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Tuesday, June 16

Anniversary: Pat & Lora McMahon.

Birthdays: Gavin Voss, Harry Pharis Jr., Virginia Abeln, Steve McKiver, Amy Brown, Marlys Torguson, Dustin Hendrickson, Maryn Howard, Paul Winther.

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle casserole, beets, Swedish apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

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

Noon: Olive Grove Noon Bridge

6:15 p.m.: Olive Grove Ladies Golf Night

8:00am: Elementary Library open (Maggie Simon reading at 10 am)

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

6:00pm: T-Ball Gold at Ferney

Wednesday, June 17

Birthdays: Jesse Morehouse, Martha Farnen, Abigail Flihs, Elise Joy Ferrell, Jim Bahr, Kristopher Oleson.

Senior Menu: BBQ chicken, rosemary red potatoes, old fashioned slaw, strawberry Jell-O dessert, whole wheat bread.

6:00 p.m.: Olive Grove Men's League

Hoops Reunion

The John and Mary Hoops family reunion will be held on June 28th at the Groton Community Center. The pot-luck dinner is at 12:30, with chicken and drinks being provided.

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

OPEN HOUSE BRIDAL SHOWER

In Honor of
Jen Steen

Future Bride of Tim Hauer
Daughter of Jeff & LuAnn Steen
Saturday, June 20th
9:30 – 11:30

SEAS Catholic Church - Groton
The couple is registered at
Target & Herbergers

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**



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Electric rates are comparable

Groton's electric rates are not out of line, compared to other companies across South Dakota and Minnesota. City Finance Officer Anita Lowary reported at the city council meeting Monday night that rates in Minnesota range from 12.5 cents to 19 cents per KWH and from 8.5 cents to 12 cents in South Dakota. Groton's rate is 9.7 cents per KWH. Heartland is proposing a 5 percent increase over the next three years. Heartland supplies the supplemental power to Groton.

So far, the new pool slide cost is \$26,162.44. The expenses are as follows: \$3,000 for the slide from Huron, \$2,211.28 to Johnson Trucking and Patios Plus for moving the slide, \$5,435.88 to Patios Plus for footings, \$358.64 to Specialty Manufacturing for metal, \$498.32 to Macs, S & S Lumber and Fastenel for bolts, \$3,180 to Hutterville HB for sandblasting, \$4,874.74 to Powercoat of Watertown for powdercoating the metal part of the slide, \$518 for signs from Miracle and Fordham Signs, \$302.55 to American Floor Mat for grip tape and sealer for the steps, \$384.78 to S & S Lumber, Dakota Supply and HD Supply for piping and fittings, \$598.25 to Locke Electric for wiring, and estimate of \$4,800 to Vosika for the fence work.

A request from Dion Bahr for a Motorcycle run for June 27th around 11 a.m. was approved.

There is consideration of aerial spraying over the golf course for mosquito control. Ryan Gengerke will be doing the spraying. The city council gave the okay to have it done. The Olive Grove Golf Course Association will be paying for it.

After an executive session, the council voted to hire Brian Gravatt at \$10 an hour. Kathy Bjerke will get extra pay for coaching a third softball team. She was originally hired for two teams. Her pay will be \$2,675.00.

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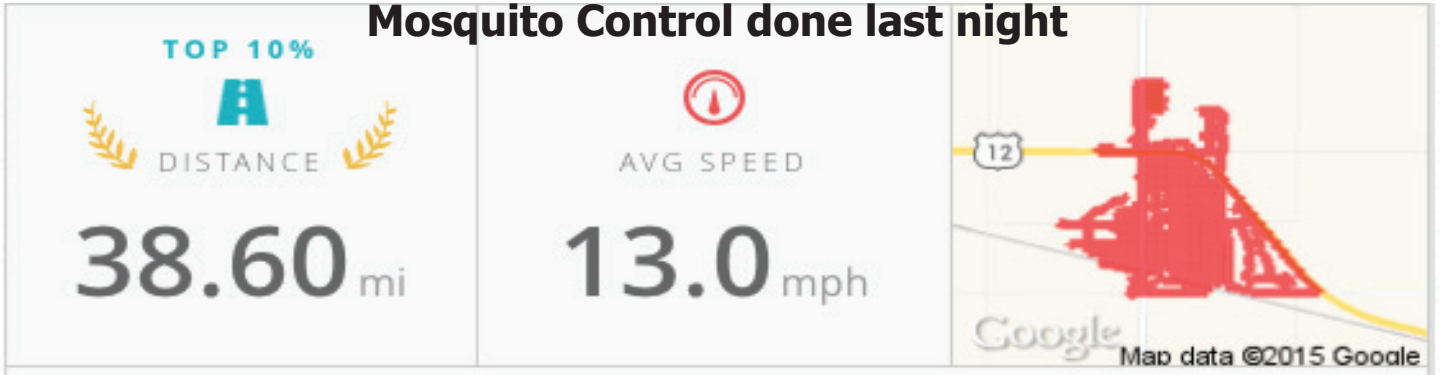
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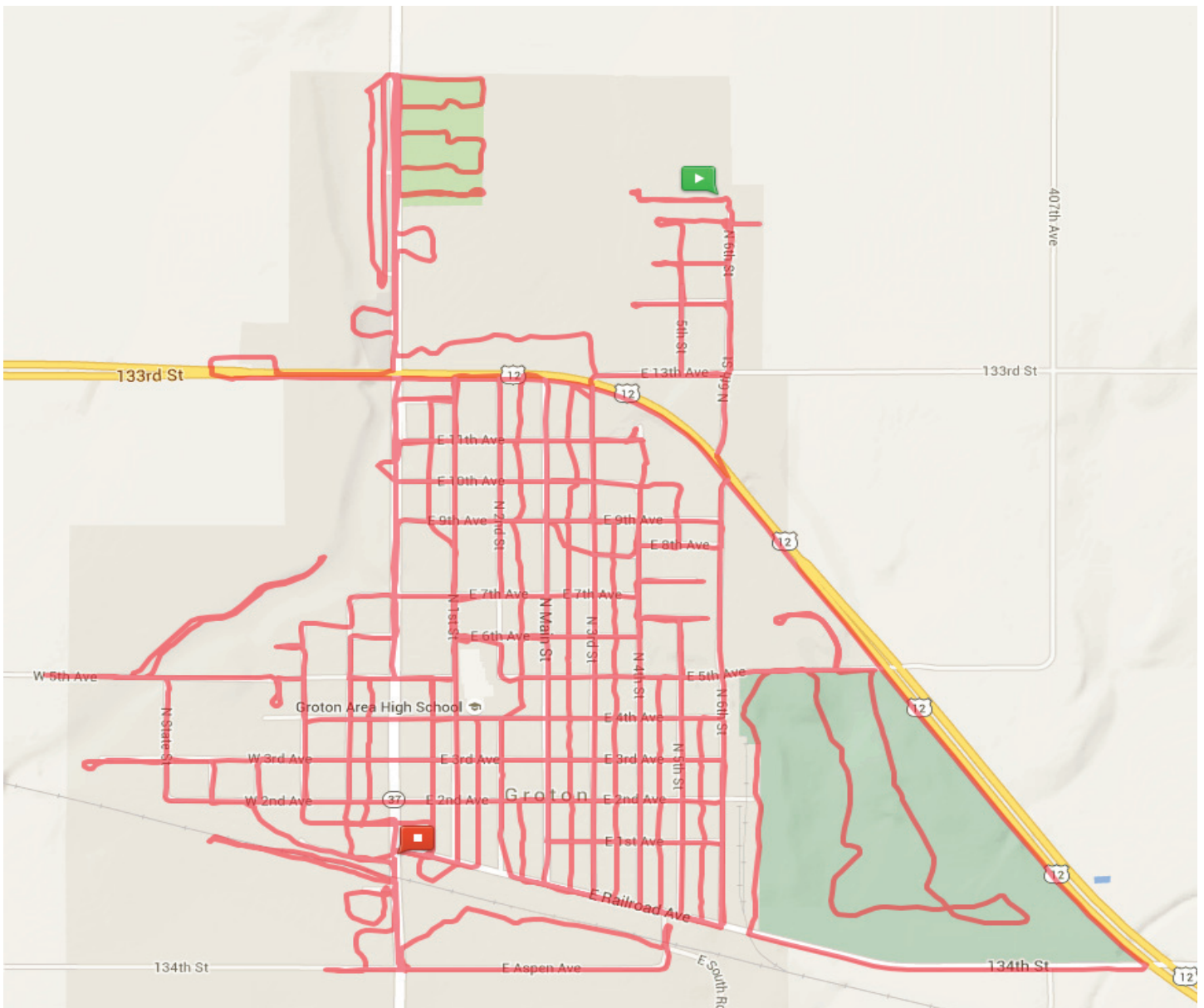
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Mosquito Control done last night



June 15, 2015 - 2:58.02 ~ 10.3 Gallons ~ NNE 3-5 ~ 61 degrees



May Showers Bring Fungi

Column by David F. Graper, SDSU Extension Horticulture Specialist & South Dakota Master Gardener Program Interim Coordinator

Spring is a time when many intrepid mushroom hunters head out to their secret spots in search of mushrooms, particularly the highly prized morels. Morel mushrooms are especially desirable for their delicious taste and also because they are relatively rare, at least in the prairie where we live.

Morel mushrooms prefer to grow in hardwood forests, usually around the stumps of old dead trees, especially American elm. Here in South Dakota, they may be found along the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers as well. Since we don't have many hardwood forests and most of the elms are long gone, finding morels can be pretty challenging. If someone does find some, they will probably keep their location a secret, kind of like that favorite fishing-hole or that productive patch of wild asparagus.

How to identify a morel from other mushrooms

Morels are only found for a few weeks in the spring of the year, usually after a good soaking rain. They can be found by the dozens in a good spot, essentially growing up overnight. They typically grow about 2 to 5-inches tall and are about 1 to 2-inches in diameter. The brown or gray caps have a distinctive wavy, brain-like appearance. If you cut one in half from top to bottom it should be completely hollow inside.

If all of these characteristics match up with what you find, then you can be pretty sure that you have morels. But, if the mushrooms you find are filled with feathery membranes inside or you find something that sort of looks like a morel but you don't find it until mid-summer or fall, it is not a morel.

Morels are considered to be one of the "fool-proof-four" of wild mushrooms since the identifying characteristics are quite straight forward.

Shaggy Mane

Another mushroom that is easily identified and also one of the fool-proof-four are the Shaggy Mane mushrooms. They are common in lawns, growing to 6-inches in height and up to 2-inches in diameter. The surface of the caps look "shaggy" because they have scales of tissue that hang off the side. The caps are densely filled with gills that start out white but later turn gray, then to black as they age. Shaggy mane mushrooms will appear in small, somewhat loosely spaced clusters.

Inky caps are smaller mushrooms and even more common in lawns, again around the stumps of old trees or even close to where a stump was ground out. The fungus feeds on the decaying roots beneath the soil. These too will pop up overnight following a good rain. These emerge in clusters of tightly bunched small mushrooms about 1-inch in diameter in groups 3 to 6-inches around.

Initially the caps are white but later turn tan to light brown. Beneath the caps are gills that start out white but later turn gray and eventually black. The name "inky cap" refers to the dark color of the gills and that after a few days these patches of mushrooms turn into an inky-black mass of desiccated mushrooms.

The shaggy manes are considered to be quite edible but should be harvested and eaten while they are young and the gills are still white. If you harvest some, it is best to eat them right away because you cannot store them for long or they will deteriorate into the same inky mess they become in your lawn. The inky caps can also be eaten but with caution. One species can cause poisoning symptoms if eaten within 24 hours of consuming alcohol. So it is best to probably stick with the much larger shaggy manes.

Most people consider inky caps a real eye-sore in their lawn leading to lots of questions on how to get rid of them. Since the mycelium or "body" of the mushroom is actually beneath the soil, growing through and feeding on the decaying old roots and stumps of dead trees, getting rid of them permanently is no easy task. It would likely mean a large-scale excavation process to get out all of the old wood and even then they might come back for a year or two. The best thing to do is use a stiff rake to get them out of the lawn and dispose of them.

Puffballs and chicken-of-the-woods

The other two mushrooms considered to be members of the fool-proof-four are the puffballs and chicken-of-the-woods mushrooms.

Chicken-of-the-woods is a shelf-type mushroom that grows on the sides of trees, usually mid-summer

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to fall. It is bright yellow to orange and has pores on the undersides of the shelves instead of gills like the shaggy manes have.

Try to harvest this mushroom when it is young, brightly colored and has a soft texture. As it ages the color pales and the mushroom develops a tough texture. Some people say that it does taste like chicken when cooked.

The fourth mushroom is the puffball. This mushroom is also fairly common mid-summer to fall. You may find them growing in your lawn or shelterbelt. They can range in size from that of a golf ball to a basketball. These are completely white inside and out when they first grow but will turn tan and eventually brown as they age.

Harvest them while they are still white. Peel off the outer layer, then slice up the inner "meat." The texture of these is kind of like eggplant, and like eggplant, it picks up the flavor of what it is cooked with. When fully mature and dried out puffballs develop a hole near the top. If you kick them at this stage you will see clouds of spores fly out.

When in doubt, throw out

Even though we say these are the fool-proof four, one should always be careful and follow some of the old sayings like: "when in doubt, throw it out" or "there are old mushroom hunters; there are bold mushroom hunters; but there are no old, bold mushroom hunters."

Wild mushrooms can certainly be delicious but there also those that are considered non-edible because of texture or flavor and then there are those that are mildly poisonous to deadly.

Never eat anything that you are not sure of. Even if you are sure, but have not eaten a particular mushroom before, start with a small amount and see how it affects you. You might just be allergic or have a reaction to a particular species, just as some people have various food allergies.

But what if you do not live near a forest or have time to go hunting for mushrooms? Maybe you really love eating mushrooms and want something more than the basic white button mushrooms or portabellas that you may find in your local grocery store. Maybe growing some of your own would be an interesting project to try and yield some fresh and delicious mushrooms to add to your favorite recipes.

SDSU research into growing mushrooms

Casey Snyder, an undergraduate Horticulture student, is conducting a research project on growing a few saprophytic (wood consuming) mushrooms. Fresh gourmet mushrooms are rare in the United States and are a highly prized commodity in the culinary world.

Among the mushrooms considered gourmet, Shiitake and Oyster are the most commercially grown. Snyder's project focuses on these two species of mushroom based on commonality, consumer demand, and ease of growth.

The preferred method used for growing Shiitake and Oyster mushrooms is to collect and then inoculate manageable sized wood logs, typically 4 to 6-inches in diameter, with mushroom mycelial spawn.

Logs are inoculated by drilling holes in a diamond pattern using a 7/16th inch drill bit, filling open holes with prepared spawn, and waxing over exposed wood to seal in the spawn and moisture. Some species of mushrooms have spawn that is growing on dowels that are pounded into the logs.

Prepared logs are then handled gently and laid in shelterbelts, stacked in sheds, or propped against railings in designated growing sites. These sites should be shaded and cool, but still allow for air movement and ventilation to prevent mold. Logs inoculated in the spring, may fruit in late summer or fall but are more likely to fruit the next spring, then again in the fall. Fruiting may continue in the spring then again in the fall for 3 to 5 years but is generally best in years 2 to 3. The duration of fruiting depends on temperature and humidity and the condition of the logs.

There are many different methods of creating mycelia spawn from mushroom spores. Casey is using a commercially available sawdust spawn that is typically more economical than some other types of spawn. The inoculated logs will be weighed and sprinkled with water when humidity is low. The logs are very low maintenance between inoculation and harvest as the mycelium needs time to establish in the log before fruiting. During this time the mycelium is consuming nutrients and starches inside the logs and ultimately preparing itself for reproduction. This is referred to as the incubation stage of mushroom production. The

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edible mushrooms that are harvested and consumed are the product of this process.

This project aims to discover profitability and practicality of cultivating mushrooms in South Dakota. About 1.7 million acres or 3% of South Dakota's total land area is forest land. Many residents of the state have access to woodland areas, including wood lots and shelterbelts. Rural residents often plant trees that are recommended by South Dakota State Extension and Conservation specialists. There are several programs available through the South Dakota Game, Fish, & Parks, as well as the Department of Natural Resources and the Conservation & Forestry Department of South Dakota, that pay landowners to establish woody habitat for many wildlife species, including nongame wildlife. The State recommends a number of trees to plant in shelterbelts, including: Bur Oak, Crabapple, Black Hills Spruce, Cottonwood, Green Ash, and many others. While most of the trees used for shelterbelts are very hardy for our climate, they still require management from a young age (watering, weeding, fertilizing) to an advanced age (pruning, thinning, and weed tree removal). Weed trees that are commonly found seeded in established shelterbelts include: Common Buckthorn, Sumac, and others. Each tree specifically named in this section will be used in this project to test the viability of mushroom growth on South Dakota shelterbelt trees. Many of these trees can be cultivated or sourced in cities as well.

The local foods movement is one that can be profitable and beneficial to communities. Small scale farmers provide a variety of products to consumers from vegetables and fruits to value-added goods like jellies and maple syrup. Consumers desire locally grown products at a reasonable price and mushrooms are a unique product that can capture their attention by novelty, nutrition, and price.

This project will work in conjunction with a local foods producer, Foodtopia Farms, in Toronto, S.D. This producer serves local counties and the state through the South Dakota Local Foods Cooperative. Marketability and production of mushrooms has been very successful in nearby Minnesota and is promising throughout this state. It is speculated that demand for gourmet mushrooms will be a sustainable venture and allow consumers to have regularly stocked, fresh, and locally produced gourmet mushrooms seasonally.

There are other smaller-scale options for a home grower as well. Mushroom growing kits are available for a variety of mushroom species. Basically the kit includes mushroom spawn or mycelium that is growing in sawdust or some other growing media. Generally you open the bag and moisten the growing media to help get the mycelium to grow and begin fruiting. In a short time you should have mushrooms growing out of the medium that you can harvest and enjoy.



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Trees Suffer During Prolonged Drought

Drier than normal conditions are stifling much of the nation this summer, especially California, and the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook predicts there is little chance for improvement. What can homeowners do to keep their trees healthy during hotter, drier summer months?

"While it's impossible to keep every tree in good health in times of severe drought, taking a proactive approach for a prized or sentimental tree can prevent damage," recommends Tchukki Andersen, CTSP, BCMA* and staff arborist with the Tree Care Industry Association. "A tree that is supported with good cultural practices, proactive monitoring for pests and disease, and responses to warning signs will have an increased chance of survival."

Silent Suffering: Drought damage starts beneath the soil line, in the form of root damage, long before any outward signs of trouble. After a tree's unsuccessful attempt to conserve water by closing leaf stomates, its feeder roots die back, sometimes so drastically that the tree is unable to absorb enough water to support itself. Such drought stress may lead to tree death, but usually the signs of stress are much less dramatic. "Leaves are undersized and may wilt, yellow, curl or crinkle, and may be marginally scorched or even turn brown and drop early," explains Andersen. "Emergent shoots are short. In an effort to right the imbalance caused by root-loss, crown dieback or a general thinning of the canopy occurs."

Opportunistic pests and diseases: This is when "opportunistic" pests make their move. Boring insects are thought to be drawn to the chemical and acoustic signals of stressed trees. The sound of the tree's breaking water columns cues the borer to invade the tree and lay eggs. Andersen recommends applying a 3-inch layer of composted wood chip mulch on the ground over the root zone at least out to the drip line (the ground under the outer edge of the branch spread). This will hold moisture longer for stressed roots to access, and will provide a long-term nutritional source for the soil. Prized or important trees may be protected from wood-boring insects with spray or injection chemicals, but they should be treated before becoming drought-stressed.

Stressed trees are also vulnerable to fungal pathogens. Andersen notes that when a chemical change in the tree signals a weakened state, certain pathogens penetrate the bark and cambial zone (tissues responsible for secondary growth of stems and roots) with fan-like, leathery clumps, cutting off the tree's water supply.

While all trees are at risk during long periods of drought, some are more susceptible to its effects. New transplants are highly vulnerable to drought stress, so supplemental watering for the first few years of establishment is necessary, to the extent that it is allowed. Trees already under stress, such as those on dry slopes, surrounded by pavement or improperly planted, are at high risk of decline.

Watering trees deeply with soaker hoses or irrigation systems - as opposed to brief, surface watering - helps sustain trees. But with so many trees affected and a water ban in effect for much of California, Andersen recommends watering only those trees that you can help. How much water a home landscape needs depends upon its soil, sun and shade exposure, types of plants, irrigation system and local climate. How much water a tree requires is also dependent on its species. Applying the right amount of water, based on the local weather and the tree's actual need, is the key to using water efficiently. Water trees and lawn separately, providing what each needs specifically.

What else can be done under local water restrictions?

Mulch: 3-inch layer out to the drip line. (see more above)

Reduce or eliminate the use of high-nitrogen fertilizers. High-nitrogen fertilizers contain salts that can damage stressed tree tissues. Also, nitrogen fertilizers push new tree growth, which can exhaust tree energy when stressed.

Prune out only dead wood to reduce attacks by insect and disease pests. Do not remove live tree tissues until tree health improves.

Prevent any further stress from construction activities, lawn herbicide applications, or foot-traffic over the root zone.

Outlook: The aftereffects of drought may last three to five years, with the strongest trees surviving. Trees have developed their own mechanisms for coping with these cycles, but some trees are on the brink of survival and could go either way. "If it means the difference between keeping a tree around for your lifetime or losing it in the next five years," Andersen says, "it's worth doing something about."

Today in Weather History

June 16, 1915: A tornado swept over a narrow path in Hughes, Hyde, and Hand counties during the afternoon hours. This tornado caused several thousands of dollars in property damage and seriously injured a number of people. Luckily there were no fatalities reported.

June 16, 1992: An F3 tornado caused major destruction as it moved northeast across the northwestern side of Ft. Thompson. The tornado virtually destroyed the Lake Sharpe Visitor Center. In Ft. Thompson, the tornado destroyed at least 4 homes and 15 mobile homes were damaged, leaving about 55 persons homeless. Eight people were injured, two of them seriously. The storm also destroyed other buildings, six 50,000 bushel grain bins, and four high voltage towers from Big Bend Dam. At the Shady Bend campground, 19 campers and several boats were destroyed.

Also, heavy rains fell over a three day period beginning on the 15th. The hardest hit area was in Clear Lake where the three day total was 11.53 inches. As a result, wall of water up to 15 feet high swept down creeks in the Clear Lake area. The resultant flash flooding went through first floors of many houses and even filled basements of houses on hills. The wave of water hit a car that was occupied by a woman and her son. The water spun them around as they floated about 200 yards. The car finally grounded without any reported injuries. All roads into Clear Lake were cut off as the town became completely surrounded by water. Officials in Deuel County estimated at least 37 bridges and culverts were destroyed. Other three day rainfall totals include; 6.35 inches in Conde; 5.99 in Castlewood; 4.91 inches 2NW of Big Stone City; 4.90 in Redfield; and 4.65 inches at Artichoke Lake.

June 16, 2009: A strong upper low pressure area brought several supercell thunderstorms which produced severe weather across parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail up to 2 inches in diameter, several tornadoes, along with flash flooding occurred with these storms. Slow moving thunderstorms brought very heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches in and around Aberdeen causing extensive road flooding throughout the city. Dozens of basements were flooded and damaged along with some sewer backups. Many vehicles became stalled with the police sent out to direct traffic. There were also some power outages. A tornado touched down briefly northwest of Lebanon in Potter County with no damage occurring. A tornado touched down southeast of Polo in Hand County, in an open field. No damage occurred. Heavy rains of 3 to over 5 inches caused flash flooding of several roads and crops in north central and northeast Spink County. Heavy rains from 3 to 6 inches fell across southeast Brown County bringing flash flooding. Many roads were flooded and damaged along with many acres of cropland. A tornado touched down in southeast Hand County and remained on the ground for nearly 15 minutes before lifting. No damage occurred with this tornado as it remained in open country.


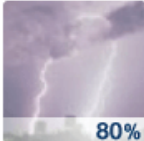





June 16, 2010: Very strong winds were observed during the evening hours in Dewey County, South Dakota. Three weather stations near Lantry observed winds from 101 to 142 mph. One station recorded a 101 mph wind before it was destroyed. The other two stations recorded 131 mph and 142 mph winds. The winds destroyed an airplane hangar and badly damaged another one. Several semi-trailers were also tipped over and damaged by the very high winds.

1806: Great American total solar eclipse occurred from California to Massachusetts with nearly five-minute in duration.

1896: A tsunami ravages the coast of Japan killing between 22,000 and 27,000 people. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
 90%	 80%				 40%	 50%
Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms	Decreasing Clouds	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Chance Thunderstorms	Chance Thunderstorms
High: 64 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 82 °F

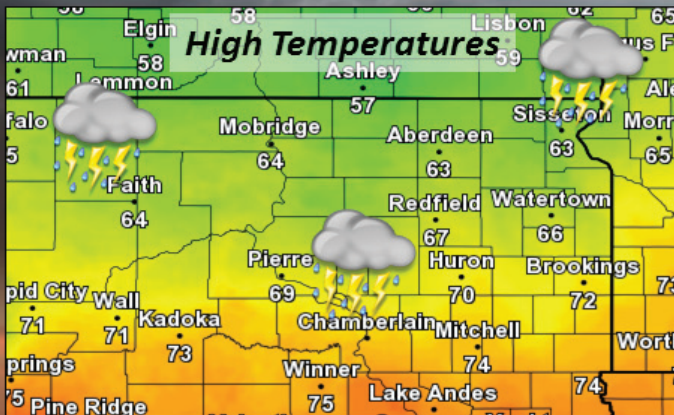
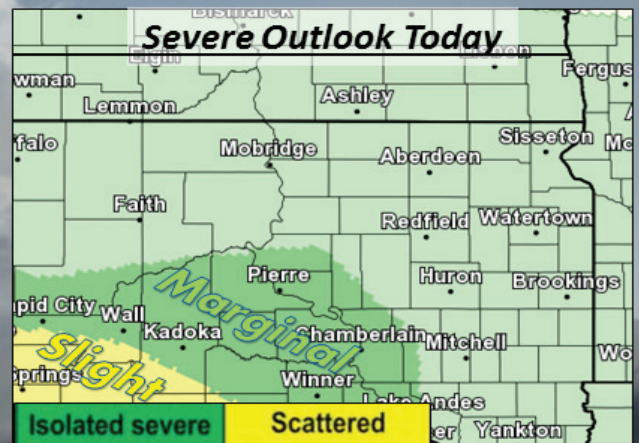


Showers & Thunderstorms Today





Headlines

- Fairly widespread showers and thunderstorms are expected across the region
- Localized heavy rainfall possible with the stronger storms
- Isolated severe storm potential south of I-90 late this afternoon



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen | Updated: 6/16/2015 4:39 AM Central

Published on: 06/16/2015 at 4:40AM

Fairly widespread showers and thunderstorms are expected across the region today. Overall just run of the mill storms are expected, with localized heavy rain the main threat. However strong or possibly severe storms could develop across southwest or south central South Dakota later this afternoon, mainly for areas south of I-90.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 74.6 at 2:37 PM

Low: 53.7 at 5:41 AM

High Gust: 27 at 4:54 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 109° in 1933

Record Low: 34° in 1903

Average High: 78°F

Average Low: 54°F

Average Precip in June: 1.94

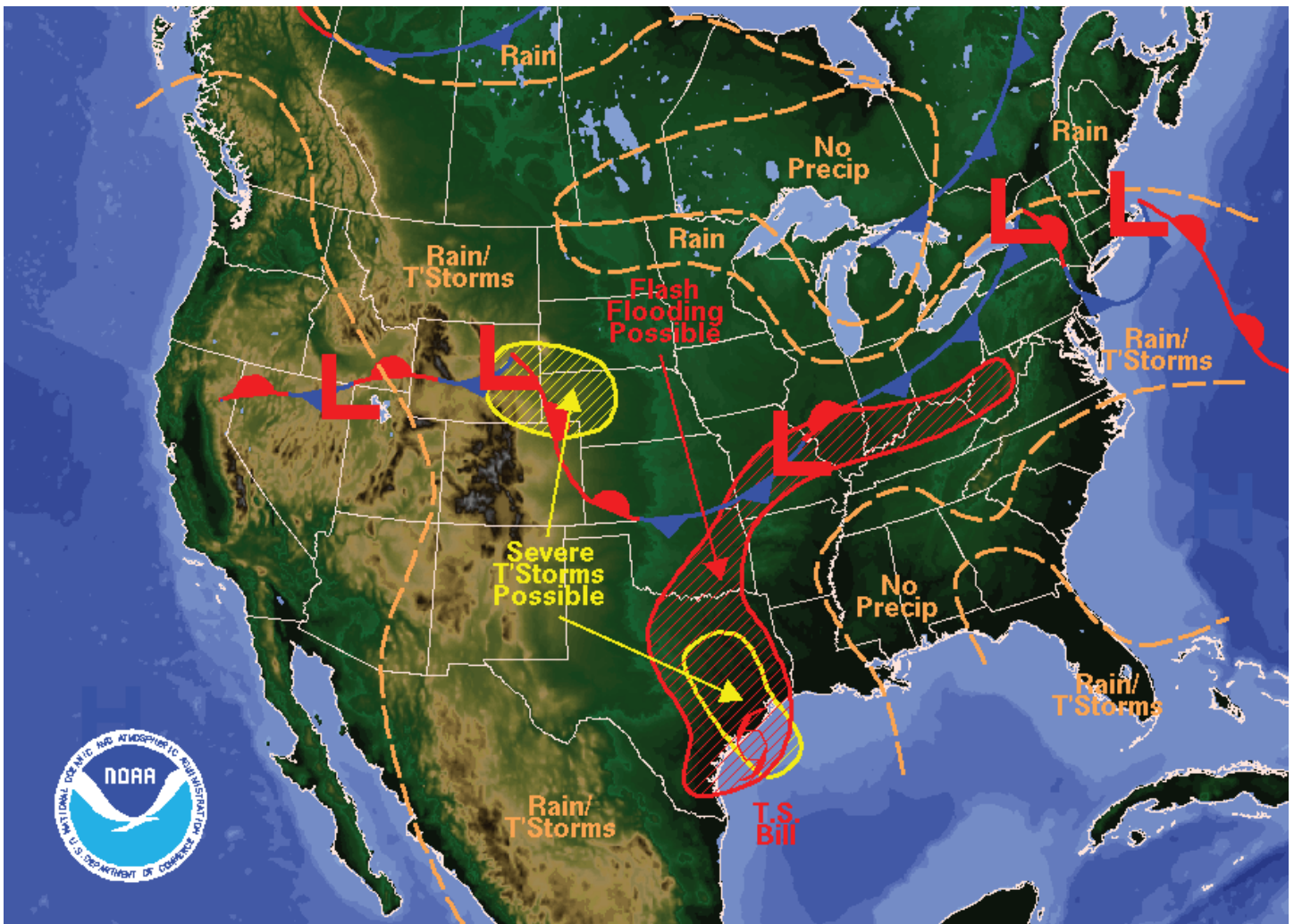
Precip to date in June: 0.27

Average Precip to date: 9.08

Precip Year to Date: 5.99

Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Jun 16, 2015, issued 4:34 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



LITTLE THINGS

An aircraft mechanic was completing his final inspection before a plane's departure. Having made major repairs, he was satisfied that everything was ready. Then he noticed a small drip of water coming from the lavatory. It did not seem serious since it was so small and he cleared the plane for take-off.

As the plane climbed to its flying altitude, the drip became a little larger. The water began to freeze and a large piece of ice was formed. Finally it broke loose, hit an engine and destroyed it. The plane was forced to make an emergency landing. Although no one was injured, it caused much unnecessary damage and there was a great loss of time. The repair to the plane cost much more than it would have if it had been taken care of when it was first noticed.

So it is with sin. It usually begins with a small, stray thought or an unhealthy desire. We allow a thought or idea to grow or develop and it eventually overwhelms us and the temptation leads to sin.

God's Word contains an important promise: "With every temptation He will provide a way out." How marvelous is His protection! No matter how difficult the choice may be – if we ask and search, we will find His "escape route."

When tempted, we must turn to Him and claim victory in His Name.

Prayer: Father, we cannot live without being tempted, but we can avoid sinning if we trust and rely on You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

News from the Associated Press

Indian tribe in South Dakota moves to legalize marijuana

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) — An American Indian tribe in eastern South Dakota has approved selling and using marijuana on tribal lands.

KELO-TV and KSFY-TV report the executive committee of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe voted Thursday to legalize marijuana. Tribal president Tony Reider says the tribe will grow marijuana at a secure facility, and tribal attorney Seth Pearman says customers would need a valid registration card to buy it.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says he respects the tribe's authority to govern tribal members. He says use and possession of marijuana by "non-Indians" is still against the law.

A December decision by the U.S. Justice Department allows American Indian tribes to grow and sell marijuana on their lands if they follow federal conditions that were set out for states where the drug is legal.

ACLU files federal suit challenging SD election law change

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two small political parties in South Dakota filed a federal lawsuit Monday challenging part of a law that they say would make it harder to get their candidates on the ballot.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit on behalf of the state's Libertarian and Constitution parties, among other individuals. South Dakota activists are also gathering signatures to refer the law to voters in the 2016 election for a possible repeal.

The measure in question, part of a new bundle of election law changes passed during the 2015 legislative session, shifted the deadline back by about a month for new parties to turn in signatures allowing them to participate in a primary election. The lawsuit argues that the deadline is too early and that small political organizations such as the Libertarian and Constitution parties, which often have to re-qualify as new political parties in the state because of low supporter turnout, fundraise best after South Dakota's cold winter months.

"The big part of it is it really is hard to get the signatures at that time, especially for a newly formed party," said Ken Santema, chairman of the state's Libertarian Party.

The plaintiffs are asking the deadline be set no earlier than March 29 — the law changed the deadline to the first Tuesday in March — for a party that wants to participate in a June primary election. Laughlin McDonald, lead counsel on the case for the ACLU, said case law is clear that the early petition deadline is unconstitutional.

Republican Sen. Ernie Otten, who worked on the legislation, said the election law overhaul was meant to ensure that voters have enough time to challenge candidates' nominating petitions to get on the ballot.

The lawsuit names Secretary of State Shantel Krebs and Attorney General Marty Jackley as defendants in their official capacities.

Krebs said she was aware case, but didn't comment further on the lawsuit.

Jackley also said he was aware of the lawsuit and said his office is awaiting the results of the signature-gathering process.

Liberal activist Cory Heidelberger, who is collecting signatures, said the lawsuit only addresses one

of the many problems he has with the election law overhaul. The law would also prevent independent candidates from gathering petition signatures from registered Democrats or Republicans.

"This doesn't take pressure off us," Heidelberger said of activists attempting to get the law repealed. If organizers get enough signatures by June 29, the law would be on hold until the election.

South Dakota's PUC OKs Xcel Energy 4 percent rate hike

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Xcel Energy customers in South Dakota will see a 4 percent increase in their electric bills starting July 1, after state regulators approved the change Monday.

The allowed rate hike by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission means the average residential customer will see an increase of about \$3.20 a month, but that's only half of what the Minneapolis-based company had asked regulators to approve. The rate increase approved by the commissioners is part of a joint agreement between Xcel and regulators that lays out the utility's rate plans for the next three years.

The utility in July asked regulators to approve an 8 percent increase in hopes of generating \$15.6 million in extra revenue. Following the commission's move, the company will now only get \$7.795 million in additional annual revenue, but it will be allowed to request increases associated with infrastructure-related expenses over the next two years.

The agreement states Xcel will hold off on filing for any base rate increases that would take effect before Jan. 1, 2018. But the agreement also allows the utility to use what state law defines as an infrastructure rider — a way to recover specific costs related to investment in infrastructure.

Xcel's regional vice president, Laura McCarten, said the utility will use the provision for the rider rates in 2016 and 2017.

"The ability to have that rider was really key for us to have a three-year solution," McCarten said. "If we didn't have that ability, we would not have been able to reach this agreement."

McCarten said the company will use the riders to seek increases related to infrastructure investments at various facilities including nuclear power plants, wind farms and substations.

Commission chairman Chris Nelson said both rider rates would have to be approved by the commission on the October before the year the company plans to raise the rates.

"We would have to determine if they comply with state law, are they reasonable?" Nelson said. "If they are, state law says we have to allow them to recover that from customers. But in the flip side, if we determine they should not be recovered from ratepayers, we can deny their request."

The company implemented an interim rate increase of 8 percent in January while it waited for the commission's decision. Xcel will refund to customers the difference between the interim rate and the final approved rate, with interest, no later than Aug. 1.

Xcel Energy has approximately 85,000 customers in South Dakota.

Bird flu likely spread on equipment, workers, rodents, wind

DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The bird flu that's devastated some Midwestern farms likely spread by several means — on machinery and workers, by rodents and possibly even on the wind, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said in a new report released Monday.

The agency's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service scientists studied genetic properties of virus samples on more than 80 turkey and chicken farms. The scientists determined that wild birds

introduced the virus onto farm but that lapses in biosecurity on farms and environmental factors likely contributed to the spread of the disease.

More than 49 million birds died or were euthanized this spring in 15 states as the virus spread from the Pacific Northwest into Midwest farms, making it the worst outbreak the U.S. has experienced. Hard hit were turkey farms in Minnesota, the nation's leading turkey grower, and chicken farms in Iowa, the leading egg producer.

The USDA says its staff found that infected and non-infected farms shared equipment, employees moved between them, and vehicles weren't disinfected when moving between farms. It also heard reports of rodents or small wild birds inside the poultry houses.

"We are compiling these observations and will present our findings in a subsequent update of this report. Until then, USDA is collaborating with affected industries and states to implement more stringent biosecurity procedures while continuing to work on identifying and mitigating other possible disease pathways in poultry farms nationwide," the report said.

The scientists also found that air samples collected outside of infected poultry houses contain virus particles, indicating the virus could be transmitted by air. Preliminary analysis of wind data "shows a relationship between sustained high winds and an increase in the number of infected farms approximately five days later," the report said.

The government is conducting additional analyses to better characterize environmental factors that may contribute to virus spread.

The agency said it will continue to share what it learns with state officials and the industry and it is organizing a meeting in Iowa next month to focus on biosecurity

2 South Dakota officials oppose renaming Harney Peak

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two members of Gov. Dennis Daugaard's cabinet are concerned about a push to rename Harney Peak with its Lakota name, saying it could confuse visitors who might want to visit the Black Hills landmark.

Game, Fish and Parks Secretary Kelly Hepler and Tourism Secretary Jim Hagen have submitted letters to the state Board on Geographic Names to oppose the renaming of Harney Peak as Hinhan Kagan, which means Making of Owls. The state Board on Geographic Names preliminarily recommended the name change in May and is expected to make a final recommendation on June 29. The U.S. Board of Geographic Names would make the final decision.

Harney Peak is the highest point in the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains. Supporters of the change argue the current name is offensive because Army Gen. William S. Harney led a group of soldiers who killed Sioux Indians in Nebraska in 1855.

Hepler and Hagen said in their letters that the proposed name is difficult to pronounce and that it would confuse tourists.

Hagen said Monday that he's sensitive to the opinions surrounding the proposed name change but that the name Harney Peak is known to many people across the U.S. and around the world. He said changing the name could have a detrimental effect on tourism.

Hepler wasn't available for comment.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in an email that the governor hasn't taken a position on the proposed name change.

State Board on Geographic Names Chairwoman June Hansen declined to speak to a reporter on Mon-

day. Board Vice Chairman Jay Vogt didn't immediately return a request for comment.

Free meals available to youth in South Dakota this summer

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Organizations across South Dakota are serving free meals to children and adolescents this summer as part of a federal program.

Individuals age 18 and younger can get a free meal at participating locations, which include nonprofits, schools, libraries and local governments.

The Summer Food Service Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Individuals can find facilities serving meals by using an online tool.

The state's Department of Education says about 61,000 South Dakota students receive free or reduced-price meals when school is in session. The summer food program is meant to provide meals when school is not in session.

Education officials say nearly 429,000 meals were served last year through the summer food program.

Man arrested in April for SD cold case to appear in court

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Florida arrested on a first-degree murder charge in April in connection with a slaying more than 25 years ago in South Dakota will make his first court appearance this week.

The sheriff's office in Minnehaha County says the initial court appearance of Kim Leroy Aune, of Lee County, Florida, has been scheduled for Tuesday.

Authorities accuse Aune of shooting his girlfriend, Kimberly Eidsness, on Nov. 13, 1989, at their home east of Sioux Falls.

Aune was indicted in April in South Dakota and arrested in Florida. He was 57 years old at the time of his arrest.

Aune is in custody at the Minnehaha County Jail. It was not immediately clear if he has an attorney.

Ghost town hunters document churches in Dakotas, elsewhere

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Two Fargo radio personalities who for the past decade have been documenting ghost towns and abandoned places in North Dakota say the most popular photos on their website have been those of old churches.

So Terry Hinnenkamp and Troy Larson decided to make their fourth coffee table book about churches in the Dakotas and elsewhere, some of which are still standing after more than 150 years. There's a church in Deisem, in southeastern North Dakota, which the two photographers expected to crumble 10 years ago.

"It's that church that every year we see it, it is not going to last much longer. And every year it continues to hold on and amaze you," Hinnenkamp said. "It kind of makes you feel there's a special power to these churches that lets them hold on as long as they do."

Hinnenkamp and Larson met in the radio business and became ghost town biographers through a failed promotion to document nights spent in haunted houses. They've sold three "Ghost of North Dakota" books and have made enough money to move on to the next project and once in a while stay in a hotel rather than a tent.

"We would love to make a bunch of money, but history still is our main focus," Hinnenkamp said. "Getting a lot of pictures of these places before they're gone is basically our No. 1 goal."

"Churches of the High Plains" is a 120-page hardcover book that features buildings and cemeteries

from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and Manitoba. Although the first three books feature a handful of churches, the duo decided to dedicate an entire book to them because traffic on ghostsofnorthdakota.com picks up every time they post a church.

"The church is that iconic structure," Hinnenkamp said. "When you see it, no matter what, there's a church in there that is going to remind you of your past."

Larson said his favorite photos are from the Brown Earth Church and Cemetery in Grant County, South Dakota, a log cabin that was built by Native Americans in 1877 and still has the old pump organ. The organ doesn't work, but the church bell does.

"It's so remote. Just this peaceful spot on the prairie," Larson said.

In addition to the Deisem church, Hinnenkamp is partial to the massive St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Lefor, partly because regulars on the website still marvel about the congregation's cookbook.

"All these years later that cookbook is still being utilized by people and remembered," Hinnenkamp said.

SD Red Cross volunteers sent to Texas for relief efforts

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Three Red Cross volunteers from South Dakota have been deployed to Texas to assist with disaster relief efforts in response to the devastating floods and severe storms that affected the area last month.

The latest volunteer from South Dakota to travel to Texas is Richard Rhoades. The Sioux Falls man will arrive to Houston Tuesday, where he will serve as an emergency response vehicle driver.

The Red Cross says Rhoades will canvas neighborhoods affected by the disaster and provide food, water and relief supplies for families and responders.

Storms that began in Texas and Oklahoma over Memorial Day weekend killed at least 31 people.

The Red Cross says thousands of volunteers from across the country have been deployed to Texas to assist with relief efforts.

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. AL-QAIDA CONFIRMS U.S. STRIKE KILLED LEADER OF YEMEN AFFILIATE

The death of Nasir al-Wahishi is announced in a video statement. It's the biggest blow for the militant network since the death of Osama bin Laden.

2. RACHEL DOLEZAL'S CAREFULLY CULTIVATED WORLD CRUMBLES

The furor touched off national debate over racial identity and divided the NAACP itself.

3. KURDISH FIGHTERS SEIZE FULL CONTROL OF MILITANTS' BORDER STRONGHOLD

The takeover of Tal Abyad robs the Islamic State group of a key supply line for their nearby self-proclaimed capital in Raqqa.

4. WHO IS ENTERING WHITE HOUSE RACE

Donald Trump, who will announce his 2016 presidential intentions today, will be one of a dozen major candidates battling for the GOP nomination.

5. ESCAPED KILLERS ELUDE CAPTURE IN NEW YORK

Two convicted murderers remain at large as a woman charged with helping them flee from a maximum-security prison makes a second appearance in court.

6. WHAT TEXAS COMMUNITIES BRACE FOR

The eastern half of Texas is preparing for renewed flooding as Tropical Storm Bill approaches the state's Gulf Coast.

7. WHICH DILEMMA RAMADAN POSES FOR SOME MUSLIMS

Tens of millions of diabetic Islam followers face the emotional choice between their faith and their health every year.

8. THEATER SHOOTER'S PSYCHIATRIST SET TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIM

Dr. Lynne Fenton's testimony is among the most highly anticipated, as Fenton has never spoken publicly about her sessions with Holmes.

9. HONG KONG STOCK PLUNGES SIGNAL CHALLENGES FOR REGULATOR

Wild gyrations in share prices are raising concerns that a new trading link with mainland China is a conduit for questionable trading practices.

10. CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS CLAIM 3RD STANLEY CUP TITLE IN 6 YEARS

"We won it for each other, for the city," captain Jonathan Toews says.

AP News in Brief

Al-Qaida confirms deputy leader, who headed its Yemen affiliate, killed in US strike

CAIRO (AP) — A U.S. airstrike has killed Al-Qaida's No. 2 leader, who commanded its powerful Yemeni affiliate, dealing the global network its biggest blow since the killing of Osama bin Laden and eliminating a charismatic leader at a time when it is vying with the Islamic State group for the mantle of global jihad.

In a video statement dated June 14 and released Tuesday by the Yemeni affiliate, a senior operative announced the death of Nasir al-Wahishi, a veteran jihadi who once served as bin Laden's aide-de-camp, and said his deputy, Qassim al-Raimi, has been tapped to replace him.

"Our Muslim nation, a hero of your heroes and a master of your masters left to God, steadfast," Khaled Batrafi said in the video, vowing that the group's war on America would continue.

"In the name of God, the blood of these pioneers makes us more determined to sacrifice," he said. "Let the enemies know that the battle is not with an individual... the battle led by crusaders and their agents is colliding with a billion-member nation."

Yemeni security officials had earlier said a U.S. drone strike killed three suspected militants in the al-Qaida-held southern port city of Mukalla last week. U.S. officials had said they were trying to verify whether al-Wahishi was killed.

NAACP leader Rachel Dolezal's world crumbles after parents say she has been posing as black

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Rachel Dolezal carefully constructed a life as a black civil rights activist in the last decade in the inland Northwest, but that world is falling apart following the disclosure by her parents that she was a white woman who for years has posed as African-American.

Dolezal has resigned as president of the local branch of the NAACP, lost her position as a part-time African studies instructor at a local university, lost her job as a freelance newspaper columnist and become the subject of a probe by the city Ethics Commission.

The furor has touched off national debate over racial identity and divided the NAACP itself.

"In the eye of this current storm, I can see that a separation of family and organizational outcomes is

in the best interest of the NAACP," Dolezal, who was elected the Spokane chapter's president last fall, wrote on the group's Facebook page Monday. "Please know I will never stop fighting for human rights."

Dolezal, a 37-year-old woman with a light brown complexion and dark curly hair, graduated from historically black Howard University and was married to a black man. For years, she publicly described herself as black and complained of being the victim of racial hatred in the heavily white region.

Activists, Kurdish commander say Kurds in full control of Tal Abyad, dealing major blow to IS

BEIRUT (AP) — Kurdish fighters took full control on Tuesday of the border town of Tal Abyad, dealing a major blow to the Islamic State group's ability to wage war in Syria.

Haqi Kobane told The Associated Press that Kurdish units known as the YPG along with their allies from the Free Syrian Army were starting to clean up the town along the border with Turkey from booby traps and mines planted by the extremists so that residents can return. The militants had been in control of the key town for more than a year.

"Daesh has been broken at the hands of the YPG... it is a victory for all Syrians," he said by telephone from northern Syria, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

The Kurdish advance caused the displacement of some 20,000 people who fled to Turkey in the past two weeks.

An Associated Press team on the Turkish side of the Akcakale border crossing said a large black and white Islamic State group flag was taken down from a pole in Tal Abyad Tuesday and replaced with a yellow, triangular YPG flag.

The \$9 billion man? Donald Trump set to announce if he'll contest GOP presidential primaries

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a presidential field approaching 20 high-profile Republicans, the GOP's 2016 class offers voters a little bit of everything.

There is the top-tier, a group that includes former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who formally launched his candidacy on Monday. There are the single-issue candidates such as South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who talks about national security and little else. There are even the quixotic underdogs, such as Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, ambitious against all odds.

And then there is Donald Trump.

The Donald, as he is known as a celebrity, will announce his 2016 intentions on Tuesday at a Manhattan skyscraper that bears his name.

He is a businessman, a reality television star and a master of self-promotion. And should he decide to run, Trump is positioned to have a greater impact on the early months of the Republican presidential primary contest than many GOP leaders would like.

Escaped murderers elude capture as woman charged with helping them makes 2nd court appearance

DANNEMORA, N.Y. (AP) — Two escaped murderers remained at large as a woman charged with helping the killers flee from a maximum-security prison by providing them hacksaw blades, chisels and other tools made a second appearance in a New York court.

More than 800 law enforcement officers on Monday kept up a methodical search for Richard Matt and

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David Sweat, who escaped from the Clinton Correctional Facility near the Canadian border on June 6. Prosecutors say Joyce Mitchell, a prison tailoring shop instructor who had befriended the inmates, had agreed to be the getaway driver but backed out because she still loved her husband and felt guilty for participating.

Mitchell, 51, made her second court appearance in Plattsburgh on Monday wearing a striped prison jumpsuit and a bulletproof vest. She waived a preliminary hearing, and the case headed to a county court.

"Basically, when it was go-time and it was the actual day of the event, I do think she got cold feet and realized, 'What am I doing?'" Clinton County District Attorney Andrew Wylie said Sunday. "Reality struck. She realized that, really, the grass wasn't greener on the other side."

Colorado theater shooter's university psychiatrist expected to testify against him

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — The mental health professional with the most access to James Holmes' mind before he carried out his deadly attack on a Colorado movie theater is expected to testify in his death penalty trial on Tuesday.

Dr. Lynne Fenton saw Holmes five times in 2012 while he was a neuroscience graduate student at the University of Colorado. She prescribed him medication for depression and anxiety, concerned that he had a social phobia after he confessed thoughts of killing people, according to testimony from other witnesses.

Her testimony is among the most highly anticipated, as Fenton has never spoken publicly about their sessions. She remains bound by the trial judge's gag order, and a civil suit says she should have done more to stop Holmes. But Holmes waived his patient-client privilege when he pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, opening the door for her to take the stand.

Holmes is charged with killing 12 people, wounding 58 with gunfire and leaving 12 others injured in the attack on July 20, 2012. Questions remain about whether anyone could have stopped him.

Holmes said he pointedly kept Fenton uninformed as he plotted his attack. He never told her about the arsenal of weapons he was assembling. His elaborate schemes and to-do lists were kept in a journal that he didn't send to her until hours before his assault, and it lingered in a campus mailroom for days thereafter.

The Latest on severe weather: Tropical Storm Bill headed northwest toward Texas coast

3:50 a.m. (CDT)

The National Hurricane Center says little change in strength is likely before Tropical Storm Bill makes landfall in Texas on Tuesday morning.

The storm's maximum sustained winds remain near 50 mph (85 kph) and Bill is expected to weaken as its center moves inland.

The tropical storm is centered about 55 miles (90 kilometers) southeast of Port O'Connor, Texas, and is moving northwest near 13 mph (20 kph).

Man of peace tapped to be Afghanistan's defense minister as war intensifies

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — War-torn Afghanistan may soon have a defense minister, nine months after the new government was formed and amid some of the toughest fighting since the Taliban's insurgency began 14 years ago.

Masoom Stanekzai is better known as a peacemaker than a battlefield strategist, having led the High Peace Council negotiating body charged with ending the conflict with the Taliban, but now he is directing the war. He is expected to be confirmed soon by parliament, though the law allows him to assume the post in an acting capacity.

His appointment will complete President Ashraf Ghani's Cabinet and finally bring what one Western military official called "strong, positive, legitimate civilian leadership" to the military as it tackles an invigorated Taliban without the backing of international forces, which ended their combat mission last year.

The official was not authorized to speak publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

Stanekzai takes the job as the Taliban are redefining their war against Kabul, joining forces with other militant groups and spreading the fight to every corner of the country. A change in tactics has taken Afghan security forces by surprise and forced them to spread ever-thinner as their casualty rates soar.

Millions of Muslims with diabetes face hard choice between health and faith during Ramadan

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — For years, diabetic Shawkat al-Khalili ignored his doctor's orders not to fast during the holy month of Ramadan when most of the world's 1.6 billion Muslims abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset.

Islam exempts the sick from fasting, but the 70-year-old al-Khalili said he couldn't bring himself to violate one of the five pillars of his religion, even after he lost a toe to diabetes.

Like the retired teacher in Amman, tens of millions of diabetic Muslims struggle each year with such stressful choices. Increasingly, physicians team up with preachers or look for new methods to educate and protect the faithful.

The stakes are rising, particularly in the Arab world, where diabetes is spreading rapidly because of growing obesity caused by a more sedentary lifestyle and easy availability of processed food.

The Middle East and North Africa, which are overwhelmingly Muslim, have the world's highest comparative prevalence of diabetes, according to the International Diabetes Federation. In 2014, some 38 million people in the region, or one in 10, were diabetics, a figure expected to double in a generation, the federation says. Another 18 million suspected sufferers have yet to be diagnosed.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 16, the 167th day of 2015. There are 198 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 16, 1955, members of Argentina's military bombarded the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires in a failed attempt to assassinate President Juan Domingo Peron and his Cabinet, causing hundreds of civilian deaths, the same day Peron was excommunicated by Pope Pius XII for expelling two bishops from his country (however, the ban was effectively lifted in 1963).

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On this date:

In 1567, Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned in Lochleven Castle in Scotland. (She escaped almost a year later but ended up imprisoned again.)

In 1858, accepting the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate, Abraham Lincoln said the slavery issue had to be resolved, declaring, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

In 1903, Ford Motor Co. was incorporated.

In 1911, IBM had its beginnings as the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. was incorporated in New York State.

In 1933, the National Industrial Recovery Act became law with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signature. (The Act was later struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.) The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was founded as President Roosevelt signed the Banking Act of 1933.

In 1943, comedian Charles Chaplin, 54, married his fourth wife, 18-year-old Oona O'Neill, daughter of playwright Eugene O'Neill, in Carpinteria, California.

In 1944, George Stinney, a 14-year-old black youth, became the youngest person to die in the electric chair as the state of South Carolina executed him for the murders of two white girls, Betty June Binicker, 11, and Mary Emma Thames, 7.

In 1955, the Disney animated feature "Lady and the Tramp" had its world premiere in Chicago.

In 1963, the world's first female space traveler, Valentina Tereshkova (teh-ruhsh-KOH'-vuh), 26, was launched into orbit by the Soviet Union aboard Vostok 6; she spent 71 hours in flight, circling the Earth 48 times before returning safely.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos (toh-REE'-ohs) exchanged the instruments of ratification for the Panama Canal treaties.

In 1987, a jury in New York acquitted Bernhard Goetz of attempted murder in the subway shooting of four youths he said were going to rob him; however, Goetz was convicted of illegal weapons possession. (In 1996, a civil jury ordered Goetz to pay \$43 million to one of the persons he'd shot.)

In 1999, Vice President Al Gore formally opened his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination. Kathleen Ann Soliah (SOH'-lee-ah), a fugitive member of the Symbionese Liberation Army, was captured in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she had made a new life under the name Sara Jane Olson. Thabo Mbeki (TAH'-boh um-BEH'-kee) took the oath as president of South Africa, succeeding Nelson Mandela.

Ten years ago: On the eve of Iran's presidential election, President George W. Bush said the voting was designed to keep power in the hands of a few rulers "through an electoral process that ignores the basic requirements of democracy." European Union leaders put on hold plans to unite their 25 nations under a single constitution. Masked gunmen took dozens of toddlers hostage at an international school in Siem Reap, Cambodia, killing a 3-year-old Canadian boy before they were overpowered by the police.

Five years ago: After meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House, BP Chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg announced the oil giant was establishing a \$20 billion claim fund and suspending dividends as he insisted, "We care about the small people." Movie director Ronald Neame ("The Poseidon Adventure") died in Los Angeles at age 99.

One year ago: President Barack Obama notified Congress that up to 275 troops could be sent to Iraq to provide support and security for U.S. personnel and the American Embassy in Baghdad. A divided Supreme Court sided with gun control groups and the Obama administration, ruling that the federal government can strictly enforce laws that ban a "straw" purchaser from buying a gun for someone else.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bill Cobbs is 81. Author Joyce Carol Oates is 77. Country singer Billy "Crash" Craddock is 77. Songwriter Lamont Dozier is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Eddie Levert is 73.

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Actress Joan Van Ark is 72. Actor Geoff Pierson is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer James Smith (The Stylistics) is 65. Boxing Hall of Famer Roberto Duran is 64. Pop singer Gino Vannelli is 63. Actress Laurie Metcalf is 60. Actor Arnold Vosloo is 53. Model-actress Jenny Shimizu is 48. Actor James Patrick Stuart is 47. Rapper MC Ren is 46. Actor Clifton Collins Jr. is 45. Golfer Phil Mickelson is 45. Actor John Cho is 43. Actor Eddie Cibrian is 42. Actor Fred Koehler is 40. Actress China (chee-nah) Shavers is 38. Actress Sibel Kekilli is 35. Actress Missy Peregrym (PEH'-rih-grihm) is 33. Actress Olivia Hack is 32. Singer Diana DeGarmo (TV: "American Idol") is 28. Pop-rock musician Ian Keaggy (Hot Chelle (SHEL)) is 28.

Thought for Today: "I have never in my life learned anything from any man who agreed with me."
- Dudley Field Malone, American attorney (1882-1950).