

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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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 (Piano Recital after worship service)
10:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran worship.
3:00 p.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Golden Living Center

Monday, June 1

Anniv: Matt & Tammy Locke
Birthdays: Anita Lowary • Chad Barton • Mayme Baker
6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study
7:00 p.m.: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center.
Senior Menu: Goulash, green beans, apple crisp, whole wheat bread.

Tuesday, June 2

Birthdays: Lindsey Gese • Heather Koens • Tim Waage • Tom Waage • Trent Anderson • Tiffany Lerew • Rick Rossow
1:30 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Good Cheer Cir-

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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GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA UPDATED

June 1, 2015 - 7pm
Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Financial Report
- 3) Bills
- 4) 7pm FBLA – Brooke Lindback, Advisor – Oct 3 Fund Raiser
- 5) 7:15pm Kim Weber – BB Playground Donation
- 6) Recreation Reports
- 7) Department Reports – Herron, Zerr, Lambertz
- 8) DENR Award
- 9) Capitol Asset Improvement List 2015
- 10) Brown County Budget Request
- 11) STIP informal Meeting – NECOG-416 Production St- June 24- 7pm or Formal DOT meeting July 13- 7pm - Ramada
- 12) Malt Beverage Licenses Renewal
- 13) Request to close E 2nd Ave ½ block from Main St west to alley and use park tables for Groton Transit and Chamber Fund Raiser June 11
- 14) 2015 Special Assessment Bond Resolution – Interest Rate 3.95%
- 15) Exe Session – Legal

AND any other business that may come before the Council

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Rounds' RESTORE Resolution

What They're Saying...

Support for RESTORE is growing in South Dakota and throughout the U.S. has grown since Senator Rounds introduced it last week. It offers a permanent solution to overregulation in America and reinstates the people's role in the rulemaking process. You can read more about it in his op-ed entitled Regulation without Representation here, which was published in The Hill last week.

Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council

"This important piece of legislation will help curb regulatory overreach and reduce the compliance burdens for small businesses of unnecessary, wasteful, and overbearing government regulations." -Karen Kerrigan, President and CEO

South Dakota Dairy Producers

"I'm glad someone in Washington has the sense to offer a solution that will curb a runaway bureaucracy and make sure the agencies are following the intent of the law set by congress. Agencies were not elected by the people. Senator Rounds' RESTORE Resolution has the total support from SDDP." – Roger Scheibe, SDDP

Heartland Consumers Power District

"Heartland Consumers Power District prides itself in providing low-cost, reliable power throughout the upper Midwest. Costly, intrusive and unnecessary federal regulations can threaten that mission. Senator Rounds' approach to addressing overregulation would bring sensibility back to the rulemaking process." – Russell Olson, CEO

Credit Union Association of the Dakotas

"...We support the Senators efforts as well as any other efforts to reduce the crippling effect of the continued growth in the regulatory burden." – Robbie Thompson, President/CEO

Rural Broadband Association

"The "RESTORE Resolution of 2015" sets forth a number of common sense proposals that can help to provide greater visibility into agency rulemaking and reduce the financial burden on small businesses. NTCA supports an examination of the ways in which the rulemaking process might be improved and enhanced to ensure that regulatory reforms promote certainty and rational, transparent decision-making." Mike Romano, Senior Vice President of Policy

Independent Community Bankers of South Dakota

"The ICBSD strongly supports provisions of Sen. Round's concurrent resolution that would conduct a systematic review of rules enacted by federal agencies. This resolution would be a positive first step towards rolling back the crushing regulatory burden currently being imposed on the community banks in South Dakota and across our nation. – Greg McCurry, President and CEO

Otter Tail Power Company

"The energy industry has been particularly impacted by overregulation at the federal level. RESTORE is a common sense approach for addressing unnecessary and outdated regulations so that Otter Tail - and other power companies – can continue to provide reliable and affordable energy to our communities." - Jeff Endrizzi Manager, Big Stone Power Plant

Dakota Valley Business Council

"The Dakota Valley Business Council is supportive of Senator Mike Rounds' RESTORE Resolution of 2015 which will create a Joint Select Committee to address the flood of federal regulations that pervade America today." – Craig Stanley, Board President

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Wanner, Dalchow place at State A

The first round of the State A Track meet was held in Spearfish Friday with Groton getting one team point in each the boys and girls division.

Audrey Wanner placed eighth in the long jump and Nick Dalchow placed eighth in the discus.

But the eyes are on Landon Larson for today. He placed first and qualified for the finals in three events - 100m Dash, 200m Dash and the 400m Dash in yesterday's first round.

100m Dash Prelims: 15, Harleigh Stange, 13.17 (qualified for semifinals where she placed 15th with a time of 13.32); 23, Courtney Kurtz, 13.89.

200m Dash Prelims: 13, Harleigh Stange, 27.70.

800m Run: 18, Jasmine Schaller, 2:47.06.

100m Hurdles: 10, Audrey Wanner, 16.41.

4x100m Relay Prelims: 7, Groton (Courtney Kurtz, Heather Lone, McKenzie Menzia, Harleigh Stange), 52.21 (qualified for finals).

4x200m Relay Prelims: 8, Groton (Courtney Kurtz, Gia Gengerke, Harleigh Stange, McKenzie Menzia), 1:50.10 (qualified for finals)

Discus: 17, Carly Wheeting, 79-0.

Long Jump: 8, Audrey Wanner, 16-02.25 (1 team point)

Triple Jump: 10, Audrey Wanner, 33-10.

100m Dash Prelims: 1, Landon Larson, 11.03 (qualified for finals).

200m Dash Prelims: 1, Landon Larson, 22.47 (qualified for finals).

400m Dash Prelims: 1, Landon Larson, 40.07 (qualified for finals).

800m Run: 9, Lucas Sternhagen, 2:07.15.

110m Hurdles Prelims: 6, Jackson Doeden, 15.48 (qualified for finals).

4x800m Relay: 15, Groton (Bennett Shabazz, Brandon Keith, Sean Schuring, Lucas Sternhagen), 9:08.59.

1600m Medley Relay: 22, Groton (Trevor Pray, Adam Herman, Bennett Shabazz, Sean Schuring), 4:04.16.

Discus: 8, Nick Dalchow, 132-03 (1 team point)

Highway 12 Construction

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation has begun a 12.8 mile asphalt concrete paving project on Highway 12 west of Aberdeen to Mina.

The milling and asphalt concrete paving operations will reduce traffic to one lane with a 16-foot width restriction through the construction zone. Traffic is being controlled with flaggers and a pilot car at both ends of the project.

This work is part of a nearly \$5.2 million contract with Duinick, Inc. to do repair work on Highway 12 in the Aberdeen region.

The expected completion date for the asphalt paving is July 10, with an overall completion date of Oct. 15.

Motorists are reminded to slow down and watch for construction equipment and workers adjacent to the driving lane.

For complete road construction information, visit www.safetravelusa.com/sd or dial 511.

Today in Weather History

1879 - A major outbreak of severe weather occurred in Kansas and western Missouri. In Kansas, tornadoes killed eighteen persons at Delphos, and thirty persons at Irving. Two tornadoes struck the town of Irving within a few minutes time virtually wiping the small Kansas community off the map. The second tornado was perhaps two miles wide, and exhibited multiple vortices. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1948 - A railroad bed acting as a dam gave way during a flood along the Columbia River destroying the town of Vanport, OR. The nearly 19,000 residents escaped with little more than the clothes on their backs. (David Ludlum)

1948 - Twenty carloads of glass were needed in Denver, CO, to replace that destroyed by a severe hailstorm. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the eastern U.S. Eighteen cities, from Virginia to Ohio and Michigan, reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 97 degrees at Baltimore, MD, and Washington, DC, and 98 degrees at Newark, NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Memorial Day heralded heavy snow in some of the mountains and higher passes of Wyoming, closing roads in Yellowstone Park. McDonald Pass, MT, was blanketed with eight inches of snow, while the temperature at Miles City, MT, soared to 94 degrees. A "supercell" thunderstorm in west Texas produced baseball size hail in Bailey and Lamb counties, and up to five inches of rain in less than an hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Upper Mississippi Valley to the Upper Ohio Valley during the day. A powerful (F-4) tornado injured three persons and caused a million dollars damage at New Providence, IA. Baseball size hail was reported at Blue Earth, MN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing along a warm front spawned fourteen tornadoes in northeastern Texas during the late afternoon and evening hours. The thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail near Marshall, wind gusts to 77 mph at Commerce, and up to five inches of rain. Thunderstorms over southwestern Kansas produced up to six inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Chance Showers	Slight Chc Thunderstorms	Partly Sunny	Chance Thunderstorms	Chance Thunderstorms
High: 61 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 66 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 80 °F



Less Wind, More Sun, Still Cool

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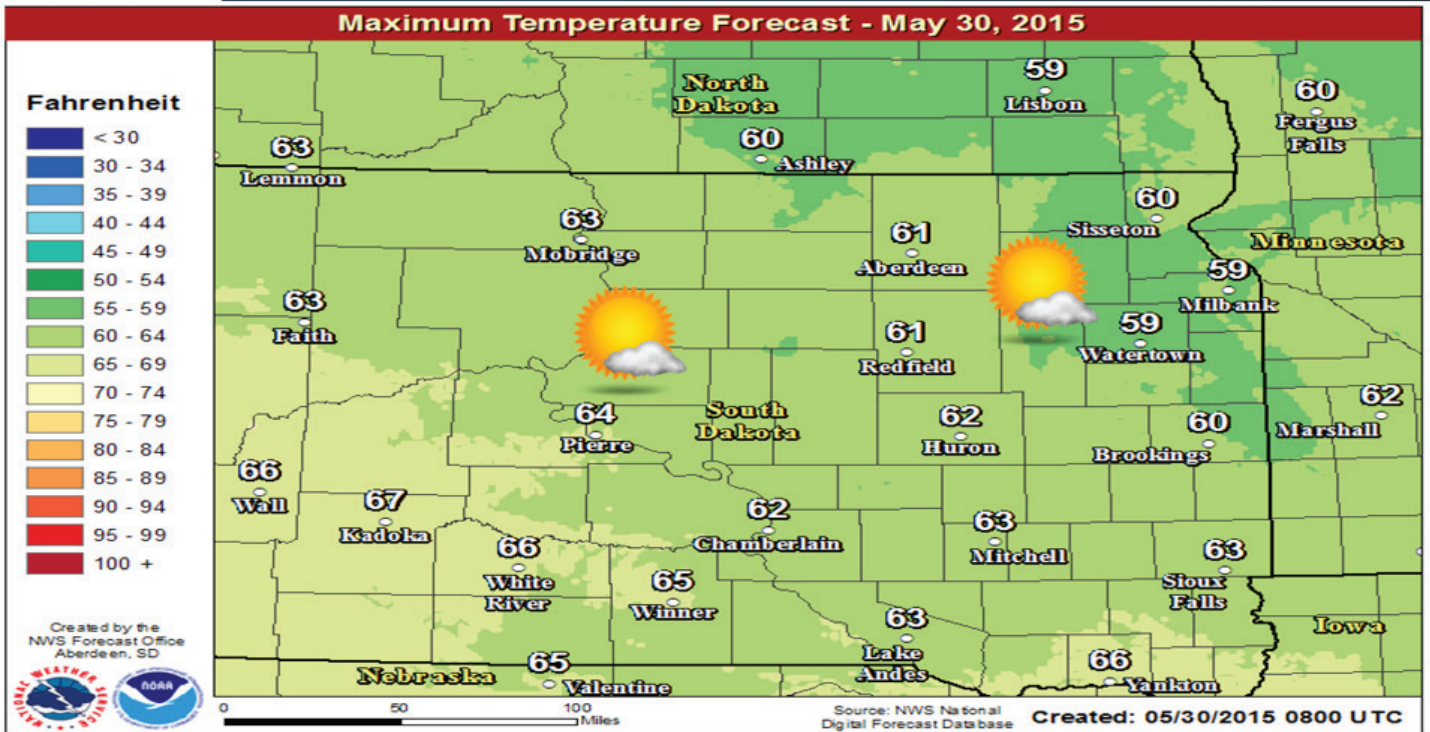
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 05/30/2015 at 4:17AM

Cool high pressure at the surface will reside over the Dakotas today. This will bring mostly sunny skies and dry conditions, and less wind than what was felt on Friday. Although, temperatures will remain cool and well below normal for this time of year, with highs only in the low 60s for most locations.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 63.6 at 12:49 AM

Low: 46.3 at 11:55 PM

High Gust: 32 at 7:20 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 110° in 1934

Record Low: 27° in 1947

Average High: 72°F

Average Low: 49°F

Average Precip in May: 3.01

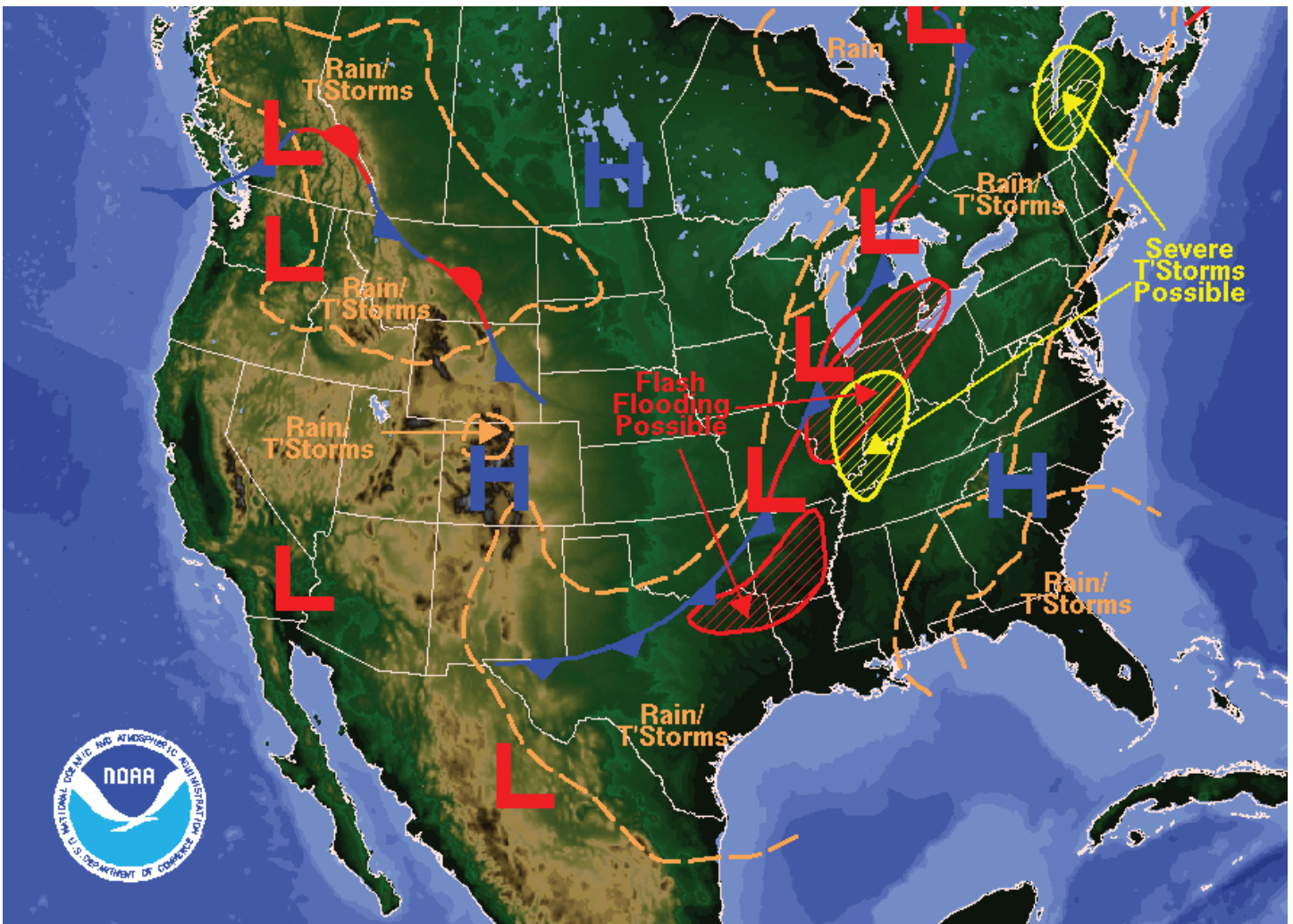
Precip to date in May: 4.08

Average Precip to date: 7.04

Precip Year to Date: 5.72

Sunset Tonight: 9:12 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:49 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, May 30, 2015, issued 9:53 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kocin based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHERE TO FIND HAPPINESS

A professor was known to ask his students questions to make them think. On one occasion he stood before the class and wrote on the chalkboard, "Who's more content – the man with six million dollars or the man with six children? Now think!" he challenged them.

After a few moments one of the students raised his hand and answered, "The man with the six children."

"Oh? Why?" asked the professor.

"Well, the man with the six million dollars would always want more!" came the reply.

True contentment is always independent of "things" – whether possessions or pleasures. It only comes from an inner attitude toward life. That is why Paul said, "True religion, with contentment, is great wealth."

This does not imply that being a Christian means living in poverty or wanting to be poor. But it does mean that the power of "things" will never bring happiness and that the Christian must always focus on things that are eternal.

In the final analysis, we can only take two things to God: Ourselves and what we have done with our lives.

So, we must live our lives with one goal that we can reach: to present ourselves to God without shame!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize that life does not consist in the abundance of things, but in pleasing You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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

News from the Associated Press

Volunteers, donations needed in tornado-stricken community

DELMONT, S.D. (AP) — Officials in tornado-stricken Delmont are asking the public's help to continue the city's recovery.

Officials say volunteers are needed Saturday to help pick up debris from the twister that hit the town May 10. Donations of clothing and cleaning supplies are also being sought.

The twister 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.

The most needed items include new underwear and socks, pillows, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and garbage bags.

Additionally, monetary donations are still being accepted. Donations designated to the Delmont Disaster Relief Fund can be mailed to First State Bank, P.O. Box 68, Delmont, SD 57330.

Former Corn Palace nominee sues city of Mitchell, mayor

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — The man tapped last year to be the next director of Mitchell's Corn Palace has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the city and its mayor.

Steve Koch was in line to become the next director in October when Mayor Ken Tracy announced that Koch was withdrawing his name from consideration.

Koch now says he actually accepted the position, but when he showed up for work, Tracy said there were "new developments" and that he must withdraw his name.

Reports surfaced later that Koch had once been charged with three felony counts of misappropriation of funds by a contractor.

In his lawsuit, Koch accuses the city and mayor of violating his civil rights, breach of contract, intentional interference with contractual relations, defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Bird Flu found at Moody County turkey farm of 50,000 birds

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Another turkey farm in South Dakota has tested positive for bird flu.

South Dakota State Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven says a Moody County operation of about 50,000 birds has a presumptive positive test for avian influenza.

This latest farm brings to 10 the number of affected operations in South Dakota. In total there have been more than 1.7 million birds affected in the state.

Oedekoven says they're still waiting to learn whether the farm is affected with the H5N2 strain that's swept through the Midwest.

Crews will soon begin euthanizing the birds to prevent the spread of the virus.

It's been about two weeks since the state has had a confirmed case of bird flu. Oedekoven says cases are still popping up in the region, but are becoming less frequent.

Man accused of defrauding science foundation gets probation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A western South Dakota man convicted of creating a phony research company to bilk the National Science Foundation out of \$100,000 won't have to spend time in prison but has been ordered to repay the money.

Chief U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken on Thursday sentenced Scott Thompson, of Hermosa, to five

years of probation and ordered him to pay about \$88,000 in restitution stemming from his October conviction on numerous fraud-related counts. Thompson faced trial last year after authorities accused him of making false claims and filing false documents to obtain a federal grant and later using thousands of dollars from the award for personal use.

Federal court records show Thompson said that Isosceles LLC would use a \$150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to do research on the use of polymers to generate solar energy. Thompson listed a CEO and a researcher for Isosceles in the proposal to obtain the grant, but neither of the individuals actually worked for the company.

A superseding indictment filed in September 2013 shows Thompson received \$100,000 in grant money between 2009 and 2010, but he used about \$80,000 for personal transactions and about \$13,000 on project-related expenses.

The National Science Foundation began to scrutinize the grant after it found that the researcher listed on the grant proposal was not working for the company.

Viken on Thursday also denied Thompson's requests for an acquittal and a new trial.

Thompson's attorney didn't immediately return a call seeking comment on the case Friday.

Indictment: Lemmon woman provided rifle in manslaughter case

BISON, S.D. (AP) — A woman provided the semi-automatic rifle that her common-law husband used to shoot and kill a man in their northwestern South Dakota home, a grand jury indictment filed this week alleged.

Samantha Briscoe was indicted Wednesday and is charged with first-degree aiding, abetting or advising manslaughter for allegedly providing the AR-15 rifle that Brady Hooker used to shoot 32-year-old Leon Paulsen in their home in Lemmon. Hooker was charged with first-degree manslaughter in April.

Hooker, Briscoe and a witness all told police that Hooker shot Paulsen in self-defense after Paulsen and another man came into their house uninvited and assaulted Hooker and a witness, according to charging documents. The three said Paulsen was intoxicated and upset that his wife had been at Hooker and Briscoe's home earlier.

The only other witness, the man who showed up with Paulsen, admitted that Paulsen assaulted the men in the home, but has said Hooker shot Paulsen within 10 seconds of grabbing the rifle. He didn't tell police that Paulsen advanced on Hooker.

Briscoe's attorney, Rena Hymans, said Friday she couldn't comment until first talking with her client.

Perkins County State's Attorney Shane Penfield said no new evidence came to light before Briscoe was charged, but authorities simply "went through the process."

"That's always a possibility in that type of case," he said of charges. "It certainly was not ruled out early on."

Randy Connelly, who represents Hooker, said that he was "shocked" to learn about the charge against Briscoe. He said her charge only adds "insult to injury," adding, "I do not like the way this is being handled."

Briscoe's charge is a Class C felony, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. She posted bail Thursday and will make an initial appearance in court on June 9 in Bison.

"Not to cast aspersions on the DCI, but I'm casting aspersions on the DCI," he said. "I do not like the way this is being handled."

US oil and natural gas rig count drops by 10 to 875

HOUSTON (AP) — Oilfield services company Baker Hughes Inc. says the number of rigs exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. declined by 10 this week to 875.

Houston-based Baker Hughes said Friday 646 rigs were seeking oil and 225 explored for natural gas. Four were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, with oil prices nearly double the current levels, 1,866 rigs were active.

Among major oil- and gas-producing states, Texas lost four rigs, California declined by three and Arkansas, Louisiana and Pennsylvania each dropped two. North Dakota was down one.

Colorado and Oklahoma gained two rigs apiece. Alaska and New Mexico were up one each.

Kansas, Ohio, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming were all unchanged.

The U.S. rig count peaked at 4,530 in 1981 and bottomed at 488 in 1999.

9 states back Utah ruling tossing federal prairie dog rules

LINDSAY WHITEHURST, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Nine states have stepped into a lawsuit over the Utah prairie dog to support a ruling that animal activists say threatens to undermine the Endangered Species Act.

The attorneys general asked an appeals court to uphold a ruling striking down federal protections for the Utah prairie dog on private property. They argued that federal authorities shouldn't be managing animals that live only within state borders.

But U.S. Department of Justice attorneys say that the majority of protected species live only in a single state and courts have long upheld federal authority to protect them wherever they live.

The federal government is appealing a ruling from U.S. District Judge Dee Benson, who sided in November with southern Utah residents who said that federal rules protecting the threatened species were allowing prairie dogs to overtake their town. The property owners from Cedar City said the small, burrowing animals damaged the golf course, airport and cemetery and interrupted funerals with their barking.

The Utah Attorney General supported the Cedar City residents on Thursday with a friend-of-the-court brief filed before the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. It contends that Utah's rural communities are hurt by the "uncontrolled proliferation" of the Utah prairie dog. The brief was signed by state attorneys from Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming.

An attorney with the group Friends of Animals said the states are among a minority that oppose federal protection for threatened and endangered animals.

"Sadly, they each have a history allowing animals to die within their borders for even minor economic gain," Michael Harris wrote in an email to the Associated Press. "Luckily, forty-one other states have chosen to rebuff this outrageous attempt to undermine the federal Endangered Species Act."

Animal-rights groups say Benson's ruling was a radical departure from 40 years of animal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Federal attorneys and animal-rights groups taking part in the lawsuit are due to respond this summer.

The Utah landowners filed a lawsuit with the help of the Sacramento, California-based Pacific Legal Foundation. Lawyers for the group argued that because the Utah prairie dog is found only within the state, federal authorities shouldn't be able to regulate it on private property.

That argument hadn't gotten much traction in other courts before Benson's decision. But if the appeals court upholds the ruling, it could bring the Endangered Species Act before the U.S. Supreme Court, according to the brief filed Thursday.

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Utah prairie dog numbers dwindled to about 2,000 in the 1970s as they were targeted by ranchers and farmers who believed the animals competed with livestock and crops, according to court papers. The species' numbers have rebounded significantly since coming under federal protection, though the majority live on private land.

After Benson's decision was handed down in November, Utah wildlife authorities adopted a new plan that allows the roughly 6,000 prairie dogs to be moved off private land or killed. While the new state regulations are similar to the federal rules, state officials say they allow more of the animals to be removed from private property.

SD man sentenced to life for recruiting others to sell meth

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A western South Dakota man convicted of recruiting others to distribute methamphetamine in the state has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Forty-three-year-old Luis Olivares, of Rapid City, was found guilty of multiple charges including conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in December after an eight-day federal jury trial.

Acting U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says Olivares was sentenced in Rapid on Wednesday.

Authorities say Olivares distributed meth with his co-conspirators in western South Dakota dating back to 2008. They say the drugs were distributed primarily in Rapid City and on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

\$16 million airport opens in southwestern North Dakota

BOWMAN, N.D. (AP) — A \$16 million airport has opened in southwestern North Dakota's Bowman County.

Lt. Gov. Drew Wrigley says the Bowman County Municipal Airport 4 miles east of the town of Bowman spans 400 acres and has a 5,700-foot runway — the longest small general aviation runway in the state.

Wrigley says the opening of the airport will help address the impacts of rapid growth in the oil patch region.

Funding came from a variety of local, state and federal sources, including more than \$2.9 million in state Energy Impact grants.

AP News in Brief

Defiant FIFA chief Blatter criticizes US justice chief Lynch, federal soccer corruption case

ZURICH (AP) — FIFA President Sepp Blatter criticized U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch and an American federal investigation into soccer corruption which could yet lead directly to his door.

In a defiant interview with his local Swiss broadcaster, Blatter said "there is something that smells" about the timing of dawn raids to arrest soccer officials in Zurich two days before his re-election Friday.

Two FIFA vice presidents and a recently elected FIFA executive committee member were among seven men detained and accused of racketeering, money laundering and fraud in connection with bribes worth \$150 million for tournament television rights in North and South America.

Lynch said Wednesday that indicted FIFA and marketing officials had "corrupted the business of worldwide soccer to serve their interests and to enrich themselves."

"I was shocked by what she said," Blatter told French-language broadcaster RTS. "As a president I would never make a statement about another organization without knowing."

Iran nuclear talks: Envoys meet amid questions over sanctions relief, inspections of sites

GENEVA (AP) — A month out from a nuclear deal deadline, the top U.S. and Iranian diplomats gathered in Geneva Saturday in an effort to bridge differences over how quickly to ease economic sanctions on Tehran and how significantly the Iranians must open up military facilities to international inspections.

The talks between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif were likely to extend into Sunday, a negotiating round that officials described as the most substantive since world powers and Iran clinched a framework pact in April.

That agreement, however, left big questions unanswered, which weeks of subsequent technical discussions have done little to resolve.

Asked about completing the full accord by June 30, Zarif said Saturday, "We will try."

World powers believe they have secured Iran's acquiescence to a combination of nuclear restrictions that would fulfill their biggest goal: keeping Iran at least a year away from bomb-making capability for at least a decade. But they are less clear about how they'll ensure Iran fully adheres to any agreement.

Child sex abuse claims shake UN as revelations continue; top officials didn't know for months

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The boys said they approached the French soldiers because they were hungry. Some were so young that they didn't quite understand the acts the soldiers demanded in return. One boy, 8 or 9 years old, said he did it several times to the same soldier, "until one day an older kid saw him and told him what he was doing was bad."

Another boy, 9, said he thought the soldiers had been urinating.

United Nations investigators heard such stories of sexual abuse from several boys in May and June 2014 in Central African Republic, where French soldiers were protecting a sprawling displaced persons camp in the conflict-torn capital, Bangui.

One year later, revelations about how the U.N. handled the boys' accounts have horrified people both inside and outside the world body. Statements marked "strictly confidential" have shown that its top human rights officials failed to follow up for several months on the allegations their own office had collected.

No arrests have been announced, and it's not clear where the accused soldiers, who were supporting a U.N. peacekeeping force, are now. The U.N. seems unable to say when the abuses stopped, or how long it continued to investigate.

Putin left out of upcoming G-7 meeting, but West has limits on push to isolate Russia leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Barack Obama and other world leaders gather in Germany next week, Russia's Vladimir Putin will be left off the guest list, part of his punishment for more than a year of alleged Kremlin-supported aggression in Ukraine.

But despite vows from Obama and his European counterparts to isolate Putin as long as the crisis in Ukraine remains unresolved, the Russian leader is still a central player in major international affairs, including the U.S.-led nuclear talks with Iran.

Just this month, German Chancellor Angela Merkel traveled to Moscow for talks with Putin and Secre-

tary of State John Kerry went to Sochi to confer with the Russian leader. Putin and British Prime Minister David Cameron also spoke by phone in recent days and agreed to resume talks aimed at ending Syria's civil war, another matter where Putin's cooperation is crucial.

U.S. officials defend the engagement with Russia, saying it's limited to areas where Moscow and the West have shared interests. Outreach to Putin on such matters, officials argue, should not be seen as a sign that the West has accepted the status quo in Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists continue to stoke instability.

"It makes sense to cooperate where there is a clear mutual interest as long as you're not being asked to back off matters of principle that matter to the security and well-being of your country and your allies and your friends," Vice President Joe Biden said Wednesday.

The Latest on flooding: Concerns linger in Texas, where more storms are in the forecast

1 a.m. (CDT)

Flood concerns are lingering in Texas, with more storms in the forecast.

At least 28 people have been killed in storms that began pummeling Texas and Oklahoma over Memorial Day weekend. Twenty-four of the deaths have been in Texas alone. A dozen people were still missing early Saturday.

Rivers and lakes around Houston, San Antonio and Dallas have all swelled. And forecasters are predicting more rain this weekend.

The Colorado River in Wharton and the Brazos and San Jacinto rivers near Houston are the main areas of concern as floodwaters move from North and Central Texas downstream toward the Gulf of Mexico.

Man not guilty of murder in shooting of unarmed trespassers in Nevada stand-your-ground case

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Accused of murder for confronting two unarmed trespassers with a deadly barrage of gunfire, Wayne Burgarello walked out of a Nevada courthouse a free man after the jury found him not guilty of all charges in the latest of a series of cases nationally testing the boundaries of stand-your-ground self-defense laws.

"It's going to be OK," he said as he laughed with family members outside the courtroom after hugging his lawyer after the clerk's reading of the verdicts Friday night.

Burgarello, 74, a retired Sparks school teacher, insisted he was acting in self-defense when he shot and killed Cody Devine and seriously wounded Janai Wilson in a vacant, rundown duplex he owns in February 2014.

A jury deliberated for six hours before finding him not guilty on a charge of attempted murder as well as four alternative charges of first- and second-degree murder, voluntary manslaughter and involuntary manslaughter. He would have faced up to life in prison without parole if convicted of first-degree murder.

Burgarello's lawyer told reporters he wanted to go home with his loved ones after a long day and had no further comment.

AP source: Former House speaker paid hush money to conceal old sexual abuse claims

CHICAGO (AP) — Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert paid hush money to conceal claims that the Illinois Republican sexually molested someone decades ago, a person familiar with the allegations said. The person spoke to The Associated Press on Friday on the condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing and the allegations are not contained in an indictment issued Thursday. The specific nature of the claims was not immediately clear.

The federal indictment accused Hastert of agreeing to pay \$3.5 million to keep a person from the suburban Chicago town where he was a longtime high school teacher and wrestling coach silent about “prior misconduct,” but the court papers did not detail the wrongdoing.

Several media outlets reported similar details Friday, citing unidentified federal officials.

The Los Angeles Times, which was the first to report the specifics, cited two federal law enforcement officials, one of whom said Hastert paid a male to keep quiet about allegations that the former speaker molested him back in his coaching days.

Wisconsin jury convicts ‘Saved by the Bell’ actor Dustin Diamond of misdemeanors in stabbing

PORT WASHINGTON, Wis. (AP) — TV actor Dustin Diamond was convicted Friday of two misdemeanors stemming from a barroom fight, but a Wisconsin jury cleared the former “Saved by the Bell” actor of the most serious felony charge.

The jury’s verdict came just hours after the 38-year-old actor testified that he never intended to stab anyone in the fight last Christmas Day. He had pleaded not guilty to a felony charge of recklessly endangering public safety, plus two misdemeanors — carrying a concealed weapon and disorderly conduct.

The first misdemeanor carries a maximum sentence of nine months in prison, the second a maximum of 90 days in prison.

Diamond didn’t display emotion at the jury’s decision Friday night. He told reporters he couldn’t comment as he left the courtroom after a 13-hour day of testimony and jury deliberations.

Diamond, who played the character Screech on the popular 1990s show, said some people had wanted to shake his hand and pose for photos at the bar, but that others were badgering him and his girlfriend, Amanda Schutz. He said he was trying to scare bar patrons in Port Washington after his girlfriend was punched in the face.

North Korean ex-POWs who settled far away hope to return home before they die

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — After the Korean War ended in 1953, Kim Myeong Bok and 75 other North Korean prisoners of war detained in South Korea opted to live abroad rather than risk hostile welcomes in either half of their homeland. Now he wants to come home, though he may find little more than rejection and suspicion.

Amid the Koreans’ intense Cold War rivalry, they were labeled traitors, opportunists or fence-sitters. The fates of several North Korean POWs who voluntarily returned home are unknown. Many others have died abroad one by one, and now less than a dozen are believed to be alive.

Kim, now 79 and living in Brazil, is trying to return to his North Korean hometown, at the arrangement of a movie director who’s making a documentary on him and his fellow ex-POWs.

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He doesn't have North Korea's approval yet and may never get it, though he will at least visit the South. He knows this is probably his last chance to try to go home.

"I've missed my parents a lot, particularly my mother, who took me to a church and told me to believe in Jesus Christ," Kim said, speaking from the remote Brazilian city of Cuiaba during a recent video interview. "I want to go to the place where my church stood, but it must have been pulled down by now."

Lightning strike: Tampa Bay beats Rangers 2-0 in Game 7, will play for Stanley Cup

NEW YORK (AP) — One thing to count on when the Tampa Bay Lightning play for the Stanley Cup: They won't be intimidated by anything.

Not by the surroundings after handing the New York Rangers their first Game 7 loss at Madison Square Garden to win the Eastern Conference finals.

Not by having to play in Anaheim or Chicago after taking the last three games in New York and also winning twice in the opening round at Detroit and twice more in Montreal in the second round.

Not by a series going the limit, because they are 4-1 in Game 7s.

Tampa Bay is also 9-0 when scoring first this postseason.

Today in History **The Associated Press**

Today is Saturday, May 30, the 150th day of 2015. There are 215 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 30, 1935, Babe Ruth played in his last major league baseball game for the Boston Braves, leaving after the first inning of the first of a double-header against the Philadelphia Phillies, who won both games (Ruth announced his retirement three days later).

On this date:

In 1431, Joan of Arc, condemned as a heretic, was burned at the stake in Rouen (roo-AHN'), France.

In 1814, the first Treaty of Paris was signed, ending war between France and the Sixth Coalition (the United Kingdom, Russia, Austria, Sweden, Portugal and Prussia).

In 1883, 12 people were trampled to death in a stampede sparked by a rumor that the recently opened Brooklyn Bridge was in danger of collapsing.

In 1911, the first Indy 500 took place at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway; the winner was Ray Harroun, who drove a Marmon Wasp for more than 6 1/2 hours at an average speed of 74.6 mph and collected a prize of \$10,000.

In 1922, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. was dedicated in a ceremony attended by President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Robert Todd Lincoln.

In 1937, ten people were killed when police fired on steelworkers demonstrating near the Republic Steel plant in South Chicago.

In 1943, during World War II, American troops secured the Aleutian island of Attu from Japanese forces.

In 1958, unidentified American service members killed in World War II and the Korean War were interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1962, Benjamin Britten's War Requiem had its world premiere at the new Coventry Cathedral in England.

In 1971, the American space probe Mariner 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a journey to Mars.

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In 1980, Pope John Paul II arrived in France on the first visit there by the head of the Roman Catholic Church since the early 19th century.

In 1996, Britain's Prince Andrew and the former Sarah Ferguson were granted an uncontested decree ending their 10-year marriage.

Ten years ago: Quoting letters of the fallen from the war in Iraq, President George W. Bush vowed to a Memorial Day audience at Arlington National Cemetery that America would honor its dead by striving for peace and democracy, no matter the cost. American teenager Natalee Holloway vanished in Aruba after leaving a bar with three young men, including the chief suspect in her disappearance, Joran van der Sloot (YOHR'-uhn VAN'-dur-sloht); her fate remains unknown.

Five years ago: Joran van der Sloot (YOHR'-uhn VAN'-dur-sloht), the prime suspect in the disappearance of Natalee Holloway in Aruba, was seen leaving a hotel room in Lima, Peru, where the body of 21-year-old Stephany Flores was found three days later. (Van der Sloot later confessed to murdering Flores, and is serving a 28-year prison sentence.) Dario Franchitti (DA'-ree-oh fran-KEE'-tee) drove 199 nearly flawless laps, then got a huge break from a spectacular crash on the last lap to climb back on top of the open-wheel world with a win at the Indianapolis 500.

One year ago: Beset by growing evidence of patient delays and cover-ups, embattled Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki resigned from President Barack Obama's Cabinet, taking the blame for what he decried as a "lack of integrity" in the sprawling health care system for the nation's military veterans. Six climbers went missing from Washington state's Mount Rainier; they'd apparently fallen to their deaths. Oscar-nominated actress Joan Loring ("The Corn Is Green") died in Sleepy Hollow, New York, at 88.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clint Walker is 88. Actress Ruta Lee is 80. Actor Keir Dullea is 79. Actor Michael J. Pollard is 76. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Gale Sayers is 72. Rock musician Lenny Davidson (The Dave Clark Five) is 71. Actor Stephen Tobolowsky is 64. Actor Colm Meaney is 62. Actor Ted McGinley is 57. Actor Ralph Carter is 54. Actress Tonya Pinkins is 53. Country singer Wynonna Judd is 51. Rock musician Tom Morello (Audioslave; Rage Against The Machine) is 51. Movie director Antoine Fuqua is 50. Rock musician Patrick Dahlheimer (Live) is 44. Actress Idina Menzel is 44. Actor Trey Parker (Film: "Newsies") is 43. Rapper Cee Lo Green is 40. Rapper Remy Ma is 35. Actor Blake Bashoff is 34. Christian rock musician James Smith (Underoath) is 33. Actor Jake Short is 18. Actor Sean Giambrone is 16. Actor Jared Gilmore is 15.

Thought for Today: "For happiness one needs security, but joy can spring like a flower even from the cliffs of despair." - Anne Morrow Lindbergh, American writer (1906-2001).