

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, June 30

Senior Menu: Scalloped potato and ham, peas, sunset salad, oatmeal raisin cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Brad Furman, Mary Anne Clark, CJ Lane, Alan Zoellner, Harvey Flihs Sr., Gilbert Hinkelman, Cole Larson, Steve Thurston, Haley Wheeler, June Meyer, Spencer Knecht.

8:00am: Elementary Library open (Jamie Krueger reading at 10 am)

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

12:00pm: Noon Bridge at Olive Grove

5:30pm: Legion hosts Milbank (DH)

6:00pm: U8 Red PW at Claremont

6:15pm: Ladies Golf Night with potluck meal



Shirlee Briggs has been busy painting at the former Pioneer Ford building in downtown Groton. The building is being renovated as Steve Giedt and Professional Management Services will be making the move to this location.

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

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

Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping
Simple Solutions for YOU
605/216-4474 ~ peterson4@nvc.net

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Tom and Alesa Mahan at 503 N Main, Groton, are pictured in front of their yard that was chosen as "Yard of the Week." The "Yard of the Week" is sponsored by the Groton Garden Club.

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



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Second instrumental music teacher is looking bleak for this year

A second music teacher is looking more bleak. "There is no viable candidate for the second music teacher," said Superintendent Joe Schwan. "It looks like we will have one instrumental instructor this year. It's not ideal, but it's not the end of the world. Cody Swanson will have to take back fifth and sixth grade music." Board member Marty Weismantel said, "We hope this is only a one year deal."

Brett Schwan was hired as the elementary principal/OST Director for the 2015-16 school year. Also hired was Joni Groeblichhoff as a special education paraprofessional for the elementary school and Jacky Fortin as the high school special education paraprofessional. Superintendent Joe Schwan said he would like one more paraprofessional at the elementary school and one more at the middle school.

The changes to the student handbook were approved.

Schwan reported on summer maintenance work. They include the lighting for the stage has been ordered and will be installed in a few weeks. Locke Electric has begun replacing the lights in the Arena. The carpet replacement project is completed as is the east parking lot.

The fall athletic meeting is set for Monday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m., with the same format as last year. The bus drivers are scheduled to travel to Warner on Tuesday, Aug. 11, for the required training that needs to be done every five years.

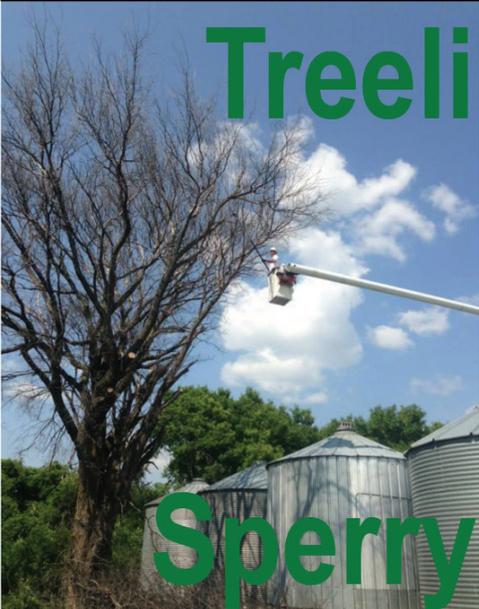
Business Manager Mike Weber reported that there are six accounts that are short by \$4,171. Most of that is from the additional health insurance premium and there were two long football trips to western South Dakota for the playoffs. There were also shortages in the capital outlay account in the amount of \$1,091, in the special education fund by \$8,413 and Bond Redemption by \$559.

The board accepted the low of diesel and gas from MJ's Sinclair.

The Groton Independent was designated as the official newspaper.

Several certified staff educational lane changes were approved. Jodi Sternhagen moved from MS15 to MS30, Becky Erickson from BS30 to MS, Kristen Gonsoir from BS30 to MS30, Kristi Anderson from BS30 to BS45, Lindsey Tietz from BS to BS15, Cara Dennert from BS30 to BS45, Deb Winburn from BS30 to BS45 and Jane Kroll from BS30 to BS45.

An open enrollment for a first and second grader from Langford Area was approved.



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**Over 30 Years
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Brett Schwan is new Groton Area elementary principal

Brett Schwan has been hired as the new elementary principal and OST director for the Groton Area School District.

Schwan is a 2005 graduate from Northern State University where he earned a BS degree in special education and also has endorsements for football, basketball and track coaching. He earned a Masters of Science degree in Leadership and Administration from NSU in 2010 as well as pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade principal.

Schwan has previously taught at Edmunds Central as a K-12 special education teacher, and at Leola as the athletic director, testing coordinator and dean of students. In the fall of 2010, he became the eighth grade special education teacher at Holgate Middle School, Aberdeen, where he has been employed before taking the job in Groton.

Brett is married to Anna, who is the middle/high school principal at Groton Area.

Noem Staff to Hold Mobile Office Hours in Groton on July 7

U.S. Representative Kristi Noem today announced that Kelly German of her Watertown office will hold Mobile Office Hours in Groton on Tuesday, July 7. If any Groton resident needs help with a federal agency or has comments they would like passed along to the Congresswoman, they may schedule an appointment with German by calling 878-2868.

"As South Dakota's lone Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I believe it is critical that my staff and I meet with South Dakotans one-on-one to hear about the issues important to them," said Rep. Noem. "It is my hope that those needing help with a federal agency or simply wishing to pass on their concerns to me will connect with my staff on July 7."

While in Groton, German will also be holding meetings with community leaders and local businesses. To get immediate assistance, please contact Rep. Noem's Watertown office at 878-2868 or visit her website at www.noem.house.gov.

Groton Garden Club

The Groton Garden Club met at the home of Deb Olson with Ruby Donovan assisting on June 15. Pledges were recited in unison and 12 members and one guest, Sandy Fliehs, answered roll call with a bird in the neighborhood.

The Rocky Mountain Regional meeting will be held September 11-12 in Sioux Falls at the Downtown Holiday Inn.

The Yard of the week began June 7 with Rich and JoAnn Krueger named the first week winner. The next meeting will be July 20, with Linda Gengerke and Janice Fliehs. Marj Overacker will give the program.

Following the meeting Linda Anderson gave the program "The year of the Colors."

Today in Weather History

June 29, 1927: This estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from near Claremont, passing along the northwestern edge of Britton. The Claremont area had a \$12,000 loss as a large silo was destroyed. A dozen homes had roof damage in Britton.

June 29, 2005: Heavy rains of three to seven inches fell across far eastern Brown, western and northern Day, and most of Marshall Counties in the early morning and again in the afternoon hours. One location measured five inches of rain in two hours. Many township roads and highways were flooded along with thousands of acres of cropland. Water surrounded several homes resulting in people being rescued. Some of the homes were flooded. Many bridges were damaged and roads and culverts were washed out. In Day County, 30 roads were washed out and 15 bridges needed repairs. Some rainfall amounts include 5.04 inches in Britton, 3.34 at 8N of Columbia, and 2.08 in Aberdeen. Total June rainfall for some locations in Marshall and Day Counties was between 11 and 12 inches. The flooding continued into early July before receding by July 10th.

1826: Thomas Jefferson made his last entry in his weather observation log on this date, just six days before he died. The weather held a fascination for Jefferson as he made regular weather observations. He bought his first thermometer while working on the Declaration of Independence and his first barometer shortly thereafter.

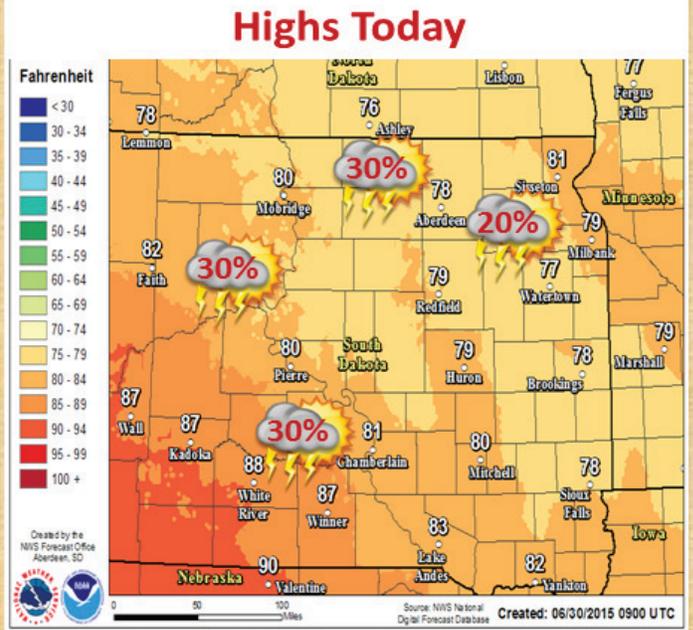
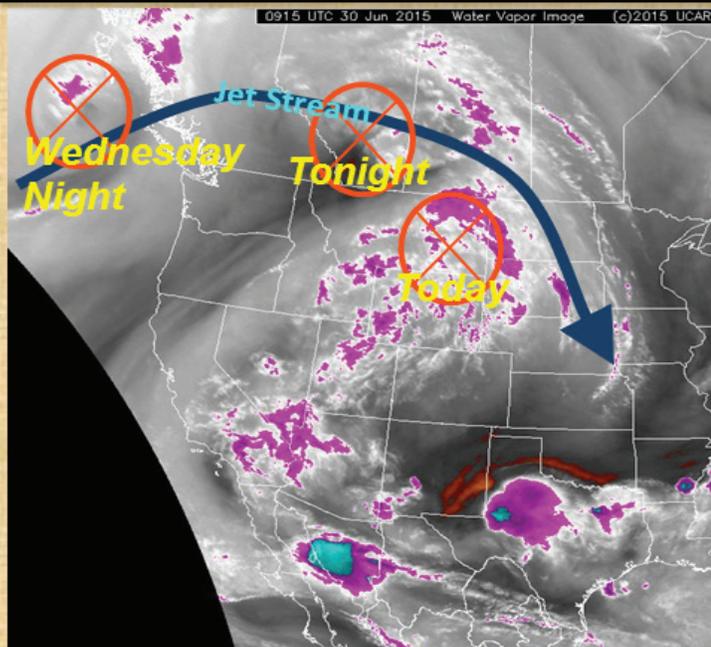
1998: "The Corn Belt Derecho of 1998" in the following states NE, IA, IL, IN, KY. A derecho which originated in far southeast South Dakota, moved across Illinois during the afternoon and evening, and continued as far east as Ohio the next morning. Every county in central Illinois sustained some sort of damage, as these severe thunderstorms passed. Winds gusted in the 60 to 80 mph range, with some localized microbursts producing winds in excess of 100 mph. Significant damage occurred in the microburst areas, including the towns of Morton, McLean, LeRoy, and Tolono. In Tolono, 22 cars of a southbound 101-car Illinois Central freight train were blown off the tracks. It was unknown how many cars were picked up by the wind, but 16 cars were turned over and another 6 derailed but remained upright. The train was en route to Centralia from Chicago with a load of mixed freight, including plastic pellets and meal. The freight cars empty weighed about 60,000 pounds, while a full one weighs about 260,000 pounds. Overall, 12 people were injured, and damage was estimated around \$16 million dollars.

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
 30%	 40%	 40%	 60%	 60%	 20%	
Chance Thunderstorms	Chance Thunderstorms	Chance Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms Likely	Thunderstorms Likely	Slight Chc Thunderstorms	Mostly Sunny
High: 78 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 81 °F

Weak Pacific Systems Support Chance For Storms Through Thursday



Pattern: Weak Systems Top The Ridge Which Limits Moisture/Instability

Thus: Mostly Hit & Miss Weak Storms - Best Shot At Moisture - Wed Night



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 06/30/2015 at 5:35AM

The pattern will become more inclement with three systems that will move into the region over the course of the next 72 hours. These systems will struggle however as they move over the ridge that has dominated western North American and has been responsible for the record heat and numerous forest fires. The result will be mostly scattered weak thunderstorms, with the best chance for moisture expected late Wednesday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 86.9 at 5:46 PM

Low: 57.2 at 6:29 AM

High Gust: 18 at 4:00 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1931

Record Low: 38° in 1918

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 57°F

Average Precip in June: 3.70

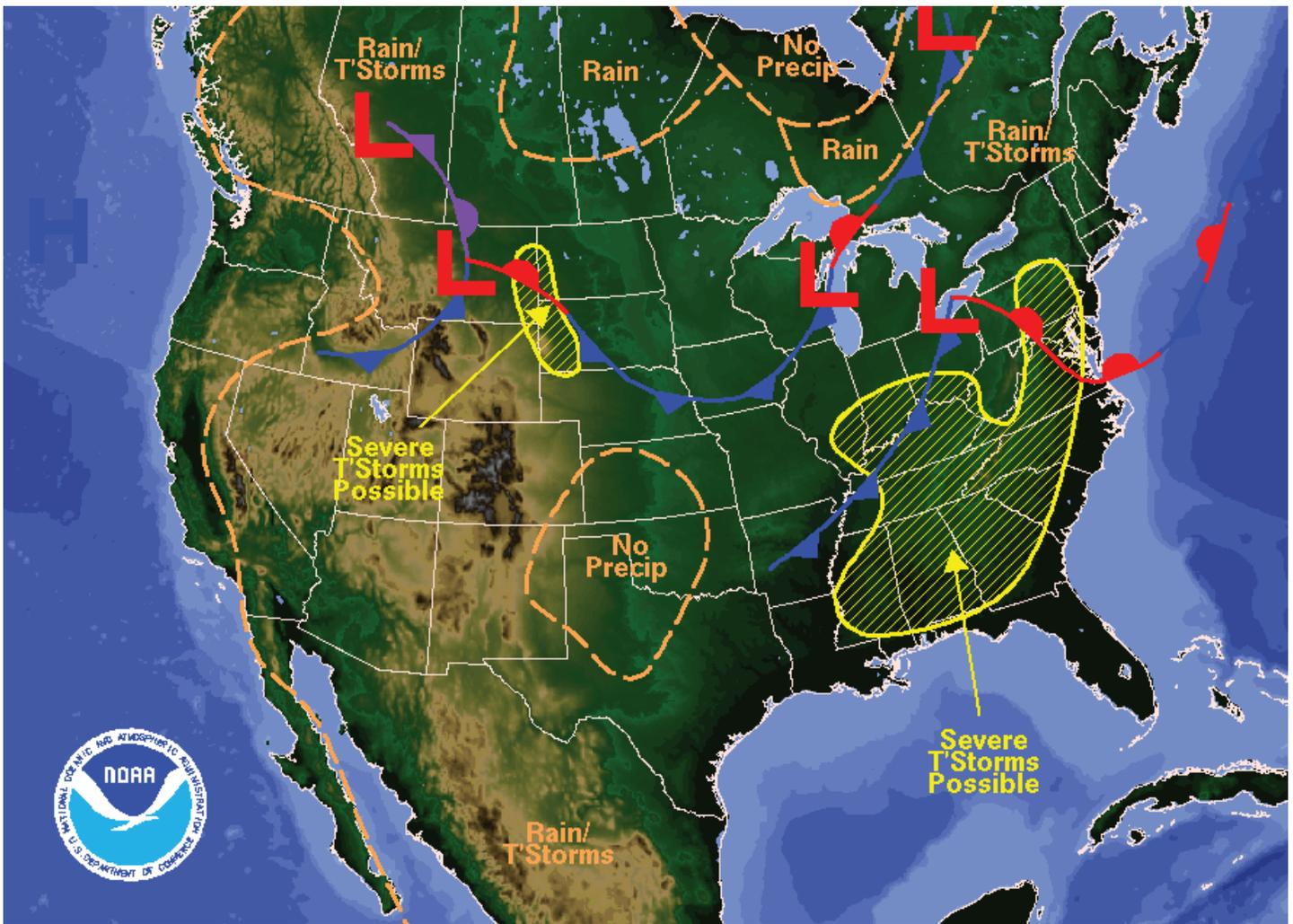
Precip to date in June: 1.58

Average Precip to date: 10.84

Precip Year to Date: 7.30

Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Jun 30, 2015, issued 3:10 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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YOU HAVE MY WORD

As he slipped the engagement ring on her finger, he said, "I want you to know that I will love you forever and then some. But if things don't work out, I expect you to give me back my ring. Is that perfectly clear?"

People change. Situations change. Times change. But God will not change.

If there is anything that we can know beyond the shadow of a doubt it is this: God's promises and His covenant will never change. We have His Word and His Word is truth.

Because God is truth, we can believe and be secure in all of His promises. His truth is like the anchor of a ship. Winds may blow, waves may crash and the ship may move from the left to the right – even in a circle, but it is secure and safe as long as the anchor holds.

In God's eternal truth we find hope. When we feel as though we are being swept along by circumstances that are beyond our control and have nothing secure to grasp, we need to reach for Him. He will lift us up and plant our feet securely on the firm foundation that is His never changing Word.

Though we may not understand what is going on in our world, we know Who is in control. We must always hope, knowing His best is coming soon.

Prayer: Give us, Father, a hope that will not fade, a trust that will not waiver, and hope that holds firm. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Hebrews 6:18-19 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might[a] have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

News from the Associated Press

Patterson announces first round of grants to schools

HILLEL ITALIE, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — James Patterson is announcing the first round of school libraries to receive grants from an initiative he and Scholastic Reading Club launched in March, and he continues to raise the amount of money he will donate.

The best-selling and prolific author said Tuesday that \$500,000 has been given to 127 schools, from Berryville Middle School in Arkansas to the Pierre Indian Learning Center in South Dakota. Individual grants range from \$1,000 to \$10,000, part of a program Patterson and Scholastic originally set at \$1.25 million, but now stands at \$1.75 million. On Tuesday, he committed an additional \$250,000, the second time since March he raised funding by \$250,000. An “overwhelming” volume of requests, more than 28,000, for books and other resources is behind the latest increase.

“With nearly half the population currently reading at or below the basic level, the United States is truly in the middle of a crisis,” Patterson said in a statement. “I’ve now read over a thousand letters from school librarians, teachers, and parents about the lack of resources at our country’s schools. How will children make it to high school without access to books? This is a huge problem — and we have to take action. I hope that education will become a major topic on Capitol Hill and in the upcoming presidential debates.”

The remaining \$1.25 million of the library program will be distributed over the second half of 2015.

Patterson has given away millions in recent years to libraries and independent booksellers while also sponsoring numerous literacy projects. In May, he started a young adult book imprint, Jimmy Patterson, part of his longtime publisher, Little, Brown and Company.

Rounds presents Congressional medal to late SD man’s family

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds has presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the family of a man who served as a Civil Air Patrol pilot during World War II.

Rounds announced Monday that he presented the medal to the family of the late Vernon Roy Jeffries.

Rounds says it’s an honor to present the family with the medal, which is the U.S.’s highest civilian award.

Jeffries flew airplanes off the coast of New Jersey looking for Nazi submarines.

South Dakota receiving funding for unemployment services

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota is receiving more than \$260,000 from the federal government to provide re-employment and eligibility assessments for those who receive unemployment benefits.

The funding from the U.S. Department of Labor aims to help the newly unemployed reduce the time between jobs and help prevent improper payments from the federal Unemployment Insurance program.

The services funded will help people develop re-employment plans and give them referrals to re-employment services or training. The money will also fund eligibility reviews for benefit recipients.

Nationwide, the federal government has awarded \$80 million to workforce agencies in 44 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia.

South Dakota board reverses, votes to keep Harney Peak name

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Harney Peak should keep the name of an army general whose soldiers in the 1850s killed Native Americans, a state board voted Monday in a reversal, even though some Indians may find the peak's name offensive.

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names issued a preliminary recommendation in May that Harney Peak be renamed "Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls)." But the board decided not to back a change after a slew of public comments against the plan, including from at least two members of Gov. Dennis Daugaard's cabinet.

Supporters of the change also didn't coalesce around a single replacement name for the peak, board members said.

"I have to say, based on what I've read, my opinion has wavered," Board on Geographic Names Chairwoman June Hansen said at the meeting. "I again feel there is not a clear direction from the public."

Harney Peak is the highest point in the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains. It was named for Arm Gen. William S. Harney, who in 1855 led soldiers who killed Sioux Indians in Nebraska. The state board's recommendation not to change the name goes to a federal board that has final authority.

Basil Brave Heart, who proposed the change, has said that the peak shouldn't be named after a man who committed atrocities against Native Americans and initially suggested "Black Elk Peak" as the new name. Brave Heart, a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, didn't immediately return a request for comment.

Hansen said she began to feel that the board had overstepped its bounds when it recommended the new name and said she weighed input from many different commenters, including members of the Daugaard administration.

Game, Fish and Parks Secretary Kelly Hepler and Tourism Secretary Jim Hagen submitted letters to the state board to oppose the renaming of Harney Peak. Hepler and Hagen said in their letters that the proposed name was difficult to pronounce and that it would confuse tourists.

A spokeswoman for Daugaard has said he hasn't taken a position on the name change.

Glen Lakner, who lives near Wall, also urged the board not to support renaming the peak. He said if the residents of Pennington County, where it is located, got to vote on whether or not to change the name, "It'd go down like a rock."

Board member Steve Emery, secretary of tribal relations, was the only member who cast a vote against the recommendation.

"To have a slaughter of my people and possibly relatives of mine, I have to vote to change," said Emery, who is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

Emery's attempt to recommend it be renamed "Black Elk Peak" failed.

A researcher from the U.S. Board on Geographic Names also wrote the South Dakota panel to say that the U.S. Board wouldn't approve "Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls)" with the translation in parentheses.

After marriage ruling, activists turn to other protections

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — After a historic U.S. Supreme Court ruling and a weekend of celebration, many gay South Dakotans are settling into their new lives as legally married couples, but advocates in the state say now is not the time to slow down.

"We're not done; far from it," said Nancy Rosenbrahn, a Rapid City woman whose marriage to her

partner of 27 years is now recognized in South Dakota.

Rosenbrahn and others in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in South Dakota caution that despite the Supreme Court ruling that declared same-sex marriage legal across the country, other issues remain.

In South Dakota, like several other states, sexual orientation is not a protected class at the state level and people can still be fired or denied housing for being gay. While a few city and county governments have ordinances banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, advocates want statewide protection in employment and housing.

Liberal legislators have tried in the past to pass such protections but have had little luck. Sen. Angie Buhl O'Donnell, a Democrat from Sioux Falls, said she thinks now is the time to revive that conversation.

But the prospects for statewide legislative success are bleak, many advocates admit.

"I recognize that South Dakota is a challenging political climate, but the more important piece here is: people at this point could get married on Saturday, and fired on Monday for getting married," Buhl O'Donnell said. "I think it would be important for the Legislature to address that."

Rosenbrahn agreed that passing legislation through Pierre would be difficult.

"I don't think our Legislature is ever going to be willingly liberal enough to vote that in," she said.

Any push to expand discrimination protection to cover sexual orientation will likely be met with renewed resistance.

Conservatives nationwide have vowed to defend their religious liberties in light of the Supreme Court ruling, and that effort will likely grow in South Dakota, said Rep. Scott Craig, a Rapid City Republican and pastor.

"I am certain there will be something that will be developed to ensure this country and this state maintains its promise to protect religious freedom as secured in the First Amendment," he said.

Craig and Dale Bartscher, both part of the conservative Family Heritage Alliance, said they feel strongly that they need to protect religious freedoms and expression in South Dakota. Both said they weren't sure what that would look like in the Legislature, although Craig said he would like to see the attorney general allow county officials to refuse issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples for religious reasons.

"Freedom of religious expression is monumental," Craig said. "The need to secure that cannot be overstated."

Man seriously injured after jumping off cliff at Hippie Hole

ROCKERVILLE, S.D. (AP) — A man seriously injured a leg and foot after jumping off a cliff at a popular swimming area in western South Dakota and failing to clear the rocks below.

Authorities say the man in his early 20s jumped off the cliff at Hippie Hole near Rockerville Sunday afternoon, but hit the rocks below. He was transported in a South Dakota National Guard helicopter to a Rapid City hospital.

Emergency officials did not release the man's identity.

Eight area agencies responded to the accident, including Pennington County Search and Rescue, Rapid City Fire Department and the Hayward Fire Department.

13 states sue over rule giving feds authority on state water

JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Thirteen states led by North Dakota filed a lawsuit Monday challenging an Obama administration rule that gives federal agencies authority to protect some streams, tributaries and wetlands under the Clean Water Act.

North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said the “Waters of the U.S.” rule by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers is a “federal power grab” that is “unnecessary and unlawful and will do nothing to increase water quality.”

The rule — a response to calls from the U.S. Supreme Court and Congress for the EPA to clarify which smaller waterways are protected — was published in the Federal Register on Monday and takes effect Aug. 28.

According to the EPA, the waters affected would be only those with a “direct and significant” connection to larger bodies of water downstream that are already protected. It says the aim is to protect the waters from pollution and development and to safeguard drinking water.

The EPA did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated Press.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Bismarck, asks for the rule to be thrown out. The other states involved are Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Republicans in Congress, and some Democrats including North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, also have backed legislation to block the rules.

Stenehjem told reporters that the rule “illegally” gives authority to the EPA and the Corps and will add “red tape and other obstacles” to farmers, ranchers and landowners. Failure to get permits under the new rules will result in “steep penalties and even jail time,” he said.

He said farmers and other landowners could be subjected to federal oversight for even dry ditches on their land. The thousands of small ponds in the Upper Midwest known as prairie potholes also will be regulated, he said.

Stenehjem said North Dakota took the lead on the lawsuit because of its large agricultural sector, “so it just seemed like a logical place.”

Rapid City man charged with rape, murder in infant death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 26-year-old Rapid City man who was arrested last week after an infant died of injuries at a local hospital is now facing a murder charge.

The Rapid City Police Department says Kristopher Houchin on Monday was charged with second-degree murder. That charge is in addition to the first-degree rape and child abuse counts that were filed against him Friday in connection with the infant’s death.

Authorities say the 6-month-old girl died Friday afternoon. Preliminary results of an autopsy conducted Monday indicate the girl died from a brain bleed sustained as a result of blunt force trauma.

Houchin was arrested and first charged after hospital officials notified authorities that the infant’s injuries were suspicious.

It’s unclear if Houchin has an attorney.

Same-sex couples in SD can now change driver's license names

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Same-sex couples in South Dakota can now use a marriage certificate and a number of other documents to change a name on a South Dakota-issued driver's license.

The state's Driver's Licensing Program says individuals can request name changes starting Monday.

For a name change on a license with a gold star, individuals need to provide a South Dakota driver's license and two documents proving residential address.

In addition, individuals are asked to bring documents that connect their current full legal name to that on their existing license. Acceptable documents are a certified marriage certificate and the following three court orders: under petition for name change; for name change in a divorce decree or decree of annulment; and for name change in a decree of adoption.

Activists deliver papers to block election law, youth wage

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Activists attempting to block two state laws from going into effect have turned in signatures collected from thousands of South Dakotans to refer the measures to the voters in the 2016 election.

Organizers on Monday turned in petitions to the secretary of state's office for its review. Activists are attempting to block laws passed by the Legislature in the 2015 session that carve out a \$7.50 youth minimum wage and institute a package of election law changes.

Activists say they secured thousands more than the 13,871 signatures required for each measure to send the laws to the voters.

The secretary of state's office hopes to complete its review before midnight on Tuesday.

If organizers are successful, the laws will be put on hold until after the 2016 election.

Howard man killed in weekend vehicle crash near the city

HOWARD, S.D. (AP) — A Howard man died in a weekend crash south of the city.

The Highway Patrol says 51-year-old Bradley Neises lost control of his pickup truck shortly after 5 a.m. Saturday and it rolled in the ditch. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Neises was alone in the vehicle. The patrol is continuing to investigate.

Weekend storms cause damage throughout Davison County

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Weekend storms left pockets of damage across Davison County in southeastern South Dakota.

Hail and high winds Saturday night flattened corn fields and toppled a mobile home north of Mount Vernon. Farms suffered damage to grain bins, buildings and equipment. A truck pulling a trailer on Interstate 90 was blown off the road.

National Weather Service meteorologist Kerry Hanko tells The Daily Republic newspaper that wind speeds reached 90 mph, and hail the size of golf balls was reported.

Chief Sheriff's Deputy Steve Harr tells KELO-TV that no injuries were reported.

Mega Millions ticket sold in Spearfish worth \$25,000

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A Mega Millions ticket sold in Spearfish is worth \$25,000 in the latest drawing.

South Dakota lottery officials say the ticket matched four of five white ball numbers and the Mega Ball to win the game's \$5,000 third prize in Friday's drawing, and an option purchased for an additional dollar multiplied the prize five times.

The odds of winning the third prize in Mega Millions are 1 in about 740,000.

Mega Millions is played in 44 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The jackpot is at \$74 million for the next drawing, on Tuesday.

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. CRUNCH TIME ARRIVES FOR GREECE

With the European part of its international bailout expiring Tuesday, Athens might lose any possible access to the remaining rescue loans it contains.

2. WHICH STATES MOVE QUICKLY TO RESUME LETHAL INJECTIONS

Oklahoma and Florida proceed with executions after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the use of midazolam, a sedative that has been found problematic in several cases. SUPREME COURT-EXECUTION DRUG

3. WHAT CONVICTED KILLER THOUGHT OF FELLOW ESCAPEE

The escaped inmates who spent more than two weeks roaming in New York woods split up when David Sweat decided his companion Richard Matt was slowing him down.

4. WHO IS READY TO ANNOUNCE 2016 RUN

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who spent three years as president of his high school class, is returning to his alma mater to launch a campaign for president of his country.

5. HAMAS ENTRENCHED AS FRUSTRATION GROWS

A year after the most destructive war in Gaza yet, the group remains in control — despite a poll suggesting half the residents would emigrate if the Israeli and Egyptian blockade did not keep the borders closed.

6. TRUMP'S BRAND TARNISHED BY COMMENTS? NOT SO FAST

Some experts say NBC's decision to sever ties with the mogul simply gives "The Donald" more of the attention and publicity he craves.

7. INDONESIA MILITARY PLANE CRASHES IN MEDAN

At least 37 people are killed. The C-130 Hercules appeared to develop engine trouble shortly after takeoff.

8. CALIFORNIA SEEKING TO STIFFEN VACCINATION LAWS

Experts believe that the bill could help prevent another measles outbreak like the one that occurred at Disneyland.

9. 2 DEAD AFTER MAN SETS SELF ON FIRE ON JAPAN TRAIN

At least nine others are injured, one seriously, mostly from smoke inhalation, on the famed bullet train.

10. OPENLY TRANSGENDER SWIMMER AT HARVARD BELIEVED TO BE A 1ST

Schuyler Bailar is recruited to the women's team, but the university lets him switch to the men's squad.

AP News in Brief

Crunch time in Greece as bailout due to expire, IMF loan due with no deal in sight

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — It's crunch time for Greece, with the European part of its international bailout expiring Tuesday and with it any possible access to the remaining rescue loans it contains that it needs to pay its debts.

As a result, the government is unlikely to repay a roughly 1.6 billion-euro (\$1.87 billion) debt to the International Monetary Fund due Tuesday, too — a move that increases fears the country is heading to a messy default and potential exit from the euro currency.

With banks shut and Greeks limited to cash withdrawals of 60 euros (\$67) per day, long lines formed once more at ATM machines. Capital controls began Monday and will last at least a week, after a weekend bank run prompted by the prime minister's call for a referendum on creditor demands in return for bailout loans.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras argues that the demands from creditors for further, tougher austerity measures cannot be accepted after six years of recession.

European officials and Greek opposition parties have warned that a rejection of the creditor proposals in Sunday's popular vote will lead Greece out of the eurozone and potentially out of the European Union itself. The government has responded by saying this is scaremongering, and that a "no" vote will mean the country is in a better negotiating position.

The Latest: European stock markets trim losses on speculation Greece considering Juncker offer

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The latest news on Greece's financial woes on a day a big repayment to the International Monetary Fund is due and the country's bailout program with European creditors ends (all times local):

12.43 p.m.

Stock markets across Europe trimmed earlier losses amid speculation that the Greek government is considering a last-minute effort by the head of the European Commission to break the deadlock between the country and its creditors.

Jean-Claude Juncker has made a last-ditch effort to help Greece get a bailout deal, provided Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras campaigns for staying in the euro.

NATO: Coalition convoy targeted in suicide attack in Kabul; casualties expected

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A suicide attacker driving an explosives-packed vehicle targeted a NATO military convoy in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Tuesday, police and a NATO official said.

Police on the scene said casualties were expected. "It was a suicide car bomber, there are casualties but it is too early to know the extent of the damage," said Kabul deputy police chief Sayed Gulagha.

A spokesman for the NATO mission in Afghanistan, US Army Col. Brian Tribus, said that a coalition convoy had been attacked.

"We can confirm there was an attack on coalition forces. We are gathering information," he said.

The explosion happened at 1.20 p.m. on the main airport road in eastern Kabul. The blast sent a huge plume of black smoke over the city.

Oklahoma, Florida move quickly to resume lethal injections after Supreme Court's ruling

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma and Florida moved quickly to resume lethal injections after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the use of midazolam, a sedative that has been used in several problematic executions.

Attorneys general in both states asked courts Monday to allow executions to proceed, just hours after the high court voted 5-4 in a case from Oklahoma that midazolam can be used in executions without violating the Eighth Amendment prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment.

Prison officials in both states have said previously they were ready to proceed with executions if the use of midazolam were upheld, but neither would disclose Monday how many doses they have.

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt sent notice to the state Court of Criminal Appeals that Richard Eugene Glossip, John Marion Grant and Benjamin Robert Cole have exhausted their appeals and may be executed as early as Aug. 5.

"The families in these three cases have waited a combined 48 years for justice," Pruitt said in a statement.

Iran's foreign minister returns to nuclear talks in Vienna amid signs of Iranian backtracking

VIENNA (AP) — Iran's foreign minister returned to the nuclear talks in Vienna where negotiators are struggling to overcome still significant differences and preparing to work through Tuesday's self-imposed deadline for a deal.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif rejoined the talks after a day of consultations in Tehran and was meeting first with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

"I feel the negotiations have reached a very sensitive stage, and at this stage, with political will, determination and lots of work, progress is possible," Zarif told reporters on arriving in Vienna with Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's atomic agency, who had missed earlier sessions due to illness.

Iran's official news agency said Salehi's participation indicated Iran's serious desire to accelerate the talks and achieve a comprehensive deal. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was also expected to join the discussions.

Zarif said Iran would only accept an agreement that is "fair, balanced and also based on national pride and the rights of the Iranian people."

Former class president Chris Christie returning to high school to launch 2016 bid

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who spent three years as president of his high school class, is returning to his alma mater to announce he's running for president of his country.

The Republican governor is set to launch his campaign Tuesday in the old gymnasium of Livingston High School in the town of Livingston, New Jersey, where he experienced some of his first political victories. Christie remains close to many of his former classmates, who had inklings even then that a career in politics was in his future.

"If you were to poll and ask who would one day be governor, I think Chris would have overwhelmingly won," said Harlan Coben, now a best-selling author, who served as student council president when

Christie was senior class president and played with him on the Little League baseball team in the town about 20 miles west of New York City.

In an interview with The Associated Press ahead of his 35th high school reunion earlier this year, Christie, who also served in student government during his junior high school years, talked about some of the lessons he learned from those early races. Among them: Always vote for yourself.

"The first race I ever ran in, I did not vote for myself. I voted for the other person because I actually thought that you know it was conceited to vote for yourself. And I wound up losing the election by two votes," he said. "So I learned always to vote for yourself, that's the first thing."

A year after Gaza's most destructive war, Hamas deeply entrenched despite public's frustration

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Emad Firi is angry. During last summer's Israel-Hamas war, a shell slammed through the roof of his house and shredded his right leg. Unable to work, Firi's son now drives his taxi but the family struggles to survive.

The 50-year-old blames Israel, but also the Islamic militant group Hamas which has ruled Gaza since a violent takeover in 2007. In the Hamas era, the tiny territory has endured three wars with Israel and a crippling Israeli-Egyptian border blockade that keeps most of its 1.8 million residents trapped.

"Who is not angry about this difficult situation?" Firi said, waiting at a rehabilitation clinic to finally to be fitted with an artificial leg.

But the people of Gaza won't rise up — some out of fear, he said. "If I say two words, I may go to prison," he says, as Hamas has little tolerance for dissent and often detains critics. "So we stay silent."

A year after the most destructive war in Gaza yet, Hamas remains in control — despite signs of mounting frustration and a poll indicating half the residents would emigrate if borders were open.

Indonesian air force transport plane crashes in Medan neighborhood, at least 37 dead

MEDAN, Indonesia (AP) — An Indonesian air force transport plane crashed into a residential neighborhood in the country's third-largest city of Medan, killing at least 37 people.

North Sumatra police chief Eko Hadi Sutedjo told reporters Tuesday that the plane was carrying 50 people based on its manifest.

He says 37 bodies have been transported to a Medan hospital.

Air force officials say the C-130 Hercules appeared to develop engine trouble shortly after takeoff.

Man sets self on fire on Japanese bullet train, killing himself and 1 other

ODAWARA, Japan (AP) — A man riding a Japanese high-speed bullet train set himself on fire Tuesday, killing himself and another passenger as the coach filled with smoke, a fire official said.

At least 26 other people were injured, three seriously, mostly from smoke inhalation, Odawara Fire Department official Ikutaro Torii said.

The man's motive wasn't clear.

The passenger poured an oil-like substance over his head before setting himself on fire, authorities said. Kyodo News service reported that he used a lighter. Officials said the fire was at the front of the

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first car in the train, which was heading from Tokyo to Osaka.

"I said to myself, 'This is bad!'" said Takeo Inariyama, a 54-year-old businessman traveling in the second car. "I saw everyone running toward me and smoke coming. Also the smell (of smoke) filled the car. So I felt my life was in danger."

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 30, the 181st day of 2015. There are 184 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 30, 1865, eight people, including Mary Surratt and Dr. Samuel Mudd, were convicted by a military commission of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. (Four defendants, including Surratt, were executed; Mudd was sentenced to life in prison, but was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson in 1869.)

On this date:

In 1859, French acrobat Charles Blondin (blahn-DAN') walked back and forth on a tightrope above the gorge of Niagara Falls as thousands of spectators watched.

In 1908, the Tunguska Event took place in Russia as an asteroid exploded above Siberia, leaving 800 square miles of scorched or blown-down trees.

In 1912, Canada's deadliest tornado on record occurred as a cyclone struck Regina, the provincial capital of Saskatchewan, killing 28 people.

In 1921, President Warren G. Harding nominated former President William Howard Taft to be chief justice of the United States, succeeding the late Edward Douglass White.

In 1933, the Screen Actors Guild was established.

In 1934, Adolf Hitler launched his "blood purge" of political and military rivals in Germany in what came to be known as "The Night of the Long Knives."

In 1949, "The Missouri Waltz" became the official state song of Missouri,

In 1958, the U.S. Senate passed the Alaska statehood bill by a vote of 64-20.

In 1963, Pope Paul VI was crowned the 262nd head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1972, for the first time, a leap-second was added to Coordinated Universal Time to account for the slowing rotation of the Earth.

In 1985, 39 American hostages from a hijacked TWA jetliner were freed in Beirut after being held 17 days.

In 1994, an Airbus A330 passenger plane crashed after takeoff from Toulouse, France, on a test flight, killing all seven occupants. The Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, that judges can bar even peaceful demonstrators from getting too close to abortion clinics. The U.S. Figure Skating Association stripped Tonya Harding of the national championship and banned her for life for her role in the attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan.

Ten years ago: Federal Reserve policymakers boosted the federal funds rate by one-quarter percentage point to 3.25 percent, the ninth such increase since the Fed began to tighten credit in June 2004 in an effort to keep inflation under control. Spain became the third country (after the Netherlands and Belgium) to legalize same-sex marriage.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama talked about the economy at a town hall in Racine, Wisconsin, saying, "We got it moving again," and that he intended to get "our debt and our deficits under control," but warned he wouldn't slash spending at the expense of the economic rebound. Benigno Aquino III was sworn in as the Philippines' 15th president.

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One year ago: A sharply divided Supreme Court ruled that some companies with religious objections could avoid the contraceptives requirement in President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, the first time the high court declared that businesses can hold religious views under federal law. President Obama tapped former Procter & Gamble CEO Robert McDonald to take over the troubled Veterans Affairs Department. The Israeli military found the bodies of three missing teenagers just over two weeks after they were abducted in the occupied West Bank, allegedly by Hamas militants. Writer, actor, producer and director Paul Mazursky, 84, died in Los Angeles. Actor Bob Hastings, 89, died in Burbank, California.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lea Massari is 82. Actress Nancy Dussault is 79. Songwriter Tony Hatch is 76. Singer Glenn Shorrock is 71. Actor Leonard Whiting (Film: "Romeo and Juliet") is 65. Jazz musician Stanley Clarke is 64. Actor David Garrison is 63. Rock musician Hal Lindes (Dire Straits) is 62. Actor-comedian David Alan Grier is 59. Actor Vincent D'Onofrio is 56. Actress Deirdre Lovejoy is 53. Actor Rupert Graves is 52. Boxer Mike Tyson is 49. Actor Peter Outerbridge is 49. Rock musician Tom Drummond (Better Than Ezra) is 46. Actor Brian Bloom is 45. Actor Brian Vincent is 45. Actress Monica Potter is 44. Actor Rick Gonzalez is 36. Actress Lizzy Caplan is 33. Rock musician James Adam Shelley (American Authors) is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Fantasia is 31. Olympic gold medal swimmer Michael Phelps is 30.

Thought for Today: "In order to go on living one must try to escape the death involved in perfectionism." - Hannah Arendt, German-born American philosopher and historian (1906-1975).