duckworth & Co. of London, albeit in an expurgated version.

In 1917, the 35th president of the United States, John F. Kennedy, was born in Brookline, Massachusetts.

In 1932, World War I veterans began arriving in Washington to demand cash bonuses they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1943, Norman Rockwell's portrait of "Rosie the Riveter" appeared on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post. (The model for Rockwell's Rosie, Mary Doyle Keefe, died in April 2015 at age 92.)

In 1953, Mount Everest was conquered as Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norgay of Nepal became the first climbers to reach the summit.

In 1961, a couple in Paynesville, West Virginia, became the first recipients of food stamps under a pilot program created by President John F. Kennedy.

In 1973, Tom Bradley was elected the first black mayor of Los Angeles, defeating incumbent Sam Yorty.

In 1985, 39 people were killed at the European Cup Final in Brussels, Belgium, when rioting broke out and a wall separating British and Italian soccer fans collapsed.

In 1995, Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both the House and the Senate, died in Skowhegan, Maine, at age 97.

Ten years ago: French voters soundly rejected the European Union's proposed constitution, which was also defeated by the Dutch days later. In a deadly rampage at two farmhouses in Bellefontaine, Ohio, 18-year-old Scott Moody shot his grandparents, his mother and two friends before turning the gun on himself. Dan Wheldon won the Indianapolis 500 as Danica Patrick's electrifying run fell short (she finished fourth).

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Five years ago: Dennis Hopper, the high-flying Hollywood wildman whose memorable career included an early turn in "Rebel Without A Cause" and an improbable smash hit with "Easy Rider," died in Los Angeles at age 74. Philadelphia's Roy Halladay threw the 20th perfect game in major league history, beating the Florida Marlins 1-0.

One year ago: Saying he wanted kids to play sports but play safely, President Barack Obama called for more and better research into the effects and treatment of concussions in youth athletes during a summit at the White House. The Food and Drug Administration required tanning beds and sun lamps to carry new warnings that they should not be used by anyone under age 18. Shelly Sterling signed a binding contract to sell the Los Angeles Clippers to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer for a record-breaking \$2 billion. Actor and human rights activist Karlheinz Boehm, 86, died near Salzburg, Austria.

Today's Birthdays: Former Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent is 77. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser is 76. Actor Kevin Conway is 73. Actor Helmut Berger is 71. Rock singer Gary Brooker (Procol Harum) is 70. Actor Anthony Geary is 68. Actor Cotter Smith is 66. Singer Rebbie (ree-bee) Jackson is 65. Movie composer Danny Elfman is 62. Presidential assailant John W. Hinckley Jr. is 60. Singer LaToya Jackson is 59. Actor Ted Levine is 58. Actress Annette Bening is 57. Actor Rupert Everett is 56. Actor Adrian Paul is 56. Singer Melissa Etheridge is 54. Actress Lisa Whelchel is 52. Actress Tracey Bregman is 52. Rock musician Noel Gallagher is 48. Singer Jayski McGowan (Quad City DJ's) is 48. Actor Anthony Azizi is 46. Rock musician Chan Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 46. Rock musician Mark Lee (Third Day) is 42. Cartoonist Aaron McGruder ("The Boondocks") is 41. Singer Melanie Brown (Spice Girls) is 40. Rapper Playa Poncho is 40. Latin singer Fonseca is 36. Actor Blake Foster is 30. Actor Brandon Mychal Smith is 26. Actress Kristen Alderson is 24. Actress Lorelei Linklater (Film: "Boyhood") is 22.

Thought for Today: "When we recall the past, we usually find that it is the simplest things - not the great occasions - that in retrospect give off the greatest glow of happiness." - British-born American comedian Bob Hope (born this date in 1903, died 2003).