

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 3, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 335 ♦ 1 of 18

- 1- Mark Malmberg, DDS
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Practice safe boating
- 2- Head Start Help Wanted
- 3- Treeline Tree Service ad
- 3- City Council Agenda
- 4- Rep. Noem's Weekly Column
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 6- Local Weather Forecast
- 7- National Weather Map
- 7- Local Weather
- 8- Daily Devotional
- 9- News from the Associated Press

Steen Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who came to my shower at St Elizabeth Ann Seton on June 20th it was so nice to see all of you! I also want to thank all of the ladies that contributed to the gifts from Lori's Pharmacy! A very special thank you to Janet Hoescheid, Linda Ganje, Carla Kjelden, Pat Kappes & Terri Kjellsen for having such a wonderful shower for me!
Jen Steen

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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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

3:30 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran fellowship at Golden Living Center (MM Bible Study serves)

Monday, July 6

Anniversaries: Ed & Connie Stauch, Darrel & Deanna Hendrickson.

Birthdays: Ward Sperry, Kamryn Janae Fliehs, Carol Kutter, Shawn Millim, Jarrett Adler, Rich Fliehs, Bryan Sombke, Bryce Sombke.

Senior Menu: Goulash, green and gold beans,

Mark Malmberg, DDS
19 North 6th St.

Oakes, N.D.
701-742-3401



Reminder to Practice Safe Boating during the Fourth of July Weekend

PIERRE, S.D. – With the peak boating season well underway and the Fourth of July holiday weekend upon us, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) again wants to inform boaters on the importance of boating safety and responsible use of alcohol while boating.

Operation Dry Water took place last weekend, June 26-28, 2015, and over that three day period 57 officers took part in 11 different boating safety operations across the state with 1,314 boaters contacted and 376 boats inspected.

“Overall boating safety compliance by the boating public is good,” stated Brandon Gust, GFP boating law administrator. “Boating under the influence does, however, continue to be an issue. It is our hope that participation in the Operation Dry Water national effort raises the awareness of the dangers of drinking and boating, especially going into the holiday weekend.”

As a result of those boating safety inspections, 13 written citations were issued along with 61 written warnings. Nine individuals were arrested for BUI (boating under influence) and one individual was arrested for DUI (driving under influence).

“Boating is all about having fun. Our boating safety patrols have a secondary role of law enforcement,” Gust said. “Our primary goal is to share the message with the boating public that safety is the most important factor to a fun outing. We want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable boating season.”



HEAD START Education-Purchasing Coordinator

The Northeast South Dakota Head Start Program in Aberdeen is seeking a candidate who is highly motivated and will be responsible for supervising/mentoring teaching staff, developmental screening of children ages 3 to 5, monitoring federal regulations, and purchasing consumable and classroom items for entire program. Must be able to lift 30 lbs. and occasionally heavier items. Extensive driving is required, company vehicle is provided.

Qualifications: A minimum of a BS/BA Degree in Early Childhood Education or a Degree in a related field with a minor in Early Childhood Development. Applicant must possess good leadership/mentoring skills, have a working knowledge of the developmental and educational needs of children; and be able to work closely as a team with Head Start staff, parents and volunteers; must have adequate computer knowledge and skills.

Starting date is July 27, 2015.

Annual salary is \$29,215 DOQ. Excellent benefits. For a complete job description and an application form, visit: www.nesdhs.org/careers/

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 3, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 335 ♦ 3 of 18

GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

July 6, 2015 – 7pm
Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Financial Report
- 3) Midget Baseball Umpires Fees (Girls/PeeWee)
- 4) Bills
- 5) Dept Reports – Public Works- Terry, Dwight, & Shawn
- 6) Open Newspaper Quotes
- 7) Appoint Official Newspaper
Groton Independent or Dakota Press or Both
- 8) Appoint Official Banks-
1st State Bank
Wells Fargo Bank
Dacotah Bank
SD Public Funds Investment Trust
- 9) Swimming Pool Storage Building
- 10) Swimming Pool Basketball Hoop moving
- 11) House/Business Numbering Compliance
- 12) Budget Compliance 2015

AND any other business that may come before the Council



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of Combined
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Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal

Taking a Swing at Breast Cancer

By Rep. Kristi Noem

I have known Lynn Popham for a long time – more than two decades, I suppose. We've spent hours together at ball games, rodeos, and our kids' school events. She's an incredible mom to two young men, a hard worker, a trusted neighbor, and a tremendous asset to our community. Last December, Lynn learned she had Stage 2 breast cancer.

This year alone, approximately 230,000 women are expected to learn that they too must fight breast cancer, according to the latest American Cancer Society data. Just over 2,000 men will also have to battle the disease. Each of these journeys will come with highs and lows, but I have to say that so far, Lynn has weathered her diagnosis and treatments with an unbelievably positive attitude. While she has a ways to go in her journey with breast cancer, I believe her strength and perseverance for the first leg of the race deserves recognition. This summer, I had the opportunity to give Lynn some of that well-deserved recognition.

Each year, women in Congress – both Republicans and Democrats – join to play in the Congressional Women's Softball Game against female members of the press corps. We do it as a way to increase awareness about breast cancer and help raise funds for the Young Survival Coalition, an organization that supports the women who have been diagnosed and helps move us closer to a cure. This year, I was proud to play in honor of Lynn.

Through events like this and the dedication of groups like the Young Survival Coalition, we have increased Americans' awareness about breast cancer to historic levels. One of the tangible benefits of that work has been an increase in the number of mammograms. In fact, while just 29 percent of women had gotten a mammogram in 1987, 67 percent of women had gotten one in 2010. Lynn was one of those women.

The increase in mammography has helped more women detect their cancer early, which in turn has boosted survival rates. The American College of Radiology reports that mammography has helped reduce breast cancer mortality in the United States by nearly one-third since 1990.

As a result of early-detection efforts and stronger science, there are more than 2.8 million breast cancer survivors living in the United States today. That's incredible. Please join me in taking a swing against breast cancer this summer. Find a way to support women like Lynn and their families. Put together an early detection plan for yourself – the National Breast Cancer Foundation has a tool that can help at www.earlydetectionplan.org. Or support one of the many organizations fighting for a cure. Together, we can beat breast cancer.

Today in Weather History

July 3, 1959: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast after destroying a farm building at the west-edge of Java, Walworth County. Elsewhere in the area, high straight line winds caused property damage while hail damaged crops. The largest hail was 2.75 inches in diameter and was observed 9 miles NNW of Timber Lake.

July 3, 2003: A supercell thunderstorm moved southeastward across western Jackson County and Bennett County. The storm dropped up to golf ball sized hail and produced an F2 tornado north of Tuthill in Bennett County. The tornado touched down about a mile north of the junction of highways 18 and 73, where it destroyed a garage. The tornado moved south-southeast and destroyed a mobile home just to the southeast of the highway intersection and then dissipated just north of Tuthill. No one was injured.

Also on this day, a line of severe thunderstorms with hail up to the size of golf balls and winds over 80 mph at times brought widespread property and crop damage to far northeast Brown, across Marshall and Roberts counties. The wind and hail caused the most damage to crops in a 20 mile to 70 mile long area from north of Britton over to Sisseton and into west central Minnesota. Much of the crops were shredded to the ground. In fact, approximately 30 percent (70,000 acres) of Marshall County's 227,000 acres of crops were damaged or destroyed. Cities receiving the most damage from the line of storms were, Hecla, Andover, Britton, Kidder, Veblen, Roslyn, Langford, Lake City, Claire City, Sisseton, Wau-bay, Rosholt, and Wilmot. Storm damage mostly included, trees and branches down, power lines and poles down, roof and siding damage from hail and fallen trees, some farm outbuildings damaged or destroyed, and many windows broke out of homes and vehicles. Also, many boats, docks, and campers received some damage in the path of the storms. Specifically, an aerial crop spraying plane at the Sisseton airport was picked up and thrown 450 feet and landed upside down. In Claire City, a 55,000 bushel grain bin was blown off of its foundation and flattened. On a farm five miles north of Amherst, three large grain bins were blown over and damaged.

July 3, 2010: Severe thunderstorms brought damaging winds to parts of central South Dakota, especially to Lyman County. Eighty mph winds moved a building off the foundation at the Presho Municipal Airport. Eighty mph winds also destroyed or damaged many grain bins and caused damage to several other buildings in and around Presho. A large sign, twenty power poles, along with many trees were downed in Presho. There were also several broken house and car windows from hail and high winds. Seventy mph winds tore a garage door loose, bent a flagpole over, and downed many large tree branches in Kennebec. The winds also caused some damage to homes, sheds, and grain bins in Kennebec.








1873: A tornado in Hancock County, in far west central Illinois, destroyed several farms. From a distance, witnesses initially thought the tornado was smoke from a fire. A child was killed after being carried 500 yards; 10 other people were injured. Click [HERE](#) for more information from Illinois Genealogy Trails.


2000: There is a certain irony about one of the driest places getting the greatest rainfall, and yet that is exactly what happened at usually rain-sparse Vanguard, Saskatchewan on July 3 when a carwash-like downpour flooded the community of 200 people, some 65 km southeast of Swift Current. As much as 375 mm (14.76") of rain fell in eight hours, the greatest storm for that duration on the Canadian Prairies and one of the largest rainfall intensities ever recorded in Canada.

The spectacular thunderstorm produced more cloud-to-ground lightning strikes than that part of southern Saskatchewan would expect in two years. A year's amount of rain left crops in the field drowning and rotting, and roads and rail-lines under water. The force of the water crushed cars and farm implements, swept away grain bins and soaked large bales. Stranded residents had to be rescued by boat, which rapidly became the carrier of choice on the main street in Vanguard. The flash flood also carried away herds of cattle and drowned dozens of deer and antelope. Some further irony, when millions of liters of contaminated water submerged the water-treatment plant and backed up into homes and businesses, officials had to ship in bottled water from Swift Current.


Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 3, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 335 ♦ 6 of 18

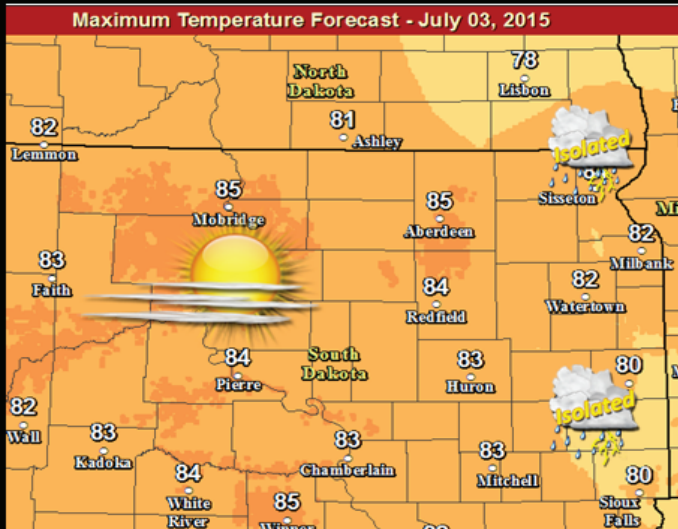
Today	Tonight	Independence Day	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Patchy Smoke	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chc Thunderstorms	Chance Thunderstorms	Thunderstorms Likely	Thunderstorms Likely	Mostly Sunny
High: 84 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 89 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 86 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 76 °F



Mostly Dry Friday & Saturday

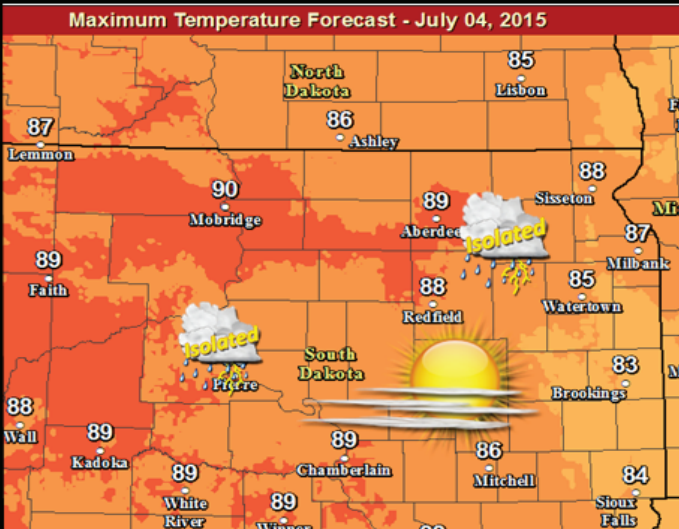


Maximum Temperature Forecast - July 03, 2015



Higs Friday

Maximum Temperature Forecast - July 04, 2015



Higs July 4th

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen
f National Weather Service Aberdeen
@NWSAberdeen
Updated: 7/3/2015 5:15 AM Central

While there may be an isolated weak shower or storm across the region this afternoon and overnight as well as into Saturday, most of us will see dry and warm conditions. More widespread precipitation is possible for Sunday.

Published on: 07/03/2015 at 5:17AM

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 3, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 335 ♦ 7 of 18

Yesterday's Weather

High: 75.7 at 5:08 PM

Low: 60.8 at 11:56 PM

High Gust: 12 at 2:52 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1949

Record Low: 39° in 1917

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in July: 0.31

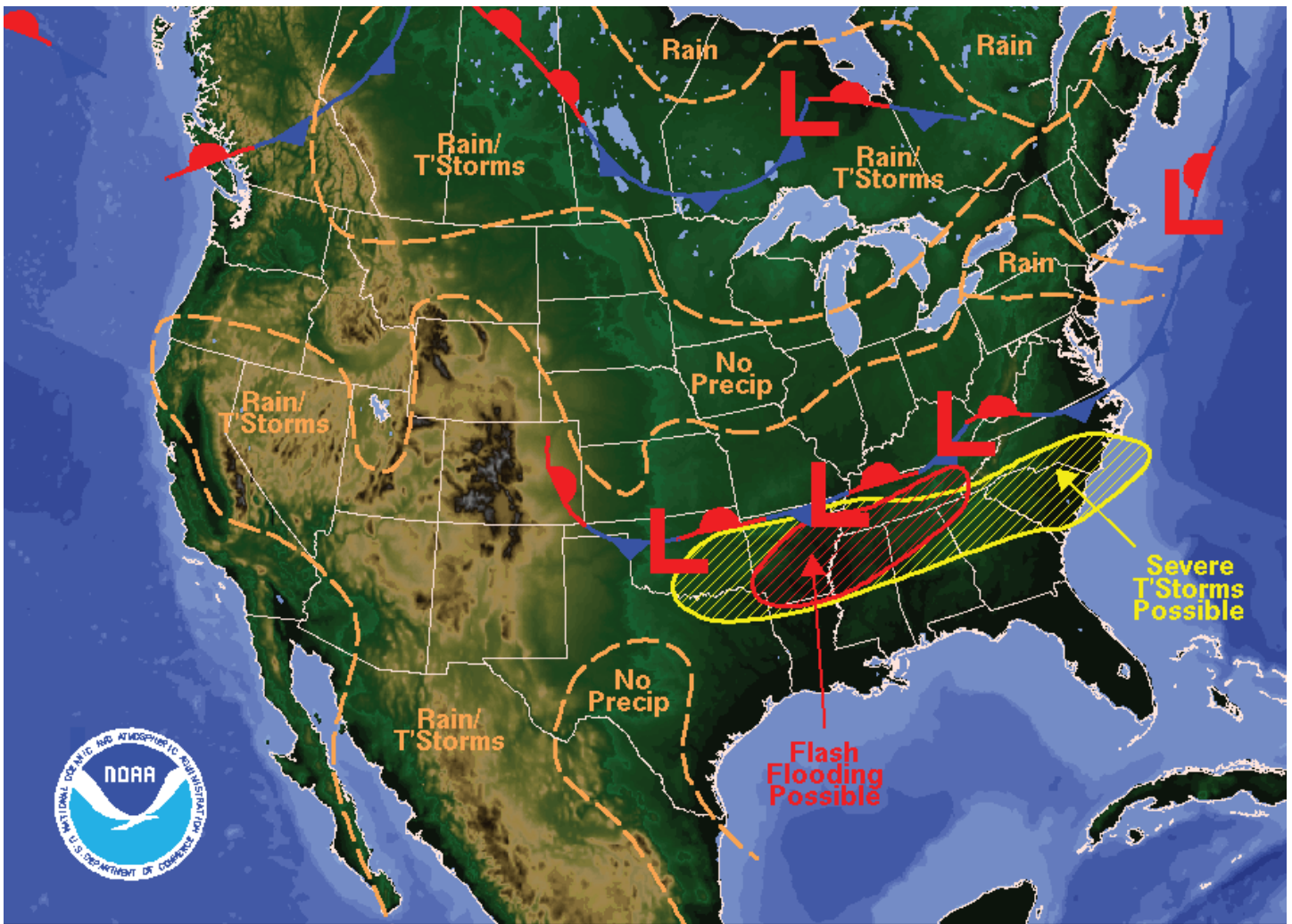
Precip to date in July: 0.15

Average Precip to date: 11.15

Precip Year to Date: 7.45

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Jul 03, 2015, issued 4:12 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



AVOIDING THE TRUTH

A gentleman was fascinated with an advertisement he read about a barometer. He thought he would be the envy of his neighbors to have such an instrument at his home. In his mind he imagined them coming to him for weather reports. So he ordered one.

When it arrived, the needle was pointing to "Tornado." In disbelief, he shook it, slapped it, and waved it from side to side. But the needle remained pointing toward the word "tornado." In anger, he wrapped it up, took it to the post office and mailed it back to the manufacturer, thinking, "I've been cheated!"

As he was returning home he noticed that many trees were overturned with their roots in the air. Buildings were destroyed and power lines down. Damage and destruction was everywhere he looked. Finally, he turned onto the street where he lived and there, before his eyes, was his home that had been completely destroyed. The barometer was accurate: a tornado was approaching.

Many of us fail to realize that there are serious consequences for each decision we make. Every choice, does indeed, have its consequences. However, there is one choice that is more important than any other choice we will ever make: What will YOU do with Jesus?

Prayer: We thank You, Father, for Your salvation that can be ours through Christ, and accept it now. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

News from the Associated Press

VA hospital that once treated Civil War veterans could close

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Perched atop a bluff in the remote Black Hills, a veterans hospital built of thick blocks of pink sandstone and topped with red-tiled roofs in a Spanish mission style overlooks the tiny town of Hot Springs, South Dakota, and has provided recovering soldiers a bucolic haven for more than a century.

Wounded warriors from Civil War battles at Antietam and Gettysburg came to the Battle Mountain Sanitarium for brief, intensive treatments for musculoskeletal and respiratory conditions. Physicians believed the dry air and warm, fabled mineral springs helped mend broken soldiers. Today, veterans from the Vietnam to Iraq wars suffering from ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder and drug and alcohol abuse recuperate at this quiet retreat.

But this long tradition could soon end. Officials with the Department of Veterans Affairs have proposed shuttering the campus and relocating some of its services 60 miles north to Rapid City, the second largest city in the state, leaving only an outpatient clinic in Hot Springs, which the state calls "The Veterans Town."

One of the key issues driving a wedge between the VA and the veterans fighting to keep the hospital open is its remote location. Does the isolation and serenity of Hot Springs help heal patients or hold them back?

"We have not seen any evidence that proves serene environment versus a more city-like environment changes the outcome of the patients," said Jo-Ann Ginsburg, the acting director for the VA in the Black Hills.

But many of the region's veterans argue that the tranquil environment in a town of 3,500 people is just as crucial to healing today as at the beginning of the 20th century and cannot be replicated outside Hot Springs.

VA officials counter that moving the services north to Rapid City would help attract physicians, better accommodate female and single-parent veterans and link patients with job opportunities and occupational training.

A consulting firm hired by the Black Hills VA is expected by the end of the summer to release a draft report on the impact the proposed relocation and several alternatives would have on local communities. After two months for public comment, the VA anticipates a final report recommending the best course of action to be announced in the spring of 2016, according to an internal VA email provided to The Associated Press.

Much of the hospital campus has changed little since it was opened in 1907 to treat veterans of the Civil War and Spanish American War. The hospital housed men who served with Union Major General John Pope at Bull Run and with Major General George B. McClellan during the Peninsula campaign, according to an account penned by Dr. W.H. Johnson, a national surgeon general of the Grand Army of the Republic, who wrote of the hospital following his stay there in 1913.

"As the sun came up, the tints and then the brilliant, glorious rays thrown upon the clouds stretched over the eastern horizon, gave a picture that the best artist with brush and paint could only imitate," Johnson wrote of his view each morning from the hospital veranda. "The healthful, rare, crisp mountain air helps to the completeness of the beautiful scene which I wish I could describe to my readers."

The hospital domiciliary is built like a wagon wheel made of thick pink sandstone hauled from a nearby

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 3, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 335 ♦ 10 of 18

quarry. In the center, surrounded by massive columns, patients relax, read and smoke cigarettes outdoors in the sun and in peace.

Paul Kelly, who served in the U.S. Army in the 1970s, entered the sanitarium in the early 2000s after battling drug abuse for years and overdosing on cocaine three times.

"If they build something new, it's going to be so clinical and so sterile," he said. "It could never be duplicated."

Kelly, who had been through rehabilitation centers elsewhere, was so taken with the place that he later moved to the town. Now, he's a student at Mitchell Technical Institute in central South Dakota and hopes to become a motorcycle mechanic.

Curt Sandine, a veteran treated for PTSD at the domiciliary beginning in 2011 said the town is just as therapeutic as the mountain environment.

"Everybody in town knows who's in the programs and who's not; the community itself kind of looks after the VA patients," he said.

Sandine is part of the "Save the VA" organization, a group of veterans from the region who have been petitioning the Black Hills VA and the federal government for years to keep the facilities open.

In May, the group led a march through Hot Springs and picketed the hospital campus for a week, protesting the proposed closure.

There is merit to both sides of the argument over the hospital, said John Klocek, the director of the psychology clinic at Baylor University, who has studied and worked with veterans for years, including at a VA hospital.

While Klocek agreed with the VA that there is no proof treatment is better in tranquil environments, "we know that even from just everyday experience that being in an environment that is quieter reduces the amount of stimulation coming in; it helps folks relax and focus on what's at hand."

But he added that the access to employment and opportunities to help veterans re-enter society is also crucial.

Former patient Kelly said he knows the hospital helped him, whether the scientific data proves it or not.

"The place saved my life, I'll tell you that."

Judge issues warrant for former US Senate candidate's arrest

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A judge has issued a warrant for the arrest of a former South Dakota U.S. Senate candidate charged with election law violations because the Black Hawk man failed to appear in court this week.

Circuit Court Judge John Brown issued the warrant after former independent candidate Clayton Walker didn't appear at a hearing on Wednesday.

Walker faces felony charges for submitting nominating petitions that investigators allege included names of dead people, fictitious people and Hollywood celebrities.

On Wednesday, another former U.S. Senate candidate, Annette Bosworth, also had to appear in court related to election law violations during her 2014 primary campaign. She avoided jail time provided she successfully completes three years of probation.

A phone number for Walker could not be found. His trial is scheduled for later this month.

SD authorities revisiting cold case deemed homicide in 2000

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota authorities are revisiting a cold case that was determined to be a homicide in 2000 thanks to new 3-D technology.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says the FBI's 3-D technology is allowing authorities in the state to release updated photographs of the homicide victim.

In February 2000, skeletal remains of an unidentified man were discovered near St. Onge, a community 14 miles north of Deadwood. Authorities at the time determined the man died from multiple gunshot wounds.

Jackley says the new technology was used to develop a three-dimensional head shot of the victim that can give investigators and the public a better idea of how the man looked before his death.

Jackley and authorities in Lawrence County will publicly share the photographs Tuesday in Deadwood.

State could be on hook for legal fees in gay marriage case

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota could end up owing hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees to the private attorneys who fought the state's ban on gay marriage unless a federal appeals court sides with the attorney general.

Minneapolis attorney Josh Newville, who has represented the six same-sex couples challenging the ban for more than a year, hasn't charged his clients and now plans to seek attorney's fees from the state.

Before he can do that, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals must affirm U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier's ruling in January that declared the ban was unconstitutional as well as rule in favor of Newville and the couples.

Attorney General Marty Jackley filed a motion Monday seeking to vacate Schreier's decision and dismiss the case, arguing the judge erred in her original ruling and that there's nothing more to argue following last week's decision from the U.S. Supreme Court.

Under federal law, plaintiffs in federal civil rights cases can petition a court to award them legal fees if a court finds in their favor, which Newville hopes the 8th Circuit will do.

Newville said he thinks Jackley is asking for the case to be dismissed so that the state isn't on the hook for any potential legal fees, which he estimates could be hundreds of thousands of dollars, and so South Dakota isn't "on the wrong side of history."

"This is an effort to dodge the liability for the attorney's fees for all of the attorneys that fought hard on behalf of these plaintiffs over the last year," he said.

Newville said about 95 percent of the fees are likely owed to him, but said he has worked with other local attorneys in the state, too.

The high court's ruling, which cites a 2006 opinion from the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, proves that Schreier incorrectly sided with the plaintiffs, Jackley said Thursday. He said Schreier erred in ruling that same-sex marriage bans were unconstitutional when the previous 8th Circuit ruling allowed for such bans and that it is grounds to throw out her decision.

He said he's pursuing to dismiss the case because it "shows that South Dakota had been following the rule of law in our state," but also said he doesn't think South Dakota should be responsible for any fees.

"We've all along followed the rule of law, and therefore should not be required or responsible for plaintiff's attorney's fees," he said.

AG: Employees can have someone else issue marriage license

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says if a county employee in South Dakota has religious objections to gay marriage they can have another employee issue a marriage license to a same-sex couple.

Jackley said Thursday that the constitutional right to marry that's now guaranteed to same-sex couples must coexist with the constitutional right of freedom of religion for county employees.

The attorney general said the issue hasn't come up yet in South Dakota but said one county official has asked him hypothetically what would happen.

Jackley says if another county employee was able issue a license, it would be a "commonsense solution" and wouldn't violate the rights of the couple or the employee. He says if someone else was not available, another county or the state could issue a license.

Prosecutors discuss plea deal in BIA official's stabbing

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Federal prosecutors say they met with the Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendent for South Dakota's Crow Creek Indian Reservation before entering into a plea deal with a man accused of stabbing the official in the back.

Brian Iron Boulder pleaded guilty last week to attempting to murder Patrick F. Duffy in March, and federal prosecutors dropped assault charges. Iron Boulder will be sentenced Sept. 14.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office says Iron Boulder pleaded guilty to the most serious charge — which could put him in prison for up to 20 years. She also says the prosecutor consulted with Duffy before offering the plea deal.

Defense attorney Douglas A. Abraham declined to say why his client accepted the plea deal rather than take the case to trial.

Charges dropped against Columbia man accused of raping girl

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors are dropping charges against a Columbia-area man accusing of raping a girl over a period of eight years.

The American News reports (<http://bit.ly/1LG06Fs>) that a statement from the Brown County State's Attorney's Office says the charges are being dismissed in the interest of the victim and that the decision was made in consultation with the victim's family.

Authorities alleged that 55-year-old Thomas Kline abused the girl in her home, in his home and in a church, beginning when she was 8 or 9. He earlier pleaded not guilty to 16 felony counts and had been scheduled for trial next month.

Prosecutors still have the option of re-filing charges against Kline in the future.

Wheat, corn, soybean stocks all are up in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Stocks of wheat, corn and soybeans all are up in South Dakota.

The Agriculture Department says in its latest report that wheat stored in all positions on June 1 totaled 31.6 million bushels, up 45 percent from a year ago. Soybean stocks stood at 24.8 million bushels, up 10 percent over the year. Corn stocks in the state totaled 244 million bushels, up 4 percent.

Barley stocks were up 71 percent to 240,000 bushels, and stocks of oats were up 53 percent to 2.6 million bushels.

AP News in Brief

Greek poll shows 2 sides neck and neck before crucial Sunday referendum

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The brief but intense campaign in Greece's critical bailout referendum ends Friday, with simultaneous rallies in Athens supporting "yes" and "no" answers to a murky question in what an opinion poll suggests could be a very close vote.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras called the referendum last weekend, asking Greeks to decide whether to accept creditors' proposals for more austerity in exchange for more loans — even though those proposals are no longer on the table.

Tsipras is advocating a "no" vote on Sunday, saying it would give him a mandate to negotiate a better deal for Greece within the eurozone. Opposition parties, and many European officials, say a "no" vote would drive Greece out of the euro and into an even more impoverished future.

A poll conducted Tuesday and Wednesday and published in the newspaper To Ethnos on Friday showed the two sides in a dead heat. It also showed an overwhelming majority — 74 percent — want the country to remain in Europe's joint currency, the euro, compared to 15 percent who want a national currency.

Of the 1,000 respondents to the nationwide survey by the ALCO polling firm, 41.5 percent will vote "yes" and 40.2 percent "no," well within the margin of error of 3.1 percentage points. Another 10.9 percent were undecided and the rest said they would abstain or leave their ballots blank.

AP Exclusive: China's Commerce Ministry website hosted bootlegged copy of 'Liar's Poker'

SHANGHAI (AP) — A complete bootlegged copy of Michael Lewis' bestselling book about Wall Street, "Liar's Poker," was hosted on the official website of the Chinese Commerce Ministry, the agency responsible for intellectual property protection in China, The Associated Press has found.

How and why a PDF, in English, of Lewis' raucous memoir about the excesses of Wall Street in the 1980s ended up on the ministry's site remains a mystery. The ministry did not respond to multiple requests for comment this week, but on Friday morning removed the page from their website.

China has a long and troubled history with copyright infringement. Despite high-level attempts to bolster enforcement, particularly as Beijing turns to innovation as a source of economic growth, piracy remains rampant — and widely tolerated.

Andrew Hay, director of security research at OpenDNS, a network security firm based in San Francisco, confirmed the file was hosted on the Ministry of Commerce website and was not a spoof.

Internet registry records show that the website was created in 2003 by the ministry's Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Department. The pirated copy of "Liar's Poker" — which had been available at <http://images.mofcom.gov.cn/kjxh/accessory/200801/1201672069708.pdf> — was created in 2006, according to metadata embedded in the PDF file. The pirated e-book has been lurking on the ministry's website since at least 2008, according to the San Francisco-based Internet Archive, which preserves copies of old websites.

AP Exclusive: North Korean farmers face dry fields, empty lakes amid drought

UNPHA, North Korea (AP) — North Korean farmers work to pump underground water into parched fields. Instead of rice seedlings standing in flooded paddies, the baked earth is cracked. A big lake that used to supply surrounding farmland with water is almost completely dry.

There has been almost no rain in this part of the country, an hour's drive from the capital Pyongyang and one of the country's main rice-growing regions, according to farmers and local officials interviewed by The Associated Press. While the situation in this area visited by the AP looks grim, it is unclear how severe the drought is in the rest of the country.

"Because of the drought continuing from last year, lots of land has been damaged," said Sin Ung Hyon, chairman of the Unpha County Farm Management Committee.

North Korea severely limits outside access, so state media's recent claim of the worse drought in a century has faced widespread skepticism. Pyongyang, eager for the possibility of outside assistance, has used similar phrasing to describe past droughts, and officials in rival South Korea have said there's no way to confirm exactly what's happening.

North Korean authorities agreed to a request by the AP to revisit this area, which the government had highlighted previously as particularly hard-hit. An AP video journalist was accompanied by local officials.

Warning of 2016 consequences, Hispanic leaders call on Republicans to condemn Donald Trump

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hispanic leaders are warning of harm to Republican White House hopes unless the party's presidential contenders do more to condemn Donald Trump, a businessman turned presidential candidate who's refusing to apologize for calling Mexican immigrants rapists and drug dealers.

Trump's comments, delivered in his announcement speech last month, have haunted the GOP for much of the last two weeks and dominated Spanish-language media. It's bad timing for a Republican Party that has invested significantly in Hispanic outreach in recent years, given the surging influence of the minority vote.

Yet several Republican candidates have avoided the issue altogether, while those who have weighed in have declined to criticize Trump as strongly as many Hispanic leaders would like.

"The time has come for the candidates to distance themselves from Trump and call his comments what they are: ludicrous, baseless and insulting," said Alfonso Aguilar, a Republican who leads the American Principles Project's Latino Partnership. "Sadly, it hurts the party with Hispanic voters. It's a level of idiocy I haven't seen in a long time."

The political and practical Trump-related fallout has intensified in recent days.

Analysis: Root of tattered US-Russia ties date back decades, misunderstandings on both sides

WASHINGTON (AP) — The stumbles, blunders, and policy chaos that have sent increasingly frosty U.S.-Russia relations into what many now call a new Cold War might have been inevitable.

The fundamental hopes and fears lurk, sometimes subconsciously, in the collective minds of the Russian and American nations despite the collapse of the Soviet Union nearly a quarter century ago. That puts their world views at odds and on a collision course, with the crisis over Ukraine the latest and biggest confrontation.

That dismal relationship more often than not can be linked to the eastward expansion of the NATO alliance and Moscow's refusal to believe America's promises that it does not threaten Russia. There's also Russian President Vladimir Putin's seething anger over his country's loss of superpower status.

Back in friendlier days, after agreement on the NATO-Russia Found Act in 1997, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said she saw the trouble brewing.

Albright, writing in *Foreign Policy* about the late former Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, recalled her friend as a flexible realist, but she also cited differences already evident soon after the NATO-Russia deal was signed.

Big diabetes study tests whether insulin in pills could prevent the disease

CHICAGO (AP) — For nearly a century, insulin has been a life-saving diabetes treatment. Now scientists are testing a tantalizing question: What if pills containing the same medicine patients inject every day could also prevent the disease?

Thirteen-year-old Hayden Murphy of Plainfield, Illinois, is helping researchers determine if the strategy works for Type 1 diabetes, the kind that is usually diagnosed in childhood. If it does, he might be able to avoid the lifetime burdens facing his 5-year-old brother, Weston. They includes countless finger pricks and blood sugar checks, and avoiding playing too hard or eating too little, which both can cause dangerous blood sugar fluctuations.

Hayden Murphy is among more than 400 children and adults participating in U.S. government-funded international research investigating whether experimental insulin capsules can prevent or at least delay Type 1 diabetes. Hospitals in the United States and eight other countries are involved and recruitment is ongoing. To enroll, participants must first get bad news: results of a blood test showing their chances for developing the disease are high.

"When I got the news, I was devastated," Hayden said. He knows it means his life could change in an instant.

"He has the daily reminders. He sees what his brother goes through," said the boys' mom, Myra Murphy.

Solar-powered airplane due to land in Hawaii after 5-day flight from Japan

HONOLULU (AP) — An airplane powered by the sun is scheduled to land in Hawaii after a five-day journey over the Pacific Ocean.

The flight from Japan is the longest leg of the around-the-world voyage planned by two Swiss pilots who have been taking turns flying the single-seat airplane. It is also the riskiest because the plane has nowhere to land in an emergency.

The aircraft is scheduled to land at a small airport outside Honolulu about 6 a.m. (9 a.m. PDT) Friday. Flight officials say the aircraft was arriving in the Hawaii area earlier but would fly in a holding pattern until the scheduled landing time.

The pilots aim to create awareness about replacing fossil fuels with clean technologies.

Solar Impulse 2 took off from Abu Dhabi in March. The wings of the carbon fiber aircraft have more than 17,000 solar cells.

In Seattle, famous for boom-and-bust since the Gold Rush, some fret over Amazon's weight

SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle, notorious for boom-and-bust cycles stretching back to the 19th century Alaska gold rush, is booming once again.

Thickets of yellow cranes have crowded the skyline, where new glass-sided office buildings, hotels and apartment towers blot out views of the mountains and the Space Needle. Food trucks dot the streets and young software engineers with disposable income fill the bars.

But the boom has brought handwringing, as residents fret over whether Seattle has become a traffic-snarled city for the rich with soaring rental rates, overly dependent on the company behind it all: Amazon.

The online retail giant has brought tens of thousands of workers to its campus in the South Lake Union neighborhood, overtaken the University of Washington as Seattle's biggest employer and lined up enough office space to roughly triple its headcount here.

"A lot of people who have lived in Seattle for 10 or 20 years are getting pushed out," says Jeff Reifman, a former Microsoft programmer who has criticized the ways Amazon is changing Seattle, including in a well-read essay last year on how the influx of male tech workers has skewed the dating scene.

Could searchers' sonars have already missed wreckage of Flight 370 in remote Indian Ocean?

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Amid rising frustrations over the expensive, so-far fruitless search for vanished Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, experts are questioning the competence of the company in charge, including whether crews may have passed over the sunken wreckage without even noticing.

Such carping in a small, fiercely competitive and highly specialized industry isn't unusual — and some of the strongest comments have come from a company whose bid for the lucrative job failed. But others have also criticized what they suspect is shoddy work, inappropriate equipment use and a focus on speed over thoroughness by the Dutch underwater survey company hired by Australia to find the plane that vanished in the Indian Ocean on March 8 last year with 239 people aboard.

There are also calls for the government to release the growing mountain of sonar data collected so far, which skeptics say could show whether searchers have overlooked holes in the dragnet big enough to conceal a fragmented Boeing 777.

Australian authorities say they are confident in the efforts by the company leading the search, Fugro Survey Pty. Ltd. But the second-guessing has grown as time goes by with still no physical trace of the plane.

"It strikes me as odd that you're hiring a company that doesn't have the assets, doesn't have the track record," said Steven Saint Amour, an aircraft recovery expert based in Annapolis, Maryland.

Merger frenzy drives massive \$2.3 trillion worth of deals in first half of the year

NEW YORK (AP) — Deal makers from New York to London had a busy first half of the year, and mega-mergers drove the frenzy.

Companies around the world announced mergers and acquisitions worth \$2.3 trillion, according to figures from data provider Dealogic, the second-best half-year total on record and the highest amount since 2007, when \$2.6 trillion of deals were announced.

The tie-ups included 31 deals worth \$10 billion or more, accounting for 39 percent of the total. That's

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 3, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 335 ♦ 17 of 18

the largest share since the second-half of 1999, at the peak of the dot-com bubble.

The rush to merge has been driven by low borrowing costs and steady but unspectacular growth in the U.S. economy, which have sent CEOs hunting for new ways to expand sales and boost earnings. Companies from ketchup maker Heinz to oil producer Shell have joined the M&A throng this year.

"The mega-mergers, the big deals, have come back into favor," says Neil Dhar, U.S. capital markets leader at professional services firm PwC.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 3, the 184th day of 2015. There are 181 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 3, 1863, the three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops failed to breach Union positions during an assault known as Pickett's Charge.

On this date:

In 1608, the city of Quebec was founded by Samuel de Champlain.

In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In 1890, Idaho became the 43rd state of the Union.

In 1913, during a 50th anniversary reunion at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Civil War veterans re-enacted Pickett's Charge, which ended with embraces and handshakes between the former enemies.

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg by dedicating the Eternal Light Peace Memorial.

In 1944, during World War II, Soviet forces recaptured Minsk from the Germans.

In 1950, the first carrier strikes of the Korean War took place as the USS Valley Forge and the HMS Triumph sent fighter planes against North Korean targets.

In 1962, French President Charles de Gaulle signed an agreement recognizing Algeria as an independent state after 132 years of French rule.

In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of The Doors died in Paris at age 27.

In 1985, the time-travel comedy "Back to the Future," starring Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd, was released by Universal Pictures.

In 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iran Air jetliner over the Persian Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard.

In 1996, Russians went to the polls to re-elect Boris Yeltsin president over his Communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov (geh-NAH'-dee zhoo-GAH'-nahm), in a runoff.

Ten years ago: A NASA space probe, Deep Impact, hit its comet target as planned in a mission to learn how the solar system formed. Saudi security forces killed Moroccan Younis Mohammed Ibrahim al-Hayari, the al-Qaida terrorist group's leader in the country, during a gun battle in Riyadh. Roger Federer won his third consecutive Wimbledon title by beating Andy Roddick 6-2, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama announced the awarding of nearly \$2 billion for new solar plants that he said would create thousands of jobs. Vice President Joe Biden returned to Iraq to coax its government into picking a new prime minister. Mohammed Oudeh, 73, the key planner of the 1972 Munich Olympics attack that killed 11 Israeli athletes, died in Damascus. Serena Williams won her fourth Wimbledon title and 13th Grand Slam championship by sweeping Vera Zvonareva in straight sets, 6-3,

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 3, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 335 ♦ 18 of 18

6-2, in the women's final.

One year ago: Hurricane Arthur struck North Carolina as a Category 2 storm with winds of 100 mph in the late evening, taking about five hours to move across the far eastern part of the state, but causing far less damage than feared.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Tim O'Connor is 88. Jazz musician Pete Fountain is 85. Playwright Tom Stoppard is 78. Writer-producer Jay Tarses is 76. Actor Michael Cole (TV: "The Mod Squad") is 75. Attorney Gloria Allred is 74. Folk singer Judith Durham (The Seekers) is 72. Actor Kurtwood Smith is 72. Country singer Johnny Lee is 69. Humorist Dave Barry is 68. Actress Betty Buckley is 68. Rock singer-musician Paul Barrere (bah-RAYR') (Little Feat) is 67. Actress Jan Smithers is 66. Actor Bruce Altman is 60. Talk show host Montel Williams is 59. Country singer Aaron Tippin is 57. Rock musician Vince Clarke (Erasure) is 55. Actor Tom Cruise is 53. Actor Thomas Gibson is 53. Actress Hunter Tylo is 53. Actress Connie Nielsen is 51. Actress Yearley Smith is 51. Singer Ishmael Butler is 46. Rock musician Kevin Hearn (Barenaked Ladies) is 46. Actress-singer Shawnee Smith is 46. Actress-singer Audra McDonald is 45. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is 44. Actor Patrick Wilson is 42. Country singer Trent Tomlinson is 40. Actress Andrea Barber is 39. Singer Shane Lynch (Boyzone) is 39. Actor Ian Anthony Dale is 37. Actress Elizabeth Hendrickson is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tonia Tash (Divine) is 36. Country singer-songwriter Sarah Buxton is 35. Actress Olivia Munn is 35. Actress Shoshannah Stern is 35. Actor Grant Rosenmeyer is 24. Actress Kelsey Batelaan is 20.

Thought for Today: "I suppose it can be truthfully said that Hope is the only universal liar who never loses his reputation for veracity." - Robert G. Ingersoll, American lawyer, politician (1833-1899).