

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.



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 Circle

Senior Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, tomato spoon salad, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

The cardboard/paper

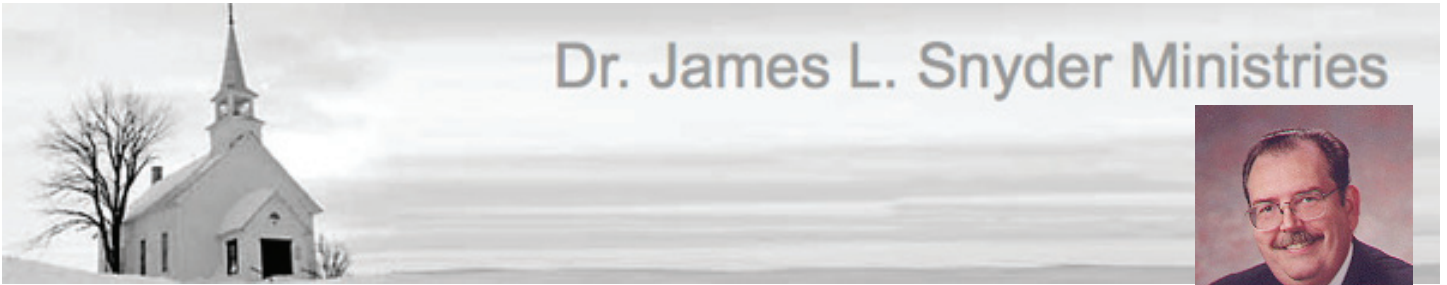
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



A Waist Is a Terrible Thing to Mind

Is it just me or has the whole world going crazy about diets and exercise?

This came to me sometime this week when I was having trouble sleeping one night. I was tossing, turning and getting grunts from the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I decided to get up and watch a little television to make me sleepy. Nothing makes me sleepy like watching television. Of course, when my wife and I are watching TV together we both are complaining about how many commercials there are.

I decided to watch a little bit of television and hopefully in a half hour or so I would get sleepy enough so I could go back to bed. During my watching, I came across so many "infomercials" that I thought I was dreaming or at least having a nightmare.

The thing I noticed about these "infomercials" is the "info" has no commercial value for me. All they want to talk about is diet, diet, diet. Isn't there something more interesting to talk about?

I was watching one "infomercial" and the brazen claim was simply this; if I go on their diet, they guaranteed me that I will look great in a bikini. Really? Why do I want to look great in a bikini? Noticing some of their bikinis, I wear more in the shower and they were wearing on the beach.

No sale for me.

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Instead of getting drowsy I was getting a little frustrated and angry.

The thing that really got me was simply this; their argument was that being "post-thin" (to use my terminology) is not normal. According to them, normal is being so skinny people can count how many bones you have.

Have these people been out in public recently? If skinny is normal, there are not too many around. If they are looking for normal, they need to see that skinny is not normal.

Personally, I get a little weary of people judging me from their cookie-cutter perspective. Maybe, just maybe, skinny is not normal! Maybe, just maybe, I, who lean towards the full figure side of the scale, may be normal. Wouldn't that be a kick in their pants!

Some infomercials tried to sell me some kind of exercise equipment. The only shrinking involved in those infomercials would be with my bank account. They earnestly believe in transferring my wealth into their wealth. I am not in Great Britain so I do not want to lose any British pounds. Of course, if I do buy one of their exercise equipment, I will not have enough money to buy food for the next three months. That would be a sure way to lose weight.

When it comes to diets, my wife is very committed to a balanced diet. The problem is, her concept of a balanced diet and mine are completely different.

For my wife, a balanced diet means a little bit of this and a little bit of that and it had better be green and leafy. If there ever was a vegetable queen in the world, she comes close. She has more vegetables on the table than I could ever identify.

Of course, I am assuming they are vegetables because she calls them vegetables. How am I to know they are actually vegetables? The only thing I guard against is that green tree-like vegetable she calls "broccoli." She has tried sneaking it in and so far, at least to my knowledge, I have avoided any encounter with anything resembling broccoli.

My idea of a balanced diet is simple, all I can balance on my spoon and get into my mouth without dropping it. That, to me, is a balanced diet. I must say I am quite good with my balanced diet. Believe me, it is very hard to balance vegetables on my spoon and I refuse to practice!

Getting back to these infomercials trying to convince me I need to exercise and get on a diet. I would like to inform them I am on what I call the twelve-step program. I have put a lot of thought and planning in this program. There are six steps to the refrigerator and then six steps back to my recliner. This twelve-step program has worked marvelously for me.

As I was watching these infomercials I was not getting sleepy, but I was getting hungry. So, I put my twelve-step program in place and as I was watching the rest of those infomercials, I was eating some nice creamy ice cream along with some crunchy candy and to ease my conscience, a diet soda.

What could be healthier than eating like that while watching some infomercials on dieting and exercise? I think the only exercise I really need is watching those exercising on TV. And the thing I notice about these people exercising on TV, they do not really need to exercise. Everyone seemed to be rather skinny.

But as for me, I want to fit in with the normal people of this world. After all, I would like to show to the world by my "plumpness" that my wife is the greatest cook in the world.

One of my favorite Bible verses is in the Old Testament. "And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the Lord's" (Leviticus 3:16).

If the Lord can handle my size, I need not listen to anybody else.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net or website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

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Larson is triple winner at state



Landon Larson

Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting. ©2015 SDPB

Landon Larson completed his senior year with a triple title at the State A Track Meet held Saturday in Rapid City. Larson won the 100m dash, 200m dash and the 400m dash. Also placing for Groton were the girls 400m Relay team with a seventh place finish, the girls 800m Relay team with an eighth place finish, Audrey Wanner with an eighth place finish in the the long jump, Jackson Doeden with a seventh place finish in the 110m Hurdles and Nick Dalchow with an eighth place finish in the discus.

Groton Area boys placed ninth at state with 33 points while the girls were 31st with four points.

Girls' Division

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: 7, Groton (Courtney Kurtz, Heather Lone, McKenzie Menzia, Harleigh Stange), 52.99. Ran a 52.21 in the prelims. (2 team points)

4x200m Relay: 8, Groton (Courtney Kurtz, Gia Gengerke, Harleigh Stange, McKenzie Menzia), 1:51.97; ran a 1:50.10 in the prelims. (1 team point)

Discus: 17, Carly Wheeting, 79-0.

Shot Put: 9, Tori Bjerke, 34-05.75.

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

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

Boys' Division

100m Dash: 1, Landon Larson, 10.89; ran a 11.03 in the prelims. (10 team points)

200m Dash: 1, Landon Larson, 22.33; ran a 22.47 in the prelims. (10 team points)

400m Dash: 1, Landon Larson, 50.26; ran a 50.07 in the prelims. (10 team points)

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

110m Hurdles: 7, Jackson Doeden, 16.26; ran a 15.48 to place sixth in the prelims. (2 team points).

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)

Shot Put: 15, McLain Lone, 39-11.50.

Today in Weather History

1889 - The Johnstown disaster occurred, the worst flood tragedy in U.S. history. Heavy rains collapsed the South Fork Dam sending a thirty foot wall of water rushing down the already flooded Conemaugh Valley. The wall of water, traveling as fast as twenty-two feet per second, swept away all structures, objects and people. 2100 persons perished in the flood. (David Ludlum)

1941 - Thunderstorms deluged Burlington KS with 12.59 inches of rain to establish a 24 hour rainfall record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1985 - Severe thunderstorms spawned forty-one tornadoes across the Lower Great Lakes Region and southeastern Ontario which killed 74 persons. (Storm Data)

1987 - Thunderstorms in New England produced wind gusts up to 90 mph at Worcester, MA, and Northboro, MA, and hail an inch and a half in diameter at Williston, VT. Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S. The afternoon high of 94 degrees at Portland, ME, was a record for the month of May. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Hot and humid weather prevailed in the eastern U.S. Thirteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Cape Hatteras, NC, reported their first ninety degree day in May in 115 years of records. "Dust buster" thunderstorms in northwest Texas drenched Amarillo with more than three inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather and torrential rains in northern Indiana, northern Ohio and southern Lower Michigan. Saint John IND was drenched with four inches of rain in two hours, and Woodland MI was deluged with two inches in twenty minutes. Pittsburgh PA reported a record 6.55 inches of rain for the month of May, with measurable rain reported on twenty-five days during the month. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms developing along a warm front produced severe weather from northwest Texas to southeastern Louisiana. The thunderstorms spawned sixteen tornadoes, including thirteen in northwest Texas. One tornado hit the town of Spearman, TX, causing more than a million dollars damage, and seven other tornadoes were reported within twenty-five miles of Spearman. Thunderstorms over northwest Texas also produced baseball size hail at Monahans, and wind gusts to 80 mph at Paducah. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
30%				30%	50%	30%
Chance Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Breezy	Breezy	Chance Thunderstorms	Chance Thunderstorms	Chance Thunderstorms
High: 64 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 73 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 81 °F



Showers Moving East This Morning

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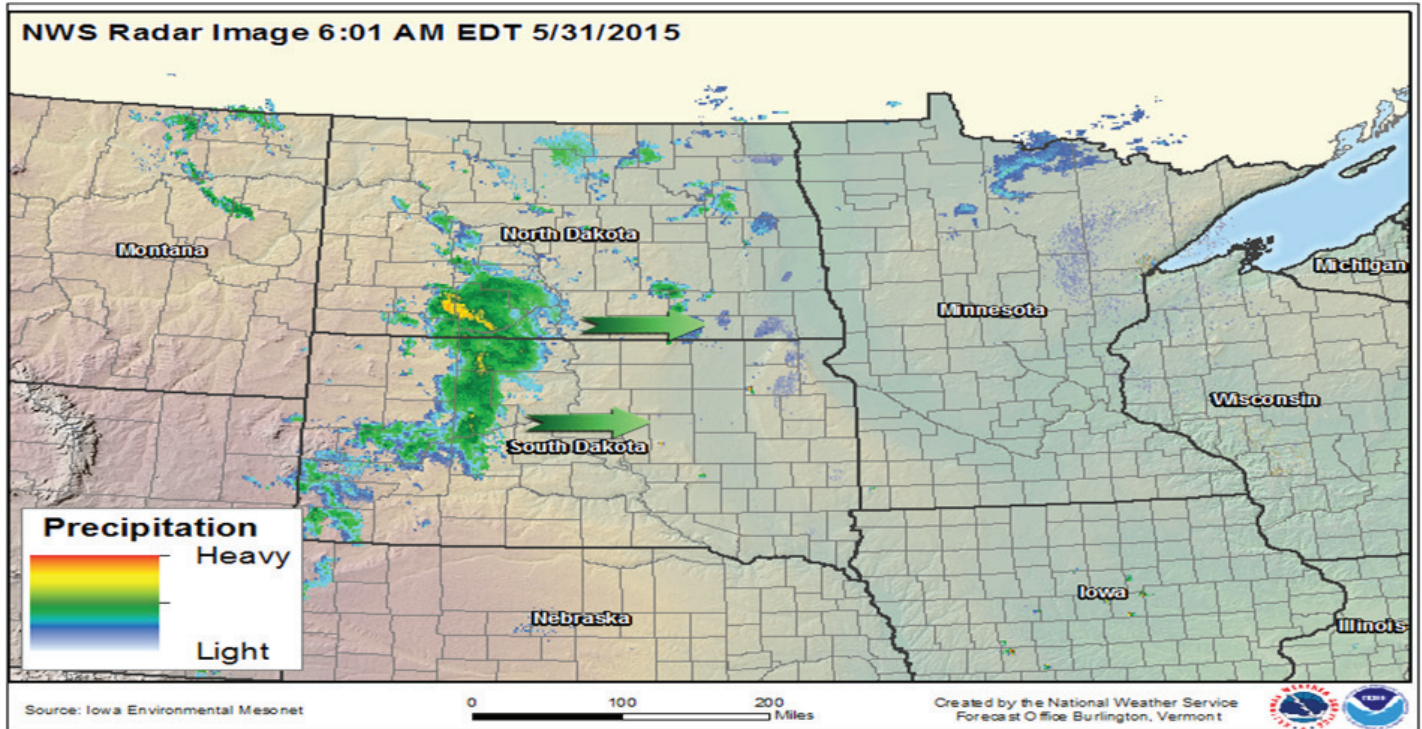
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



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Published on: 05/31/2015 at 5:25AM

An area of showers over western and central South Dakota early this morning will continue moving east over the next several hours as a weak upper level wave of low pressure crosses the Dakotas. Rainfall amounts are expected to be less than a quarter of an inch, but expect some light rain at times this morning as this batch of rain pushes east.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 57.9 at 6:32 PM

Low: 36.2 at 6:12 AM

High Gust: 20 at 5:43 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 100° in 1934

Record Low: 23° in 1897

Average High: 73°F

Average Low: 49°F

Average Precip in May: 3.11

Precip to date in May: 4.08

Average Precip to date: 7.14

Precip Year to Date: 5.72

Sunset Tonight: 9:13 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, May 31, 2015, issued 4:33 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Ryan based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



WHO'S ON THE LORD'S SIDE?

Years ago when Italy went to war there was a shortage of soldiers. To find recruits, one captain went through the villages calling men to fight with him. Many joined him, bringing their own weapons into combat.

One elderly lady was so moved by the sight that she got her broom, placed it on her shoulder and began to march with them.

Many of the soldiers laughed at her. One looked at her and asked, "What good are you, old lady?" "Not much," she replied, "but I want everyone to know whose side I'm on!"

Life requires many choices. But there is no more important choice for each of us than to let the world know whose side we are on. Joshua said, "So honor the Lord and serve Him whole heartedly." He challenged the people to declare their allegiance to God because He had proven His trustworthiness to them.

From simple to significant, we make many choices each day. Not being able to see the future or knowing which direction our lives may take, we must put our trust in the One who does. We must listen to the Lord as He speaks to us through His Word. When we do, it will be easier to make the right choices. Especially if we are on the Lord's side and draw upon His strength.

Prayer: Lord, may we live our lives letting those around us see the depth of our commitment to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Joshua 24:14, 15 But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

News from the Associated Press

Vermillion seeking federal grant for school resource officer

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The police department in Vermillion is seeking a Justice Department grant to continue to have a school resource officer.

Police Chief Matt Betzen tells The Equalizer the department hopes to be awarded the money in October.

Betzen says the department doesn't have a full-time school resource officer. Instead, it sends an officer to schools as long as the officer isn't needed elsewhere.

He says the department has "been able to pull it off" without a full-time school resource officer the last two years because it has been 100 percent staffed. However, Betzen says, staffing levels will change soon because at least one of about five officers who are also enlisted in the National Guard is scheduled for deployment.

Vermillion last received a federal grant to hire an officer in 2009.

SD to pay \$9K to former gubernatorial candidate's attorney

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The state of South Dakota will have to pay more than \$9,000 in fees to the attorney who successfully represented an independent candidate for governor in a lawsuit against a former secretary of state.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Piersol this week ordered the state to pay for the dozens of hours that Sioux Falls attorney Edward Welch spent on the case of former gubernatorial candidate Mike Myers. Myers in August filed the lawsuit after then-Secretary of State Jason Gant declined to change Myers's running mate on the November ballot.

Welch will be paid at an hourly rate of \$85 for 109.5 hours worked. Piersol wrote Welch's fees encompass litigation that spanned roughly a month in time, and that "the complexity of the work was of a moderate magnitude given that South Dakota did not have a law in place controlling the withdrawal and replacement of an Independent gubernatorial candidate."

Myers picked Lora Hubbel as his running mate when his initial choice, Caitlin Collier, had family health issues. After Gant denied adding Hubbel to the ballot, Myers filed the lawsuit and Piersol ended up ordering Gant to certify Hubbel as Myers's running mate.

Gant had denied Myers's request because South Dakota law allows nominees of political parties to be replaced on the ballot, but it does not include such provision for independent candidates.

Gant did not appeal Piersol's decision.

Welch on Saturday said he agreed to represent Myers after finding out that no other attorney wanted to take on the case of his former University of South Dakota law school professor. This was the first case ever for the newly-minted Welch.

"It was an exciting and exhilarating case for me, personally, and I was happy to get a favorable ruling for my client," said Welch, who passed the bar exam in 2014. His hourly rate relative to his experience was commended by the judge.

"...Refreshingly, Welch, as a newly admitted lawyer, charged less than the prevailing rate in this community for an inexperienced lawyer," Piersol wrote. "As a result, there should be no penalty for inexperience as that was fully taken into account in the \$85 an hour rate requested."

The state did not oppose Myers's motion for attorney fees.

Former Corn Palace nominee sues city of Mitchell, mayor

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — The man tapped last year to be the next director of the Corn Palace has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the city and its mayor claiming he was forced to withdraw his name from the job.

The complaint filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Sioux Falls alleges that Steven Koch was hired in October by Mayor Ken Tracy to lead the facility, but was fired on his first day on the job because of what the mayor described as "new developments." Koch accuses the city and Tracy of violating his civil rights, breach of contract, intentional interference with contractual relations, defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

The lawsuit states Koch and Tracy met on Oct. 15 to talk about Koch's hours, salary and benefits. Koch during the meeting indicated he would take the job and Tracy told him he would later be sworn in by city council "as a formality."

The following day, a work email was set up for Koch and he also submitted requested background check information. He also received an email from the city congratulating him for the new job and confirmed his start date as Oct. 31.

Koch had a subsequent meeting with Tracy in which he discussed a conviction for a misdemeanor criminal charge in 2002 that showed up in his background check. According to the lawsuit, "Tracy represented to Koch that his criminal history was not relevant to Koch's hiring."

But during Koch's first day at work, Koch was told he would need to withdraw his name from consideration because there had been "new developments." The city and Tracy then issued a news release disclosing Koch's criminal record and claiming that Koch had "'changed his mind about taking the job' and that Koch had offered 'no particular explanation' for 'withdrawing' his name from consideration" for the position.

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

Tracy told The Daily Republic on Friday that he doesn't feel that either the city or Tracy "did anything inappropriate regarding Mr. Koch's actions."

Koch's attorneys declined to comment on the lawsuit and Mitchell's city attorney Carl Koch could not be reached. No hearing has been scheduled on the case.

Crazy Horse Memorial commemorates 67th anniversary

CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL, S.D. (AP) — Crazy Horse Memorial is commemorating the 67th anniversary of the dedication of the monument with various activities in June.

Wednesday marks the 67th anniversary of the dedication of the Crazy Horse Memorial and the first mountain blast. In celebration, a blast has been scheduled for that day at 11:33 a.m.

A hike to the top of the mountain will take place June 6 and 7. The 30th annual Crazy Horse Volksmarch will offer visitors the rare chance to get as close as possible to the carving.

The 6.2-mile hike takes 2-4 hours to complete, and participants are encouraged to pace themselves due to terrain and peak elevation of nearly 6,500 feet above sea level.

The memorial is a mountain carving in progress that will honor Oglala Lakota warrior Crazy Horse.

AP News in Brief

Beau Biden, former Delaware attorney general, son of Joe Biden, dies of brain cancer at age 46

DOVER, Del. (AP) — He was the privileged son of a longtime U.S. senator and two-term vice president, yet Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III was no stranger to personal adversity.

When he was only 3, just weeks after his father, Joe Biden, had been elected to the Senate, the younger Biden was seriously injured in a 1972 car crash that killed his mother and infant sister. His father was sworn into office at his hospital bedside.

As a young college student, not long after his father's 1987 presidential campaign imploded among allegations of plagiarism, he was back in the hospital, holding vigil with other family members as Joe Biden underwent surgery for a life-threatening aneurysm.

And after launching his own successful political career, Beau Biden was dogged by health problems. In 2010, he suffered a mild stroke at the age of 41.

On Saturday, Beau Biden died of brain cancer, less than two years after he was diagnosed. He was 46.

Senate faces extraordinary Sunday session with key Patriot Act provisions hours from expiring

WASHINGTON (AP) — Key Patriot Act anti-terror provisions, including bulk collection of Americans' phone records, expire at midnight unless senators come up with an 11th hour deal in an extraordinary Sunday afternoon session.

Chances for that look all but nonexistent. GOP Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who is running for president, vowed Saturday to force the bulk phone collection program to expire — and the Senate's complex rules allow him to do just that, at least temporarily.

A House-passed bill backed by the White House that remakes the National Security Agency phone collection program is just three votes short in the Senate. But even if it picks up the needed support despite opposition from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., moving to a final vote requires the assent of all senators. Paul made crystal clear Saturday that he will not go along.

"I will force the expiration of the NSA illegal spy program," Paul said in a statement. "Sometimes when the problem is big enough, you just have to start over."

Paul cannot hold off a final vote indefinitely, just for a few days. But until the impasse is resolved, the NSA will lose its legal authority to collect and search domestic phone records for connections to international terrorists — the once-secret program revealed by agency contractor Edward Snowden.

More heavy rain but no new serious flooding for Houston area; 1 evacuation order lifted

ROSENBERG, Texas (AP) — The seemingly ceaseless rain swept across areas of Texas again on Saturday, bringing fears of renewed flooding but no new serious problems.

At least 31 people have been killed in storms that began in Texas and Oklahoma over Memorial Day weekend. Twenty-seven of the deaths have been in Texas alone, and 11 people were still missing Saturday.

As much as 3½ inches of rain fell Saturday afternoon and evening in Houston. Officials said bayous were responding well and no new evacuations were ordered or recommended in low-lying and river-front areas of Southeast Texas outside the nation's fourth-largest city.

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The Brazos River southwest of Houston was the main area of concern as floodwaters moved from North and Central Texas downstream toward the Gulf of Mexico. Floyd Preston's home in the Houston suburb of Rosenberg is about 100 yards from the flooded river and three houses from a police barricade marking the evacuation zone.

"I'm going to stay for the time being. This is not the first time for a flood. One way or another, when your time comes, it could be on dry land or water," the 66-year-old said as he was trimming his lawn, adding that the closest floodwaters had gotten in the past was about 50 yards away.

Government watchdog says former Nazis collected \$20.2 million in US Social Security benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a forthcoming report triggered by an Associated Press investigation, the top watchdog at the Social Security Administration found the agency paid \$20.2 million in benefits to more than 130 suspected Nazi war criminals, SS guards, and others who may have participated in the Third Reich's atrocities during World War II.

The report, scheduled for public release this week and obtained by the AP, used computer-processed data and other internal agency records to develop a comprehensive picture of the total number of Nazi suspects who received benefits and the dollar amounts paid out. The Social Security Administration last year refused AP's request for those figures.

The payments are far greater than previously estimated and occurred between February 1962 and January 2015, when a new law called the No Social Security for Nazis Act kicked in and ended retirement payments for four beneficiaries. The report does not include the names of any Nazi suspects who received benefits.

The large amount of the benefits and their duration illustrate how unaware the American public was of the influx of Nazi persecutors into the U.S., with estimates ranging as high as 10,000. Many lied about their Nazi pasts to get into the U.S. and even became American citizens. They got jobs and said little about what they did during the war.

Yet the U.S. was slow to react. It wasn't until 1979 that a special Nazi-hunting unit, the Office of Special Investigations, was created within the Justice Department.

The ultimate tourist trap? North Korea wants to woo millions to 'socialist fairyland'

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — If you're still looking for somewhere exotic to go this summer and don't mind a vacation that comes with a heavy dose of socialist propaganda and leader worship, North Korea says it's just the place for you.

Fresh off a drastic, half-year ban that closed North Korea's doors to virtually all foreigners over fears they would spread the Ebola virus — despite the fact that there were no cases of Ebola reported anywhere in Asia — the country is once again determined to show off its "socialist fairyland" to tourists.

The focus on tourism is the blessing of Kim Jong Un himself and, in typical fashion, officials have set lofty goals in their effort to please their leader.

About 100,000 tourists came to North Korea last year, all but a few thousand of them from neighboring China.

Kim Sang Hak, a senior economist at the influential Academy of Social Sciences, told The Associated Press the North hopes that by around 2017, there will be 10 times as many tourists and that the number will hit 2 million by 2020.

12 hurt in Japan quake as life returns to normal

TOKYO (AP) — Twelve people suffered minor injuries and businesses returned to normal Sunday after a powerful earthquake near remote Japanese islands shook most of the country the previous night, but it was well beneath the earth's surface and did not trigger a tsunami.

The magnitude-7.8 quake struck off the Ogasawara islands Saturday night at a depth of 678 kilometers (421 miles), the U.S. Geological Survey said.

It was followed by a magnitude-6.4 quake Sunday morning off Japan's Izu islands, which are north of the Ogasawaras.

The latest quake struck at a depth of 8 miles (13 kilometers) with the epicenter 390 miles (630 kilometers) southeast of Tokyo. It was not strong enough to generate a tsunami warning or close enough to the islands to cause any significant damage or injuries, said John Bellini, a USGS geophysicist in Golden, Colorado. He said it is considered a separate seismic event and not an aftershock from Saturday's quake.

Saturday night's temblor was powerful enough to rattle most of Japan, from the southern islands of Okinawa to Hokkaido in the north. It caused buildings to sway in Tokyo — about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) north of the Ogasawara islands — and temporarily disrupted some train services in the city. About 400 houses in Saitama prefecture, just north of the capital, were without power, according to the Tokyo Electric Power Co.

92-year-old seeks to set records as oldest woman to complete marathon in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A 92-year-old cancer survivor is seeking to become the oldest woman to finish a marathon.

Harriette Thompson of Charlotte, North Carolina, is set to compete in the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in San Diego on Sunday.

"I have no idea if I'm going to be able to do it, but I'm going to try," Thompson said at a news conference on Friday.

It will be her 16th time running it, and last year she set a record when she finished the race in 7 hours, 7 minutes and 42 seconds, beating the previous record for a woman 90 or older by more than an hour and a half.

Thompson is a two-time cancer survivor who dealt with the loss of her husband and a staph infection in her legs while training for this year's race.

Chicago style: Toews leads Blackhawks into Stanley Cup Finals with 5-3 Game 7 win over Ducks

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Jonathan Toews and the Chicago Blackhawks dealt with Game 7 pressure in the same way they've handled just about everything during their incredible seven-year playoff run.

Like champions.

And after ending a remarkable Western Conference finals with a blowout victory, the Blackhawks get another chance to raise the Stanley Cup.

Toews scored two goals in the opening minutes, Corey Crawford made 35 saves and Chicago roared into the Stanley Cup Finals with a 5-3 victory over the Anaheim Ducks on Saturday night.

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Brandon Saad, Marian Hossa and Brent Seabrook also scored for the Blackhawks, who will play for their third NHL championship in six seasons when they face the Tampa Bay Lightning beginning Wednesday night in Florida.

Oldest living Cubs player Lennie Merullo dies at 98, was in 1945 World Series at Wrigley Field

CHICAGO (AP) — Lennie Merullo, the oldest former member of the Chicago Cubs and the last living person to play for them in the World Series, died Saturday. He was 98.

Cubs owner Tom Ricketts said in a statement that Merullo died earlier in the day. The team didn't include details of Merullo's death.

Merullo was a major league shortstop from 1941-47, all with the Cubs. He hit .240 with six home runs and 152 RBIs.

Merullo played three games in the 1945 World Series and went 0 for 2. The Cubs lost in seven games to Detroit, and haven't made it back to the Series since then.

Last June, Merullo traveled from his home in Massachusetts and returned to Wrigley Field as part of the ballpark's 100th celebration.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, May 31, the 151st day of 2015. There are 214 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 31, 1935, movie studio 20th Century Fox was created through a merger of the Fox Film Corp. and Twentieth Century Pictures.

On this date:

In 1669, English diarist Samuel Pepys (peeps) wrote the final entry of his journal, blaming his failing eyesight for his inability to continue.

In 1790, President George Washington signed into law the first U.S. copyright act.

In 1889, some 2,200 people in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, perished when the South Fork Dam holding back Lake Conemaugh collapsed, sending 20 million tons of water rushing through the town.

In 1910, the Union of South Africa was founded.

In 1949, former State Department official and accused spy Alger Hiss went on trial in New York, charged with perjury (the jury deadlocked, but Hiss was convicted in a second trial).

In 1961, South Africa became an independent republic as it withdrew from the British Commonwealth.

In 1962, former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann was hanged in Israel a few minutes before midnight for his role in the Holocaust.

In 1977, the trans-Alaska oil pipeline, three years in the making, was completed.

In 1985, 88 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured when 41 tornadoes swept through parts of Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and Ontario, Canada, during an 8-hour period.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush welcomed Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to Washington for a summit meeting. The situation comedy "Seinfeld" began airing as a regular series on NBC.

In 1994, the United States announced it was no longer aiming long-range nuclear missiles at targets in the former Soviet Union.

In 2000, the reality TV show "Survivor" first debuted on CBS (the winner of the premiere series was Richard Hatch).

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Ten years ago: Breaking a silence of 30 years, former FBI official W. Mark Felt stepped forward as "Deep Throat," the secret Washington Post source during the Watergate scandal. President George W. Bush, faced with a string of setbacks on Capitol Hill, shrugged off questions about his political clout and promised during a news conference to keep pushing Congress for a Social Security overhaul. Oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky (mih-hah-EEL' khoh-dohr-KAHV'-skee), once Russia's richest man, was convicted of charges including fraud and tax evasion and sentenced to nine years in prison. (He was pardoned by President Vladimir Putin in 2013.)

Five years ago: Israeli commandos stormed six ships carrying hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists on an aid mission to the blockaded Gaza Strip; eight Turkish activists and one Turkish-American were killed aboard one vessel, with each side accusing the other of starting the violence. Al-Qaida announced that its No. 3 official, Mustafa al-Yazid, had been killed along with members of his family. (A U.S. official said al-Yazid was believed to have died in a U.S. missile strike.) Artist Louise Bourgeois, 98, died in New York. Chris Haney, 59, co-creator of the popular Trivial Pursuit board game, died in Toronto.

One year ago: Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, the only American soldier held prisoner in Afghanistan, was freed by the Taliban in exchange for five Afghan detainees from the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. (Bergdahl, who'd gone missing in June 2009, was later charged with desertion and misbehavior before the enemy.) A private Gulfstream IV jet went off a runway and crashed while trying to take off from Hanscom Field in Bedford, Massachusetts, killing Philadelphia Inquirer co-owner Lewis Katz and six other people. Death claimed entertainment columnist Marilyn Beck, 85, and Academy Award-nominated actress Martha Hyer, 89.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Clint Eastwood is 85. Singer Peter Dinklage is 77. Former Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite is 76. Singer-musician Augie Meyers is 75. Actress Sharon Gless is 72. Football Hall-of-Famer Joe Namath is 72. Actor Tom Berenger is 65. Actor Gregory Harrison is 65. Actor Julio Oscar Mechoso is 60. Actor Kyle Secor is 58. Actress Roma Maffia (ma-FEE'-uh) is 57. Comedian Chris Elliott is 55. Actress Lea Thompson is 54. Singer Corey Hart is 53. Actor Hugh Dillon is 52. Rapper DMC is 51. Actress Brooke Shields is 50. Country musician Ed Adkins (The Derailers) is 48. TV host Phil Keoghan is 48. Jazz musician Christian McBride is 43. Actress Archie Panjabi is 43. Actor Colin Farrell is 39. Rock musician Scott Klopfenstein (Reel Big Fish) is 38. Actor Eric Christian Olsen is 38. Rock musician Andy Hurley (Fall Out Boy) is 35. Country singer Casey James (TV: "American Idol") is 33. Actor Jonathan Tucker is 33. Rapper Waka Flocka Flame is 29. Actor Curtis Williams Jr. is 28. Pop singer Normani Hamilton (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 19.

Thought for Today: "They that approve a private opinion, call it opinion; but they that dislike it, heresy; and yet heresy signifies no more than private opinion." - Thomas Hobbes, English political philosopher (1588-1679).