

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, July 2

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli or carrots, garlic toast, sherbet.

Birthdays: Nathan Flemming, Deb Gengerke, Carrie Duncan Olson, Drew Fjeldheim

8:00am: Elementary Library open

5:30pm: Teeners at Milbank (DH)

5:30pm: U10 Blue vs. U10 Red in Groton (DH)

5:30pm: U8 Blue PW vs. Groton Red PW (DH)

Friday, July 3

Independence Day observed

Birthdays: Janet Anderson, Sharolyn Jondahl, Wade Kluess

Saturday, July 4

Independence Day

Birthdays: Seth Erickson, Michael Felkey, Joan Johnson, Alex May

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, July 5

Anniversary: Allen & Joyce Walter

Birthdays: Jasmine Schinkel, Karen Mettler, Paula Krueger, Trenton Duncan, Stephen Simon.

9:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with communion

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

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**

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El Nino Expected to Affect July Climate

BROOKINGS, S. D. - The latest climate outlook for July 2015 continues to indicate wetter and cooler conditions for the central U.S. - including most of South Dakota.

According to the June 30 National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center update, average temperatures for July are more likely to lean cooler than the normal in a large area from New Mexico and Texas to the Great Lakes region. "All of South Dakota is included in this area on the updated forecast map," said Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist.

Edwards added that the Pacific Northwest and southeastern states are tending towards temperatures that are warmer than normal in the month ahead.

The update projects a large area of the U.S. to be wetter than normal in July, with the highest probabilities in the states of Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee. This area also covers the southern two-thirds of South Dakota.

Drier conditions are favored in the Pacific Northwest and the Gulf Coast regions.

"The summer season can be challenging for precipitation, as oftentimes thunderstorms emerge and can produce copious amounts of rain in a localized area," Edwards said.

This July forecast does weigh the first week or two of the month more heavily than the last two weeks where forecast skill can diminish quickly, Edwards explained.

For the month ahead, drought is not much of a concern as the forecast for cool and somewhat wet conditions continues. "There is a small area of moderate drought in the southeast part of South Dakota, but this area has greatly diminished in size since early May," Edwards said.

She added that it is unlikely any long term, excessive heat waves will impact the state in the month ahead as well. "So crops and gardens could do well in the coming weeks," she said.

A look back at June 2015

This cool and wet pattern over the central states is consistent with the typical summertime El Nino impacts. "The temperature outlook for July, in particular, has been very consistent in most of the climate models in the last few weeks," said Dennis Todey, South Dakota State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Specialist. "Continuing cool conditions would be consistent with wetter conditions that exist over most of the area."

Overall June was wet in western South Dakota, and a mixed bag in the eastern counties. Localized thunderstorms brought heavy rains to McPherson and McCook Counties in particular. "Most areas of the Black Hills had two to three times their average June precipitation," Todey said.

For Edgemont, Oral and Rapid City, June 2015 was the wettest on record, according to preliminary data. Cottonwood, Hot Springs and many others ranked this June among the top five wettest on record.

At the same time, June was overall warmer than average in many of these same areas, Edwards explained, pointing to Lead, Roscoe and Pactola Dam, which all ranked June 2015 among the top 10 warmest on record (in about 50 years or more.) "Only a handful of stations in South Dakota were cooler than average, as most locations were just a degree or two above average for the month," she said. "The many days of cloud cover and increased humidity likely had an impact in maintaining warmer overnight temperatures, especially in the western counties."

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Health Department Awards \$500,000 In Community Mosquito Control Grants

PIERRE, S.D. – More than 180 South Dakota cities, counties and tribes will share in \$490,371 in grants intended to control mosquitoes and prevent West Nile virus (WNV), the Department of Health announced today.

All applying communities received funding, with grants ranging from \$750 to \$20,000. Grant awards were based on the population of the applying jurisdiction and its history of human WNV cases through 2014.

Since the state's first human case in 2002, South Dakota has reported 2,168 cases, including 677 hospitalizations and 32 deaths. Every county has reported cases. This season South Dakota reported its first human WNV case on June 30, a Brown County resident in the 50 to 59 age group diagnosed with WNV fever. There has also been a positive mosquito pool in Meade County.

Including this latest round of grants, the state has provided local mosquito control programs with more than \$6 million in support, in either direct grant funding or control chemicals, since the virus emerged in South Dakota.

Those locally getting grants are Aberdeen for \$20,000, Andover for \$963, Conde for \$963, Groton for \$5,005, Hecla for \$2,024; Langford, Pierpont, Rolsyn, Eden cooperative for \$2,877; and Warner for \$2,239.



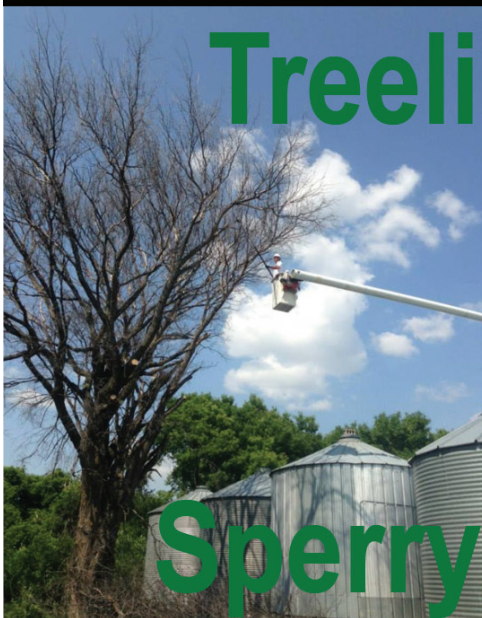
Aaron Severson was the starting pitcher for the Groton Teeners last night.

Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915
Tyler Sperry:
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Sperry Stump Removal



NASA grant to help control mosquitoes, West Nile virus

BROOKINGS, S.D. - July 1, 2015 - When it comes to fighting West Nile virus, it's all about timing.

Through a three-year NASA grant, two South Dakota State University researchers will help mosquito control officials use mosquito surveillance and environmental data to target West Nile virus.

People notice the nuisance mosquitoes that come out early in the season, but the *Culex tarsalis* mosquito, which carries West Nile, is active later in the season and later in the evening, explained SDSU biology professor Michael Hildreth. Since 2003, he has helped the South Dakota Department of Health with statewide mosquito surveillance for West Nile virus.

An increasing number of communities are developing mosquito control programs, thanks in part to funding through the S.D. Department of Health, according to Hildreth. Monitoring the week-to-week variability of environmental conditions will help officials better target their spraying strategies.

Through this grant, senior scientist Michael Wimberly of the Geospatial Sciences Center of Excellence will further refine a West Nile prediction model that he began developing in 2009. It combines environmental data gathered through earth-imaging satellites with the S. D. Department of Health's mosquito surveillance data.

"When we started, we were focused on making one big forecast for the upcoming year," Wimberly explained. "That was interesting from a science standpoint, but difficult to translate into specific public health recommendations."

Using the nearly \$685,000 grant, the researchers will focus on what Wimberly calls "details that will be useful to public health officials."

For instance, he explained, "By blending the most recent data from mosquito traps with maps of temperature and other environmental variables, we will be able to identify specific times and places where the risk of transmission is highest." The information will be available at a new website.

Understanding the timing will help mosquito control program managers decide where to put their limited resources. "The main point is to produce up-to-date information that is actionable," Wimberly added. One graduate student and a postdoctoral researcher are working on the project.

By comparing environmental data, Wimberly has found that milder winters and hotter summers are associated with larger West Nile virus outbreaks. Colder temperatures affect the overwintering survival of the mosquitoes.

Though mosquito populations bounce back quickly when temperatures rise, he pointed out, "the virus recovers more slowly." Warmer temperatures during the West Nile virus season increase mosquito activity and allow more mosquitoes to become infected by the virus.

The researchers will work with South Dakota Department of Health Epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger to encourage public health officials to access the website.

"West Nile viral disease has hit South Dakota hard the past 13 summers," Kightlinger noted. "Using the research data will help communities strategically plan their spraying as we increase our understanding of the disease's transmission dynamics."

The success of the project will be determined by the extent to which mosquito control personnel are able to use this information, according to Hildreth. "Public policy and science are now coming together to help solve this problem."

Today in Weather History

July 2, 1921: Barns were destroyed on two farms near Frederick in Brown County. A boy who could not make it to the cellar was killed in the open near a barn. This is the earliest known death from a significant, estimated F2 tornado in Brown County.

July 2, 1960: Hail shredded corn, flattened grain and hay, and pounded soybeans into the ground in a strip extending from Clinton to Montevideo in Minnesota. Leaves and bark were stripped from trees. Hail stones were reported to pile up to a depth of four feet in low spots. One farmer reported the loss of 2000 turkeys. Twelve barns demolished, many outbuildings destroyed and several home damaged by winds. Near Appleton, 45 cars of a moving 174 car freight train derailed by the wind, one hanger destroyed, and 2 plans were damaged. In Big Stone County alone, the cost to repair power lines and poles estimated to be near 10,000 dollars. Total crop acreage affected was near 64,000 acres. The three counties of Big Stone, Swift and Chippewa Counties was designated a disaster area.

July 2, 2005: A line of severe thunderstorms with very strong straight-line winds moved from north-east Wyoming and southeast Montana across northwest South Dakota during the evening. Widespread wind gusts of 60 to 80 mph affected northwest South Dakota; breaking tree limbs, downing trees, and knocking down snow fences. The strong winds capsized a boat on the Belle Fourche Reservoir near Orman Dam. Five people, including an infant, were rescued by emergency personnel with no one injured. The strongest winds were reported north of Newell, near Castle Rock, where gusts estimated at 100 mph damaged a barn roof and ripped a chimney off a house. Hail to the size of quarters was also reported across parts of the area, and combined with the wind, caused some minor damage.

1833 - An unusually large New England tornado, one half to three quarters of a mile wide, went from Salem Pond to Norton Pond, VT, and then into Canada. It prostrated nearly everything in its path. (The Weather Channel)

1843 - An alligator reportedly fell from the sky onto Anson Street in Charleston, SC, during a thunderstorm. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Colorado produced hail as large as golf balls northwest of Kiowa, which accumulated to a depth of twelve inches. Hail two and a half inches in diameter was reported at Black Forest. Hail damaged 900 acres of crops south of the town of Wiggins. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Twenty-six cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The morning low of 47 degrees at Roanoke, VA, broke the July record set the previous day. (The National Weather Summary)

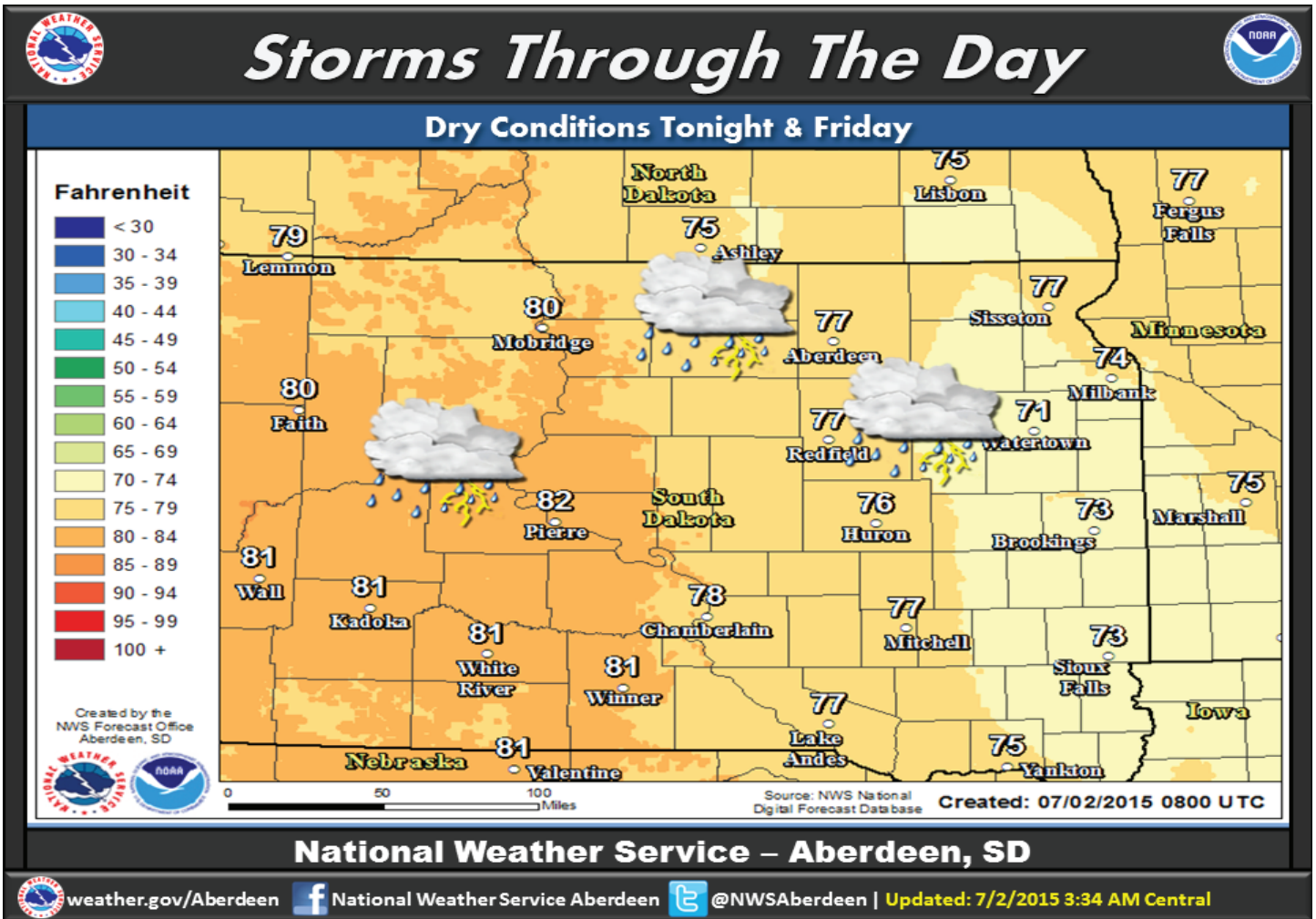
1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S., with 158 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Evening thunderstorms in northeastern Texas produced softball size hail which caused more than five million dollars damage at Allen, and wind gusts to 90 mph at Dallas, which injured eight persons and caused seven million dollars damage. Winnfield LA reported 29.52 inches of rain in six days, for a total of 62.50 inches for the first six months of the year. Midland, TX, reported an all-time record high of 112 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2001: In Michigan, frost and freezing temperatures were observed in some locations with Grant dropping to 29 degrees. Muskegon reported their coldest July temperature on record with 39 degrees. Other daily record lows included: Lansing: 38, Muskegon: 39, Flint: 40, Youngstown, Ohio: 40, and Grand Rapids, Michigan: 43 degrees.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Independence Day	Saturday Night	Sunday
 50%	 30%			 20%	 20%	 60%
Chance Thunderstorms	Chance Thunderstorms	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chc Thunderstorms	Slight Chc Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms Likely
High: 77 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 68 °F	High: 85 °F



Early morning Thunderstorms will continue off and on into the afternoon and evening before the system passes to the south. Dry conditions will follow for tonight and into Friday.

Published on: 07/02/2015 at 3:40AM

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 77.5 at 5:03 PM

Low: 63.9 at 11:56 PM

High Gust: 15 at 10:57 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 103° in 1949

Record Low: 37° in 1945

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in July: 0.21

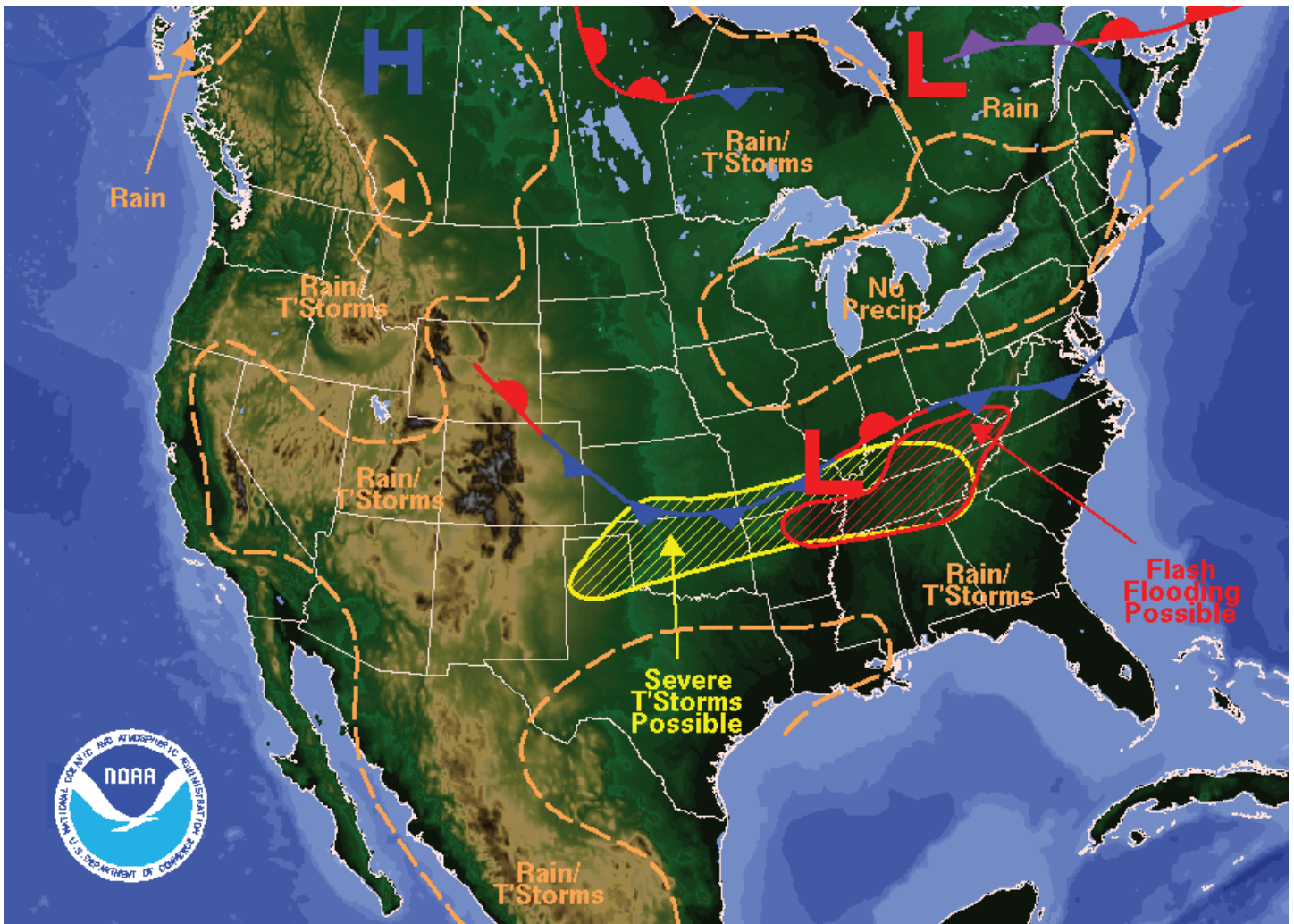
Precip to date in July: 0.15

Average Precip to date: 11.05

Precip Year to Date: 7.45

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Jul 02, 2015, issued 3:43 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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ANYTHING FOR YOU, GOD?

As he was saying his morning prayers, little Ben surprised his parents by praying, "Good morning, God. What can I do for You today?"

Often our prayers are focused on what we want God to do for us rather than us asking God what He wants us to do for Him.

Could it be that we have shaped God into the image of a bellhop that we would find in a hotel? We dial a number, place an order and then wait at the door for someone to appear with our requests on a tray. Do we see prayer as the ultimate in heavenly room service?

One day Paul heard a voice saying, "Get up and go...and you will be told what to do!"

Our Lord sees a world full of people who need His love and salvation, grace and hope. And He has given us, His children, the responsibility to bring those who need Him, to Him. When we pray, we must first be willing to "get up and go" to serve Him before we "dial and wait" for what we want.

Prayer: Lord, when we pray, let us first hear what You want from us and then make our requests. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Acts 9:6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."



The Groton teeners faced Northville in a double header last night.

News from the Associated Press

Supreme Court rejects appeal in Fargo murder-for-hire scheme

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The North Dakota Supreme Court has rejected another appeal by an Oklahoma man convicted of hiring a hit man to kill his son-in-law in North Dakota.

Gene Kirkpatrick is serving life in prison without parole for paying a man to kill Fargo dentist Philip Gattuso in October 2009 because Kirkpatrick thought Gattuso was a poor parent to his granddaughter.

Kirkpatrick has appealed three times. In his latest appeal he said his attorney was ineffective during discussions about a possible plea deal.

A district judge earlier ruled that Kirkpatrick misused the appeal process, and Supreme Court justices have affirmed that ruling.

Kirkpatrick unsuccessfully appealed to the Supreme Court earlier this year and in 2012.

He's serving his sentence at the South Dakota State Penitentiary. His granddaughter lives with relatives in Louisiana.

Sport utility vehicle crashes into Sioux Falls hotel lobby

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A woman was injured after an apparent medical problem caused her to crash her sport utility vehicle into the lobby of a Sioux Falls hotel.

Police say the driver cut across several lanes of traffic and over a ditch before crashing into the building about 11 p.m. Wednesday.

No one inside the hotel was hurt. Police say the woman was taken to a hospital with injuries that are not believed to be life-threatening.

There was no immediate estimate on damage to the hotel.

Huron, Bon Homme teachers honored by Obama administration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two South Dakota teachers are among 108 nationwide to be recognized by the Obama administration for their efforts in teaching math and sciences.

Lindsey Brewer, a math teacher at Huron High School, and Janet Wagner, a science teacher at Bon Homme School, have received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Winners get a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion.

They're also invited to Washington for an awards ceremony and several days of educational and other events, including visits with members of Congress and the Obama administration.

The award is given annually to outstanding K-12 science and math teachers. The awardees named this week teach seventh through 12th grade.

South Dakota joining national anti-terrorism campaign

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota is joining a national anti-terrorism effort and officials at the state's Homeland Security Office are encouraging citizens to report suspicious activity.

The state is taking part in the national "See Something, Say Something" campaign, which was originally implemented by the New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

State Homeland Security Director Steve Pluta says the campaign is designed to ask for the public's help. Citizens are encouraged to report any suspicious activity they observe.

Pluta says people that report suspicious activity should note who or what they saw, when they saw it, where it occurred and why it is suspicious.

He says being vigilant, even in a small state like South Dakota, is important.

Former US Senate candidate Annette Bosworth avoids prison

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Former South Dakota U.S. Senate candidate Annette Bosworth avoided prison time Wednesday for felony election law violations, with a judge handing down a suspended sentence provided she successfully completes three years of probation.

Bosworth, a Republican who finished a distant fourth of five candidates in the GOP primary last year, was convicted in May of perjury and filing false documents.

A physician and first-time candidate, Bosworth admitted that she improperly attested to witnessing signatures on her nominating petitions, but blamed bad advice from her political consultant.

"I think that the power of a felony in this situation is excessive, and I'm really hoping for the conversations through the appeal to the Supreme Court to remove all this," Bosworth told The Associated Press after the sentencing.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said in a statement that it was a just outcome.

"I respect today's sentence because jail is meant primarily for public safety, not necessarily for people whose conduct has crossed the line of exasperation to the general public," Jackley said.

Bosworth was sentenced to two years prison each for her twelve felony counts to be served concurrently, but the jail time was suspended as long as she completes the probation. The probation includes 500 hours of community service and covering court costs and paying for the county's costs of prosecution.

Judge John Brown said before he sentenced Bosworth that it's clear she's done good work, but he said he had hoped to see more remorse from her. Bosworth's attorneys unsuccessfully pushed for a sentence that encompassed probation and the conviction wiped away if Bosworth successfully completed it.

Bosworth, 43, was a political newcomer in the 2014 race for South Dakota's vacant U.S. Senate seat, and hoped her ordinary-citizen status would appeal to voters who were frustrated with longtime politicians. She was a sharp critic of the federal health overhaul and pledged not to raise taxes, but wound up finishing with just 6 percent of the vote or fourth of five candidates in a GOP primary won by former Gov. Mike Rounds, who was elected to the seat in November.

She would later cite inexperience for mishandling her nominating petitions.

She was out of the country on a medical mission during the period her petitions were circulating, yet attested to witnessing people signing them. Under state law, the person circulating petitions must witness the signings from registered voters.

Bosworth blamed bad advice from a former attorney and political consultant, Joel Arends. He denied giving bad advice and testified that Bosworth knew what she was doing.

She has worried that her conviction could jeopardize her medical license. Felony convictions are grounds for revocation in South Dakota, but not an automatic disqualifier.

"What did 12 felonies do to somebody like me? Most powerfully, they stopped me from leaving the country, and the medical board has a tough decision in front of them," Bosworth said.

Another candidate in the 2014 GOP Senate field, independent Clayton Walker, faces 12 felony charges for submitting nominating petitions that investigators allege included names of dead people, fictitious

people and Hollywood celebrities.

The Bosworth and Walker cases spurred the South Dakota Legislature this year to change election laws such as giving the secretary of state the power to audit a random sample of the signatures on petitions from statewide candidates. Before, it could only be done on petitions for ballot measures.

New laws: breastfeeding protections, safety for bikers

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The start of the state's new fiscal year Wednesday also meant a slew of new laws kicking in. Some of the more notable:

NO MORE "DASCHLE LAW"

Lawmakers repealed the so-called "Daschle law" that barred a presidential candidate from seeking another office on the same South Dakota ballot.

Under the new law, for example, a current state senator can seek re-election while also seeking the presidency.

That undoes a law passed in 2002 — a GOP-backed measure that was criticized by Democrats at the time for targeting Sen. Tom Daschle as he weighed a 2004 presidential bid.

BREASTFEEDING IN PUBLIC

Nursing mothers can now breastfeed their children in any public or private location in South Dakota as long as they follow other state and local laws.

Breastfeeding advocates had argued the practice should be protected in the state.

Nursing mothers must still obey state and municipal laws, mostly aimed at public decency. However, no municipality may outright ban breastfeeding in public places.

WEAPONS FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

Spouses of military personnel with permanent residency in South Dakota, but posted elsewhere, can now apply for a South Dakota permit to carry a concealed weapon in the roughly 25 states that have reciprocity. The permit would be necessary if they visited South Dakota and wanted to carry a firearm.

Before Wednesday, the law only extended those benefits to serving military personnel, not their spouses.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley proposed the measure, citing the case of a man who moved to Germany with his wife, who was serving in the military. The man wanted to renew his permit and potentially carry a weapon in South Dakota if he returned on vacation, but couldn't fulfill the 30-day state residency requirement because he was overseas.

EXTRA GAMBLING OPTIONS

Casinos in the historic Black Hills town of Deadwood can now offer keno, craps and roulette.

The new games were overwhelmingly approved by South Dakota voters in November and authorized by lawmakers this year.

Casinos and residents hope the new games will attract younger gamblers, as well as those who might otherwise have gone to Colorado or Iowa to seek out the games.

Deadwood officials have estimated the new games could bring as much as \$2 million a year. They also tout other benefits, such as increased spending on other games by gamblers who might not otherwise come.

BIKE PASSING

In a nod to cyclist safety, drivers now have to give bikers a 3- to 6-foot buffer when passing.

It's 3 feet with the speed limit 35 mph or below, 6 feet when the limit is above that.

At least 25 other states require the 3-foot cushion.

Moore, AP West editor, named Milwaukee correspondent

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Greg Moore, an editor on The Associated Press' West regional desk, has been named supervisory correspondent in the cooperative's Milwaukee bureau.

Moore, 36, joined AP in 2011 on the West regional editing desk, where he has frequently handled top stories such as gay marriage, the health care overhaul, the resignation of Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber and the debate over childhood vaccines. Moore has also taken a lead role in shaping state government and political reporting in the region, including being a lead editor during the 2012 and 2014 elections and developing training for the region's statehouse coverage.

The appointment was announced Wednesday by Doug Glass, AP's news editor for Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota.

"Greg has shown himself to be a strong newsman, with a keen eye for what makes a good story," Glass said. "We're excited to have him take on the challenge of shaping AP's report in Milwaukee, including reporting on the city and region."

Moore has served brief stints in the past year as AP's interim news editor in Texas, Missouri/Kansas and Arizona/New Mexico. In 2013, he was a participant in AP's Future Leaders program, working on a team that developed proposals to enhance AP's training and internal communication.

Before joining AP, Moore spent six years at The Kansas City Star, where he held a variety of assignments on wire, sports and news desks. A native of Detroit and a graduate of Wayne State University, he began his journalism career as an editorial assistant at the Detroit Free Press.

He also worked as a copy editor and sports reporter at the Columbus (Georgia) Ledger-Enquirer and spent two months in 2009 in Kenya and Uganda as a reporter, assignment editor and mentor in the Alfred Friendly Press Partners fellowship program. Moore has also taught as an adjunct professor at Arizona State University's Walker Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Moore starts in his new role in August.

Rapid City's parks crews checking all parks for razor blades

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Crews with the Rapid City Parks Department are inspecting all city parks to ensure no razor blades are attached to playgrounds after a woman claimed on social media that she was injured going down a park slide.

The city's police department is investigating the alleged incident at College Park. The department on Wednesday morning said it takes the razor blades "claims seriously" and officers are trying to get in contact with the woman.

Police are advising parents to check playground equipment before allowing their children to use them. Police also ask anybody who witnesses suspicious activity at the parks to contact the department.

Man shot in Wagner during early morning altercation

WAGNER, S.D. (AP) — A 22-year-old man was shot in Wagner during an altercation on the community's Main Street.

The Charles Mix County Sheriff's Office says an altercation involving several people started about 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, and Donovan Patterson, of Wagner, was shot in the lower abdomen. He was taken to a local hospital and then flown to a Sioux Falls hospital for more treatment.

The Sheriff's Office and Wagner Police Department are investigating.

MDU seeks to raise electric, gas rates in South Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. is seeking to raise electric and natural gas rates for its customers in South Dakota.

The North Dakota-based utility has filed rate increase requests with South Dakota's Public Utilities Commission.

MDU says that if approved, the increases would raise a residential South Dakota gas customer's bill by an average of \$2.20 a month, and an electrical customer's bill by an average of \$16.90.

MDU cites increased demand for services, increased operating costs and an increased investment in its facilities as reasons for the rate hike requests.

MDU serves about 8,600 electric customers in 30 South Dakota communities and about 57,600 natural gas customers in 25 communities in the state.

South Dakota regulators will rule on the proposed rate hikes within six months.

Gov appoints Vermillion woman as South Dakota poet laureate

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has a new poet laureate.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has appointed Lee Ann Roripaugh of Vermillion to succeed David Allan Evans, who is retiring as South Dakota's poet laureate after serving more than a dozen years. Roripaugh will serve a four-year term.

Roripaugh is the author of four volumes of poetry and has received various awards and recognitions. She teaches creative writing at the University of South Dakota and is the editor of the quarterly journal "South Dakota Review."

The South Dakota Arts Council works closely with the poet laureate. Council Director Michael Pangburn says Roripaugh's work "is outstanding."

June economic report echoes previous signs for Midwest

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Data from a June survey echo previous signs that slower economic growth likely lays ahead for nine Midwestern and Plains states, according to a report released Wednesday.

The report said the overall Mid-America Business Conditions Index rose to 53.0 last month from 50.4 in May.

"Much weaker business conditions for firms tied to energy are restraining the overall reading," said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey. "Weaker conditions were particularly evident in Oklahoma and North Dakota, two energy-producing states. This weakness is spilling over into metal manufacturers throughout the region."

The survey results from supply managers were compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth, while a score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Looking ahead six months, the business confidence index rose to 59.9 from May's 58.3.

"Improvements at the national level in housing, retail sales and hiring pushed supply managers to raise their expectations about future economic conditions," Goss said.

On the employment front, the regional employment gauge indicated slightly negative to stagnant job growth for manufacturing and value-added services firms in the region. The index hit 49.1, compared to 48.3 in May.

For the June survey, supply managers were asked about the hiring situation at their companies, a

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question that also was asked in June 2014. There was little change from last year, Goss said.

"Approximately four of 10 firms in both surveys expected to hire additional workers in the second half of the year," Goss said. In this year's survey, only 7.1 percent anticipated layoffs in the year ahead, which is down from the figure of 10.4 percent in June 2014.

Huron man accused of brandishing gun in road rage incident

HURON, S.D. (AP) — A Huron man is accused of brandishing a gun in an alleged case of road rage in the city.

Richard Rathjen tells The Associated Press that it was a case of self-defense.

Rathjen allegedly got into an altercation with another person after a traffic incident Monday, then followed that person to a job site and brandished a handgun.

Rathjen tells the AP that he did have a gun but that he did not point it at the other person or threaten the person. Rathjen says he felt threatened and was defending himself.

KOKK radio reports that police seized a weapon as evidence. Rathjen is facing an aggravated assault charge.

Wheat acres up, corn and soybeans down in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers this year have planted more wheat but less corn and soybeans.

The Agriculture Department says in its annual acreage report that spring wheat, winter wheat and durum wheat acres all are up this year in South Dakota, while soybean acres are down 1 percent and corn acres are down 10 percent.

South Dakota farmers also planted more oil sunflowers, oats, barley and flaxseed than last year. Acres of sorghum, proso millet, dry beans and alfalfa hay were unchanged

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. WHAT GREECE IS BRACING FOR

More chaos on the streets outside its mostly shuttered banks as the country and its creditors halt talks on resolving the deepening financial crisis until a national referendum on creditor proposals is held this weekend.

2. U.S. EMPLOYERS LIKELY HIRED AT ANOTHER STRONG PACE IN JUNE

That's a sign that the job market is nearing full health and giving the Federal Reserve reason to raise interest rates as early as September.

3. WHO'S IN LINE FOR TOP DIPLOMATIC POST IN CUBA

Supporters of Jeffrey DeLaurentis say his experience on the Caribbean island nation makes him the favorite to be the first U.S. ambassador to Havana in almost 55 years.

4. FREIGHT TRAIN DERAILS IN TENNESSEE

At least one CSX freighter car carrying a flammable and toxic gas is off the tracks and catches fire in a town south of Knoxville, prompting an evacuation within a one-mile radius.

5. TRUMP FALLOUT CONTINUES

Macy's joins an ongoing exodus from association with the billionaire mogul and New Mexico's governor and New York City's mayor slam him over his comments on Mexican immigrants.

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6. AFTER TRADE DEAL, OBAMA SEEKS TO REPAIR LABOR RIFT

The president travels to Wisconsin to try to mend fences with his labor allies, promoting his union-backed plan to make more workers eligible for overtime.

7. HOW PYONGYANG BECAME EVEN LESS WIRED

A limited number of foreigners who can access the Internet in North Korea with relative freedom have noticed blacklist warnings on some social media accounts and websites.

8. PONTIFF BRINGS 'CHURCH FOR THE POOR' TO SOUTH AMERICA

Pope Francis will address issues that are close to his heart, such as the environment and indigenous issues, during a grueling visit to Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay.

9. PIANO MAN SETS MSG RECORD

Billy Joel sets the mark for most performances by a single artist at Madison Square Garden with his 65th show, besting Elton John.

10. HOOP DREAMS AS BIG BUCKS FLY

Kevin Love resigns with Cleveland and Tyson Chandler takes his talents to Phoenix as more than \$1 billion worth of deals are made on the first day of NBA free agency.

AP News in Brief

Greece in limbo: Shuttered banks keep lifeline while Athens, lenders wait for referendum

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece braced for more chaos on the streets outside its mostly shuttered banks Thursday, as Athens and its creditors halted talks on resolving the country's deepening financial crisis until a referendum this weekend.

Banks have been closed all week to prevent a crash from mass money withdrawals, while a few have been reopened to help pensioners without ATM cards.

But they are still in business. The European Central Bank left the terms of its emergency \$100 billion cash support to Greece unchanged, a day after Athens slipped into arrears with the International Monetary Fund and its bailout program expired.

The move kept chances alive for a settlement between Greece and creditors. And Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis publicly thanked the ECB and its president, Mario Draghi, for the decision.

"This allows us to breathe. It's a very positive move and a move of good will on the part of the European Central Bank. I welcome it," Varoufakis told state television.

What crisis? Greek troubles that terrified markets in 2012 seem manageable now

The prospect of a Greek crackup isn't so terrifying anymore.

In 2012, financial markets were rattled by the possibility that Greeks would elect a left-wing government, default on their debts and drop the euro currency. The fears pushed the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index down nearly 10 percent that spring.

Here's how things look now: The left-wing party, Syriza, holds power in Athens. Greece actually did miss a loan payment to the International Monetary Fund late Tuesday. And the nation's future in the eurozone hinges precariously on a referendum Sunday.

Yet investors seem to be taking events in stride. Stocks around the world mostly rose Wednesday.

Part of the calm reflects hope that Greece ultimately will reach a deal with its creditors and that Greeks

will vote Sunday to accept their demands and keep the euro. But investors also have been reassured by the defenses the Europeans have built the past three years to limit potential damage. Improving economic conditions in Europe and America help too.

Another solid month of hiring is expected for June as US job market nears normal

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers likely hired at another strong pace in June, a sign that the job market is nearing full health and giving the Federal Reserve reason to raise interest rates as early as September.

Economists predict that employers added 233,000 jobs and that the unemployment rate dipped to 5.4 percent from 5.5 percent in May, according to data firm FactSet.

The June employment report will be released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time Thursday.

For the first five months of 2015, monthly job growth has averaged 217,000, a healthy streak that is steadily absorbing the unemployed as well as part-time workers looking for more hours.

The job gains are also showing tentative signs of finally forcing up wages, which have remained stagnant for many Americans during the 6-year-old economic recovery. Pay is now rising for some because employers have been forced to offer higher wages to attract qualified employees.

Many but not all in GOP grouse, showing obstacles and openings as US, Cuba ready embassies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Loud but hardly universal catcalls from Republicans underscored the obstacles and opportunities ahead as U.S. and Cuban leaders announced an opening of embassies in Havana and Washington and a resumption of diplomatic relations severed the year President Barack Obama was born.

Obama also called on Congress to lift the economic and travel embargoes that the U.S. has used for decades in an attempt to force Cuba's leaders toward democracy. Obama has partly eased those restrictions on his own, but continued opposition from many Republicans and some Democrats makes it unlikely that lawmakers will fully revoke those bans quickly.

Labeling the moment "a choice between the future and the past," Obama on Wednesday revealed the latest steps in a half-year of rapid-fire improvements in relations between two nations that lie 90 miles apart but have spent nearly six decades separated by light years diplomatically and economically.

"There are those who want to turn back the clock and double down on a policy of isolation," Obama said in the White House Rose Garden. "But it's long past time for us to realize that this approach doesn't work."

In an exchange of notes with Cuban President Raul Castro, the two governments said that on July 20 they will open embassies in each other's capitals that have been shuttered since 1961. That is when President Dwight Eisenhower broke relations with the communist regime of Raul's brother, Fidel Castro, setting the tone for decades of Cold War hostility that included failed U.S.-backed efforts to overthrow the island nation's leaders.

Blacklist warnings suggest North Korea may be tightening access to Internet even further

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea, already one of the least-wired places in the world, appears to be cracking down on the use of the Internet by even the small number of foreigners who can access it with relative freedom by blacklisting and blocking social media accounts or websites deemed to carry harmful content.

The move won't be noticed by most in the North since hardly anyone has access to the Internet. But it could signal increasing concern in Pyongyang over the flow of real-time photos, tweets and status updates getting out to the world and an attempt to further limit what the few North Koreans able to view the Internet can see.

Warnings, in Korean and English, are now appearing on a wide array of sites, including social media such as Instagram, Tumblr and Flickr and websites like the South Korean news agency Yonhap, along with specific articles about the country. The warnings say the sites have been blacklisted for harmful content and cannot be accessed.

There has been no announcement of a policy change by the North Korean government or the North's mobile service carrier, Koryolink, a joint venture with Egypt's Orascom Telecom and Media Technology. With no official confirmation, it was impossible to rule out the possibility the warnings resulted from a hack of some sort.

The explicit blacklisting of sites would be a break with past practice in North Korea, when officials most likely monitored the Internet activity of foreign users but did so quietly. The 3G data connection on mobile phones itself has not been disrupted and many sites, including Facebook and Twitter, continued to function normally.

Benghazi, where Libya's anti-Gadhafi uprising began, is now a city shattered by fighting

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) — The old courthouse in central Benghazi, Libya's second-largest city and the birthplace of the uprising against Moammar Gadhafi, is a shelled-out ruin — a testimony to the destruction and chaos that permeate this North African country four years after the civil war that ousted the longtime dictator.

The building is steeped in symbolism. It was here that the rallying cry first came against Gadhafi's 42-year rule. It was here that pro-democracy protesters and rebels first raised the tri-colored Libyan flag, replacing Gadhafi's green banner.

Now, the courthouse is ruin and rubble, like much of the rest of Benghazi.

Today, Libya is bitterly divided between an elected parliament and government that are cornered in the country's east, with little power on the ground, and an Islamist militia-backed government in the west. Hundreds of militias are aligned with either side or on their own, battling for power and turf.

The U.N.-backed talks between rival factions have not yet managed to strike a power-sharing deal. Meanwhile, Libya's Islamic State affiliate is fighting on different fronts, losing ground in its eastern stronghold of Darna while expanding along the country's central northern coastline.

Indonesia air force chief: Crashed plane had propeller 'feathering' that suggests engine stall

MEDAN, Indonesia (AP) — The aging Indonesian military transport plane that crashed into a residential neighborhood of Medan killing 141 people had a propeller "abnormality" that indicates an engine stalled, the air force chief said Thursday.

Air Marshal Agus Supriatna told reporters the fact that the plane turned rightward after takeoff and was flying at a lower than normal speed also suggests an engine failure.

Before crashing shortly after takeoff on Tuesday, the C-130 Hercules hit a 35-meter (115-foot) radio antenna, he said. "By hitting the antenna, I imagine it certainly affected the plane," Supriatna said.

The search for bodies ended Wednesday. The plane was carrying 122 people and the impact also killed people on the ground. The wreckage of the plane has been removed from the neighborhood in Indonesia's third largest city and two nearby roads have been reopened. The smell of jet fuel still lingers around the crash site.

Air force spokesman Dwi Badarmanto said it has grounded other B-type C-130 Hercules planes pending the investigation. He didn't say how many planes were involved.

Macy's cuts ties with Trump; NY mayor slams Trump's immigrant comments, city reviews contracts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Macy's department store chain joined an ongoing exodus from association with Donald Trump and New Mexico's governor and New York City's mayor slammed him over his comments on Mexican immigrants.

Gov. Susana Martinez of New Mexico, the nation's only Latina governor and a rising star in the Republican party, added her voice Wednesday to criticism of the GOP presidential hopeful, denouncing his comments as "horrible."

Trump's presidential campaign announcement contained his assertion that some Mexican immigrants to the United States bring drugs and crime, and some are rapists.

New York City officials said Wednesday they are reviewing the city's contracts with Trump in light of his comments, and Mayor Bill de Blasio issued a statement calling them "disgusting and offensive," adding that "this hateful language has no place in our city."

The Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point Park opened in April in the Bronx and the Trump Organization has a 20-year concession agreement to operate the facility.

Church fires in the US are very common, but usually not arson or racially motivated

GREELEYVILLE, S.C. (AP) — As investigators probe the cause of a fire that destroyed a rural South Carolina black church rebuilt after the Ku Klux Klan torched it 20 years ago, statistics show church fires are not unusual, and that the vast majority in recent years were not intentionally set.

Of the blazes that occurred at houses of worship dozens of times a week across the nation, about 84 percent were not intentionally set and many arsons are probably not hate crimes, the data shows.

Local and federal investigators said Wednesday that they haven't ruled out any potential cause for the fire at the Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church. The fire happened late Tuesday as thunderstorms with frequent lightning rolled over Greeleyville, a small town about 50 miles north of Charleston.

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But a federal official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case publicly, told The Associated Press that preliminary indications show the fire was not the result of arson.

The fire was reported about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday and happened as federal authorities have been investigating a series of fires at black churches in several Southern states. So far, there is no indication the fires are related.

Swiss say US has filed formal request to extradite 7 FIFA officials arrested in May

GENEVA (AP) — The United States has submitted a formal request for Switzerland to extradite seven FIFA officials arrested in Zurich as part of a corruption probe that has rocked soccer's world governing body.

Switzerland's Federal Office of Justice said Thursday that the requests were received from the U.S. embassy in Bern. The requests submitted late Wednesday met a 40-day deadline since the seven were detained early May 27 in raids on a luxury hotel in FIFA's home city.

All seven men detained in Zurich, including three current and former members of FIFA's executive committee, have already objected to extradition. They face around 20 years in prison.

The widening American investigation already alleges bribery and racketeering worth more than \$150 million involving high-ranking FIFA officials over a 24-year span.

The U.S. Department of Justice published an indictment of 14 soccer and marketing officials in May which alleged bribery linked to awarding broadcast rights for international tournaments in North and South America.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 2, the 183rd day of 2015. There are 182 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

On this date:

In 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)

In 1890, President Benjamin Harrison signed into law the Sherman Antitrust Act.

In 1915, a time bomb planted in a reception room of the U.S. Senate exploded shortly before midnight, causing considerable damage but hurting no one. Former Mexican President Porfirio Diaz died in exile in Paris.

In 1926, the United States Army Air Corps was created.

In 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

In 1943, Bing Crosby and the Ken Darby Singers recorded "Sunday, Monday or Always" for Decca Records.

In 1955, "The Lawrence Welk Show" premiered on ABC-TV under its original title, "The Dodge Dancing Party."

In 1961, author Ernest Hemingway shot himself to death at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law a sweeping civil rights bill passed by Congress.

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In 1979, the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin was released to the public.

In 1982, Larry Walters of San Pedro, California, used a lawn chair equipped with 45 helium-filled weather balloons to rise to an altitude of 16,000 feet; he landed eight miles away in Long Beach.

In 1990, more than 1,400 Muslim pilgrims were killed in a stampede inside a pedestrian tunnel near Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Ten years ago: Shasta Groene (GROH'-nee), an 8-year-old girl kidnapped six weeks earlier, was rescued at a restaurant in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; the man with her, Joseph Edward Duncan III, was arrested and accused of kidnapping Shasta as well as killing members of her family. (Duncan later received three death sentences and multiple life sentences.) Egypt's top envoy to post-Saddam Hussein Iraq (Ihab al-Sherif) was kidnapped in Baghdad (al-Qaida later announced it had killed him). The marathon Live 8 concert rocked the globe and the Internet, focusing attention on African poverty. Venus Williams beat top-ranked Lindsay Davenport at Wimbledon 4-6, 7-6 (4), 9-7 for her fifth major title and her first in nearly four years. Hollywood screenwriter Ernest Lehman (LEE'-muhn) died in Los Angeles at age 89.

Five years ago: Gen. David Petraeus arrived in Afghanistan to assume command of U.S. and NATO forces after his predecessor, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, was fired for intemperate remarks he'd made about Obama administration figures in Rolling Stone magazine. The United States defeated Japan 7-2 to win its seventh consecutive world softball championships. British novelist Beryl Bainbridge, 77, died in London.

One year ago: Palestinians accused Israeli extremists of abducting and killing an Arab teenager and burning his body, sparking hours of clashes in east Jerusalem and drawing charges that the youth was murdered to avenge the killings of three kidnapped Israeli teens. Louis Zamperini, 97, an Olympic runner who survived a bomber crash in the Pacific Ocean, weeks adrift and then years as a Japanese prisoner of war and became the subject of a celebrated book and movie, died in Los Angeles.

Today's Birthdays: Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos is 86. Jazz musician Ahmad Jamal is 85. Actor Robert Ito is 84. Actress Polly Holliday is 78. Racing Hall of Famer Richard Petty is 78. Former White House chief of staff John H. Sununu is 76. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox is 73. Writer-director-comedian Larry David is 68. Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson, is 68. Actor Saul Rubinek is 67. Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 66. Rock musician Gene Taylor is 63. Actress-model Jerry Hall is 59. Actor Jimmy McNichol is 54. Country singer Guy Penrod is 52. Rock musician Dave Parsons (Bush) is 50. Actress Yancy Butler is 45. Contemporary Christian musician Melodee DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 39. Actor Owain (OH'-wyn) Yeoman is 37. Race car driver Sam Hornish Jr. is 36. Singer Michelle Branch is 32. Actress Vanessa Lee Chester is 31. Figure skater Johnny Weir is 31. Actor Nelson Franklin is 30. Actress-singer Ashley Tisdale is 30. Actress Lindsay Lohan (LOH'-uhn) is 29. Actress Margot Robbie is 25.

Thought for Today: "The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them." - Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961).