

Groton Daily Independent

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Larson Bridal Shower

Bridal shower for Samantha Larson will be held on Saturday, August 8 from 2-4 at Olive Grove Golf Course. The couple is registered at Target.

Saturday, August 8

State Teener Tourney

Anniv: Brad & Diann Morehouse • 2008: April and Branden Abeln

Birthdays: Yvonne Lange • Sashia Sombke • Karter Moody

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

Sunday, August 9

State Teener Tourney

Birthdays: Loel Schott • Bradley Clocksene • Kim Yarborough • Lee Thompson • Laurie LaMee

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

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

9:15am: C&MA School

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

10:15am: C&MA Fellowship time

10:45am: C&MA Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

5:00pm: HBM worship at historic Trinity Church

Monday, August 10

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, zucchini bread.

Birthdays: Drew Hjermstad • Peyton Jondahl • Ron Westby • Jess Bunn

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

7:30 p.m.: School Board Meeting

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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Friends . . . Near and Far

Editor's Note: This is the 34th in a series featuring your friends, near and far.

Bethany Abeln

JobWise what are you doing today? I am a production artist at Super Studio in Fargo, ND.

How long have you been working at the current job? Two years

How did you get your current job? I applied to work for here after graduating college and was hired on as a graduate intern. After my internship ended I was offered a full-time position.

If you have previous employments list them and how long you were there. University of North Dakota, College of Business & Public Administration - Student Graphic Designer, 2 years

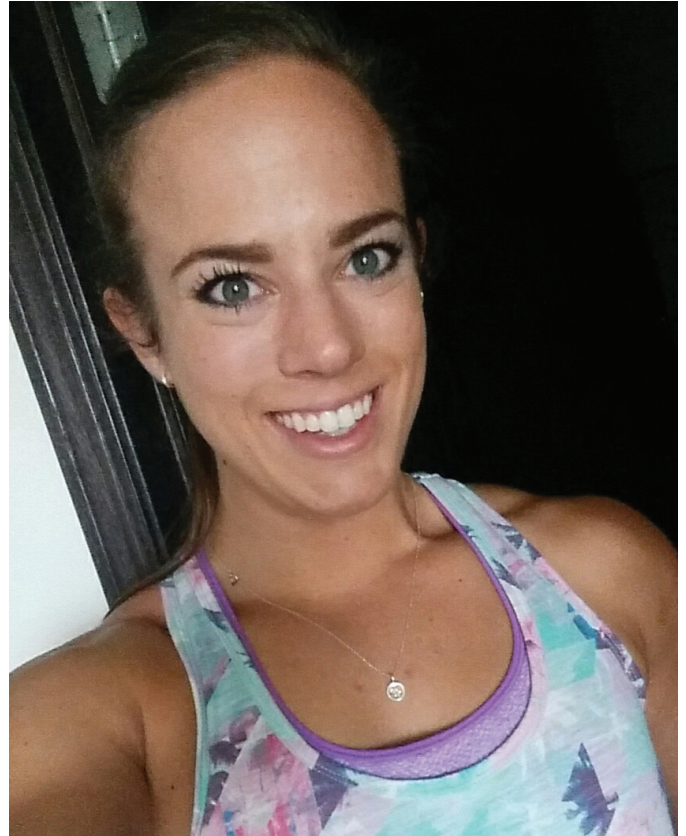
What year did you graduate from high school? GHS 2009

Where did you attend college and what was your degree? University of North Dakota, I graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design & New Art media

What advice would you give the high school students today? Dream big! Set high goals for yourself and work hard to achieve them!

List your major accomplishments that you have had so far in life. Graduating Summa Cum Laude from UND, and becoming a home-owner last year.

Do you feel that your high school and college education prepared you adequately for post education life? I don't think anything can prepare you for post education life! The real world is much bigger and more exciting then an educational institute can prepare you for, but it's all an adventure and it's important to just enjoy life every step of the way.



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GFP Commission Finalizes South Dakota Duck and Goose Hunting Seasons

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission finalized the 2015 duck and goose hunting seasons at their August meeting.

2015 Duck Hunting Season Information:

High Plains Zone: Oct. 10, 2015 – Jan. 14, 2016

Low Plains North and Low Plains Middle Zone:
Sept. 26 – Dec. 8, 2015

Low Plains South Zone: Oct. 10 – Dec. 22, 2015

A daily bag limit of six ducks may be comprised of no more than five mallards (which may include no more than two hens), three wood ducks, three scaup, two redheads, two pintails and two canvasbacks. The possession limit for South Dakota duck hunters is three times the daily bag limit.

2015 Goose Hunting Season Information:

Light Geese (statewide): Sept. 26 – Dec. 20, 2015 | Daily Limit: 50

White Fronted Geese (statewide): Sept. 26 – Dec. 20, 2015 | Daily Limit: 2

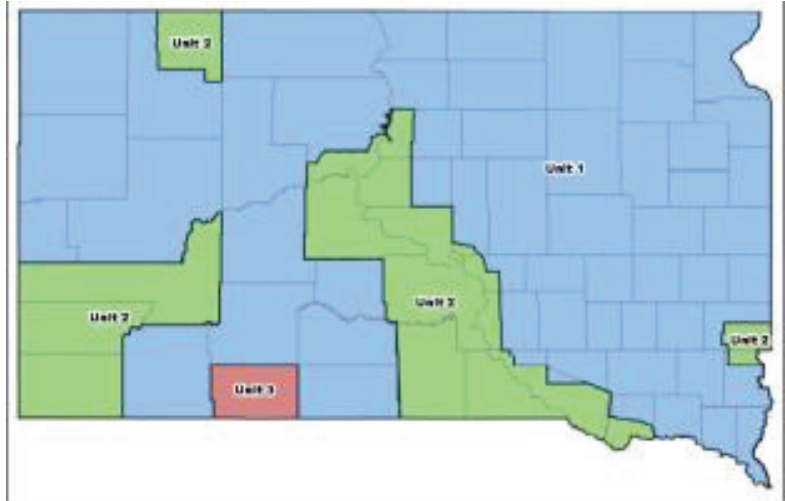
Canada Geese (and Brant)

Unit 1: Oct. 1 – Dec. 16, 2015 | Daily Limit: 8

Unit 2: Nov. 2, 2015 – Feb. 14, 2016 | Daily Limit: 4

Unit 3: Jan. 9-17, 2016 | Daily Limit: 4

Possession limits are unlimited for light geese and three times the daily limit for all other geese.



Hunters are reminded that parts of Minnehaha and Lincoln counties are closed during the early fall September Canada goose season. This change allows for hunting Canada geese in the Sioux Falls area to occur later in the season.

GFP Commission Removes the Bald Eagle from the State Threatened Species List

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission removed the bald eagle from the state's threatened species list at their August meeting.

Because this species has exceeded the state management goal, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) recommended that protection under the state endangered species law is no longer justified. This species will continue to be protected by the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Bald eagles were down-listed from state endangered to state threatened in 2003. In 2005, as part of an interagency effort to plan for the needs of endangered or threatened species that depend on the Missouri River, GFP completed the "South Dakota Bald Eagle Management Plan." The management goal for nesting bald eagles in South Dakota is an average of 25 active bald eagle nests per year, with a five-year running average.

Based on nest monitoring and aerial surveys in 2015, the current estimated number of active nests is 140-150. This depicts a conservative estimate because not all nest locations are known to the agency, and some nests in remote locations cannot be monitored.



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GFP Commission Proposes Fish Length Limit Changes on Several South Dakota Waters

PIERRE, S.D. - Proposals by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission could bring changes to several daily and length limits for the upcoming 2016 fishing season.

Commission proposals, with supporting information include:

1. Change white bass limits on Nebraska border waters to match those of Nebraska (15 daily/30 possession).

2. Remove the restriction allowing only largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14 inches in length or 18 inches or greater in length to be harvested from Lake Cochrane in Deuel County and Waubay Lake in Day County. The harvest of bass in Lake Cochrane is very low. Additionally, management objectives for bluegill require a high density of smaller bass in the system. This regulation change would better facilitate current management objectives.

Waubay Lake has a history of prey abundance fluctuations. This regulation change would follow suit with the previous removal of the walleye 15 inch minimum length limit from Waubay Lake.

3. Remove the 15 inch minimum length restriction exemption in July and August for walleye from Ft. Randall Dam down to the South Dakota-Nebraska state line on the Missouri River. Current walleye regulations in the area from Ft. Randall Dam down to the SD/NE state line on the Missouri River mirror regulations above the dam on Lake Francis Case with a 15 inch minimum exemption during July and August. This regulation change would align the walleye regulations for the area from Ft. Randall Dam down to the SD/NE state line with the area from the SD/NE state line downstream to Gavins Point Dam. Regulations would be clearer with the same walleye 15 inch minimum length restriction from Ft. Randall Dam down to Gavins Point Dam.

4. Remove the 15 inch minimum length restriction for walleye from the Cattail/Kettle Lake Complex in Marshall County and Bitter Lake in Day County. The Cattail/Kettle Complex walleye population has not shown improvement and actually has declined in quality with the 15 inch minimum length limit in effect. The Bitter Lake walleye population has a large number of fish that were produced in 2011 (4 years old); growing slowly and dying from natural causes before they reach 15 inches in length.

5. Remove the 15 inch minimum length restriction and remove the two fish daily limit restriction for walleye from Opitz Lake in Day and Marshall Counties. The abundance of Opitz Lake walleye in the 13-15 inch range is high; however, abundance of 16-17 inch walleye continues to be low. It is believed that the lake is losing walleye to natural causes prior to attaining 15 inches in length.

6. Add a 15 inch minimum length restriction for largemouth and smallmouth bass in Bismarck Lake, Custer County. Bismarck Lake was renovated and smallmouth bass were recently stocked. In an effort to build the newly created fishery, a minimum length limit will help protect these fish until a fishery develops.

7. Change the name of the "Black Hills Trout Management Area" to the "Black Hills Fish Management Area." With changes in species present and angler desires, the Black Hills Trout Management Area currently requires management of many different fish species. Recent strategic planning efforts have been based on fish management areas. Changing the name will help standardize language.

The Commission also proposed to allow the inclusion of white bass in commercial fishing contracts to help benefit fisheries management objectives.

The Commission will finalize these proposals at their Oct. 1-2, 2015, meeting at the Spearfish Holiday Inn Convention Center. Written comments can be sent to wildinfo@state.sd.us. To be part of the official public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. on Oct. 1 MST. Please include your full name along with the city and state of residence. If you would like to comment in person, the public hearing will be held Oct.1, at 2 p.m. MST.

10th Annual Jan Hinrichs Memorial 5 X 5



Softball Tournament

★ ★ ★ August 8 & 9, 2015

Claremont Ballpark



Silent basket auction at the church on Saturday!

Many fun activities planned:

Poker run

Honker squares

Gun raffles

Full concession stand

Just to name a few!!



If you want to play but do not have a team,
please call Tom Feser at 294-7346

All proceeds will go to the improvement of
Claremont City Park.

Today in Weather History

August 8, 2010: Thunderstorms produced damaging winds and flash flooding from heavy rain along and near the Missouri River in southeast South Dakota during the late afternoon. Bon Homme and Yankton Counties were among the hardest hit areas. Avon in Bon Homme County, thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage to trees and power lines. The tree damage included large trees uprooted or blown down, and at least two houses were damaged by falling trees. The damage to power lines caused a power outage over the town which lasted about 5 hours. The winds also destroyed a large shed and damaged a camper parked in the shed. In Tyndall, thunderstorm winds of 70 mph caused tree damage, including large trees blown down. The winds also blew down power lines, damaged several small sheds, and tore shingles off roofs. Thunderstorm winds also ripped through Yankton County. Near Napa, thunderstorm winds overturned several campers and caused widespread tree damage, including large trees blown down at a Lewis and Clark Lake campground. A fee collector was injured by tree debris.

1874: Swarms of Rocky Mountain locust invaded Denver, Colorado. Millions were seen cruising through the air. The insects were apparently picked up by a thunderstorm gust front and carried in to the city. The grasshoppers ravaged crops in surrounding counties for the last month.

1878 - The temperature at Denver, CO, soars to an all-time record high of 105 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1881 - A cloudburst and flash flood occurred at Central Springs, CO, and Idaho Springs, CO. (David Ludlum)

1882 - An August snowstorm was reported by a ship on Lake Michigan. A thick cloud reportedly burst on the decks covering them with snow and slush six inches deep. Snow showers were observed at shore points that day. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1983 - The temperature at Big Horn Basin, WY, reached 115 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorm rains in eastern Nebraska sent the Wahoo River and Ithica River above flood stage. Thunderstorm rains in western Iowa sent the Nishnabotna River over flood stage. Up to seven inches of rain deluged the Council Bluffs area Friday evening and Saturday morning. Thunderstorms produced 4.4 inches of rain in three hours Friday evening, along with golf ball size hail. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a slow moving cold front produced severe weather from central Kansas to southern Wisconsin late in the day. Thunderstorms in Iowa produced hail three inches in diameter at Vinton, and produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Donohue and near Mount Pleasant. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A total of ninety-nine cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Alpena MI with a reading of 40 degrees. Mount Mitchell NC was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 35 degrees. Early evening thunderstorms around Las Vegas NV produced wind gusts to 116 mph. The high winds damaged or destroyed about eighty-two aircraft at Henderson Sky Harbor Airport and McCarran International Airport, causing fourteen million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

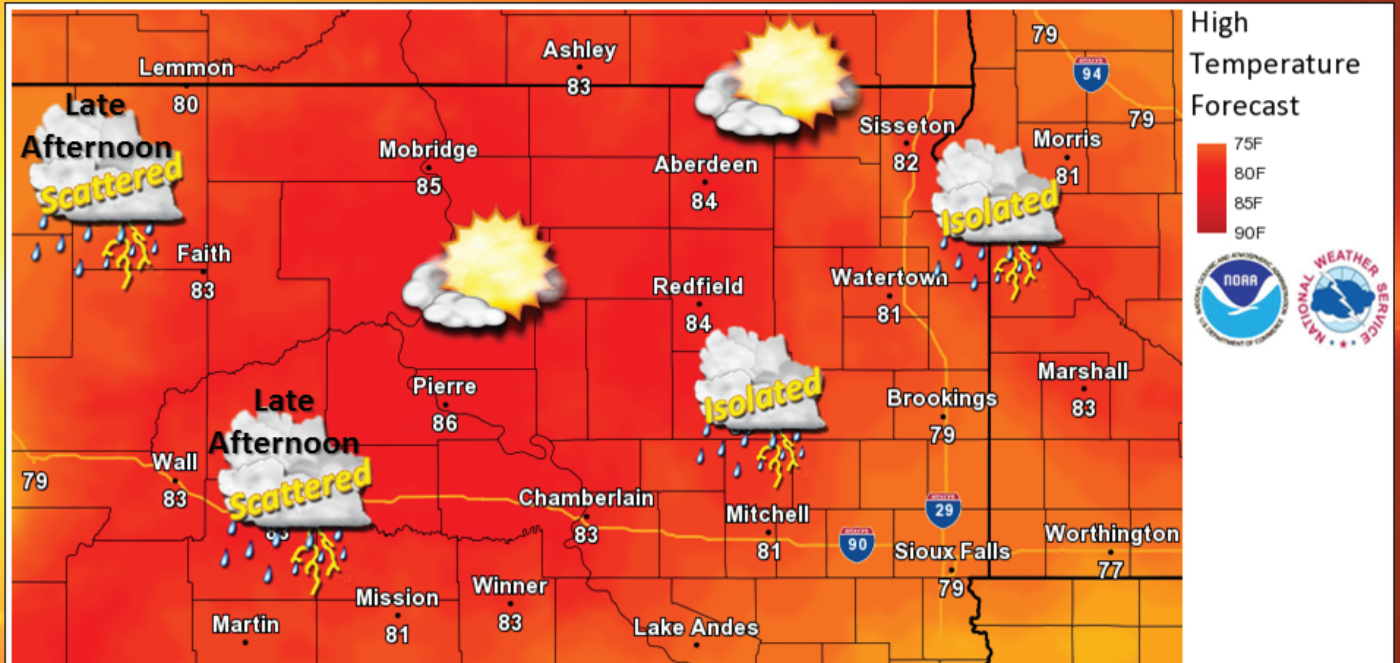
2007: A tornado bounces across Staten Island and Brooklyn, New York, ripping off roofs and damaging dozens of buildings. The EF-2 twister hop-scotched through Brooklyn's Bay Ridge and Sunset Park neighborhoods around 6:30 am.

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Partly Sunny	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 84 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 84 °F

Slight Chance For Storms Today Increasing Chance For Storms Tonight



Valid ending Saturday August 8th, 2015 at 7 PM CDT

Created Saturday August 8th, 2015 at 5:06 AM CDT



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 08/08/2015 at 5:23AM

A frontal boundary over the region will bring periodic showers and thunderstorms through the weekend. However the highest chance for precipitation should be tonight into Sunday, and mainly for western and southern South Dakota.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 86.1 at 3:49 PM

Low: 59.7 at 5:23 AM

High Gust: 10 at 3:39 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 108° in 1936

Record Low: 42° in 1939

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in Aug: 0.63

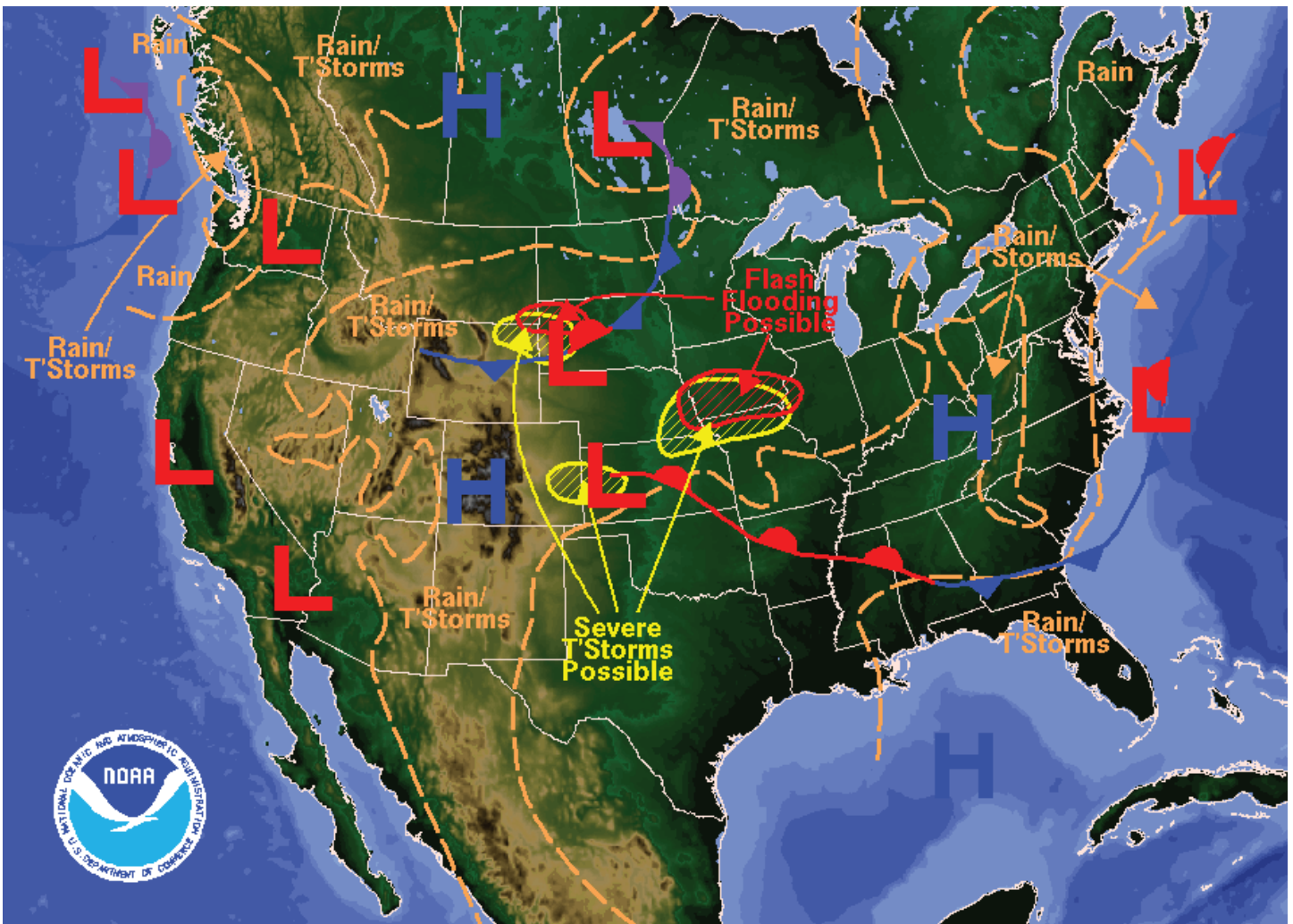
Precip to date in Aug: 0.61

Average Precip to date: 14.49

Precip Year to Date: 12.18

Sunset Tonight: 8:52 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:26 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Aug 08, 2015, issued 4:47 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



FORGIVE WHO? FOR WHAT?

Pope John Paul II was one of the most notable leaders of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1981 the Pope made a trip to a prison to speak with the man who tried to assassinate him and tell him that he forgave him. In 1984 the Pope appeared on the cover of TIME with the would-be assassin, shaking hands with him while his other arm was around his shoulders. Underneath the photo were the words "WHY FORGIVE?" in bold letters.

Strangely, the Pope asked readers to "pray for my brother whom I have sincerely forgiven." Some condemned the Pope. Others agreed with the Pope. Still others could not understand the reason the Pope did such a thing.

For most, forgiveness is not easy to do nor pleasant to think about. Some even enjoy the resentment and anger that grows within us if we have been wronged. Some speak of their anger as a sign of mental health. Yet...

Paul said...When we accept and understand God's mercy and forgiveness He expects us to forgive others just as Jesus did to those who crucified Him. Furthermore, because God through the death of Christ has forgiven us, He literally expects us to forgive others as our Savior has forgiven us. We must follow His example.

Prayer: Lord, we pray for the willingness to forgive others who have wronged us even as our Savior willingly forgives us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota tribe returning \$25,000 donation from Redskins

KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Native American tribe from South Dakota will return a \$25,000 donation from a charitable arm of the NFL's Washington Redskins, saying the team name is "derogatory and inappropriate."

The tribal council of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe voted Wednesday to return the check, which was issued last month by the Washington Redskins' Original Americans Foundation to the tribe's rodeo association.

"A lot of those in our community are opposed to accepting money from the Redskins, which to us is a racist organization; the term is derogatory and inappropriate," said Ryman LeBeau, the tribe's vice chairman and a councilman. "Their fans make a mockery of Indian culture, and that's just wrong."

The foundation was created in March 2014 by team owner Dan Snyder following intensifying calls by Native Americans and other groups for the team to do away with its name. The team has maintained that it is meant to honor Native Americans, though a federal judge in June ordered the team's trademark registration be cancelled, saying there is ample evidence that the name may be perceived as disparaging. That ruling does not preclude the team from using the word Redskins.

It wasn't immediately known how many tribes have received donations from the foundation, but Redskins spokesman Maury Lane said the majority of tribes are happy to accept such help and typically put the money toward improving things like transportation, education and football camps.

"The Original American foundation has been working with more than 50 federally recognized tribes, spending millions of dollars on more than 250 projects on tribal lands," Lane said. "Our mission remains to improve the quality of life on these lands without interfering with tribal governance."

The Cheyenne Sioux's fair and rodeo board had passed a motion to allow Tribal Chairman Harold Frazier to seek money from the foundation but hadn't brought the check to council until this week, LeBeau said, adding that Frazier has met personally with Snyder and the charitable arm.

Included in the motion voted on this week is language that bans Frazier from "unsanctioned communication" with the team or any group or person associated with it. Messages left at Frazier's office were not immediately returned.

LeBeau, who says the central South Dakota tribe has areas he feels need improvement, doesn't think it's right to accept money from an organization that many feel doesn't support them.

"It just feels like they want to buy us off and keep us quiet," he said, noting that he knew of only a few people in the approximately 16,000-member tribe supported accepting the check.

Lane maintained that the vast majority the foundation's donations are well-received.

"This is definitely an anomaly," he said.

Earlier this year, the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah ousted a tribal chairwoman who was involved with the Original Americans Foundation for misconduct and ethical violations after accepting gifts of an autographed football and a trip to Washington, D.C., to attend a game in 2014.

The foundation also donated two vans to the tribe, which ex-chairwoman Gari Lafferty has said are used to transport children and elders. Lafferty has disputed the tribe's allegations.

In South Dakota, LeBeau said the issue is preventing from the tribe from tackling larger issues like drug and alcohol abuse and suicides.

"This is just a (distraction) from working on the bigger solutions that will help our communities with the issues that are really affecting us, he said."

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Democrats hire South Dakota native to be key party staffer

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Democratic Party has named a new executive director. Chairwoman Ann Tornberg said Friday that Suzanne Jones Pranger will be an effective addition to the organization and that the party is “thrilled.”

The 26-year-old has a law degree and a master’s degree in political science from the University of South Dakota.

Jones Pranger has interned with state Democratic heavyweights including former U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson and former U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin.

Formerly a staffer for state Senate Democrats, Jones Pranger says she’s excited to join the state party. She says the party’s success with ballot measures shows state residents share Democrats’ values even if they don’t necessarily identify as members.

The South Dakota native introduced herself to Sioux Falls-area Democrats at a meeting Friday.

Some Brookings residents cleaning up after powerful storm

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Some residents in Brookings are cleaning up after a powerful storm with heavy rains and high winds rolled through the area.

KELO-TV reports that a tornado warning was issued around 6:30 p.m. Thursday for the storm that knocked down trees, took out power and flipped mobile homes.

Neighbors in the southwest part of town tell KSFY-TV that there was extensive damage to siding and fences in several neighborhoods.

No injuries have been reported.

Motorcycle daredevil goes Evel Knievel at Sturgis rally

TOM GRIFFITH, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — On his first speed run Thursday night, a prelude to his world record attempt to jump a 1972 Harley-Davidson XR750 over 22 cars at the Buffalo Chip Campground, motorcycle daredevil Doug Danger had little doubt he was about to die.

But with more than 5,000 spectators roaring their approval of the red, white and blue-suited stuntman, Danger knew he couldn’t back out, even though he was convinced his cycle, used by his idol, Evel Knievel, wasn’t getting up to speed.

Before the jump, his bravado disguised his fear.

“You hang onto your beers and I’ll hold onto the handlebars, and we’ll take a ride into history,” Danger told his throng of leather-clad admirers.

The 53-year-old Massachusetts resident had been planning the jump for a decade. He knew Knievel never made it, and the only other daredevil to attempt the feat on the vintage Harley had ended up in a coma for weeks.

In light of the poor first speed run, Danger did the only thing he could do: He extended the distance leading up to his takeoff ramp. Starting an extra 100 yards back, where tent and RV campers were drinking beers and getting bolstered for late-night rock-and-roll concerts, Danger turned the throttle to the stops.

On this partly cloudy 80-degree evening, with a light westerly breeze, he roared up the ramp, soared into an azure sky and landed the heavy Harley at least another car length past the point of setting a new world record.

But even midair, Danger said the outcome was never preordained.

“I thought I was sideways and was going to get bucked off,” he said with a sigh of relief minutes after his successful jump. As it was, he said, the jerk of the handlebars on landing injured his left wrist and thumb.

What about that pre-jump fatalism?

“That first speed run scared the crap out of me because I didn’t get anywhere near the 80 miles per hour I needed to clear the cars,” Danger said, nursing an ice cold beer. “I looked down and saw 74 mph,

and I knew that wasn't going to be enough."

Hence the added 100 yards.

Rod Woodruff, owner of the Buffalo Chip and sponsor of the jump, said, "I really thought he was going to crash, but I'm so glad he didn't. We've really gotten to like Doug around here.

"The only thing better would be to bring Evel back from the dead to do it himself," Woodruff added.

Danger's wife, Marie Senecal, was clearly relieved that her husband had made the jump of a lifetime.

"I was proud of Doug long before he took to the air," she said.

Out of his wife's earshot, Danger said he was going to savor the night, his new world record, and a few brews before considering what challenges await him. But he didn't dismiss ever jumping a motorcycle again.

"I'm going to Disneyland," he said, sporting his signature showman's grin. "Another jumper beat Evel Knievel's tractor-trailer record and his bus jumping record. If the money was right, I'd like to bring those back to the Knievel name where they belong. And we won't bring up that Snake River Canyon jump quite yet," he said, very cagily bringing it up to build suspense.

AP News in Brief

Riding debate momentum, GOP candidates compete for activists' attention at RedState Gathering

ATLANTA (AP) — Republican presidential candidates are getting a second chance to make a good first impression with conservative activists after their inaugural televised debates had unheard of millions tuning in to see how they would play off each other.

Unlike the Fox News debates that divided the 17-candidate field into two groups on crowded stages, the RedState Gathering in Atlanta offered several of those seeking the Republican nomination a half-hour all to themselves. On Saturday, the lineup includes former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

Businessman Donald Trump had been on the program, but late Friday RedState's Erick Erickson said he was withdrawing his invitation because of a comment Trump made earlier that evening about Fox News debate moderator Megyn Kelly.

Referring to Kelly's questions during the debate, Trump told CNN, "There was blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever." In a statement on his RedState website, Erickson said: "I just don't want someone on stage who gets a hostile question from a lady and his first inclination is to imply it was hormonal."

Trump's campaign responded: "This is just another example of weakness through being politically correct. For all of the people who were looking forward to Mr. Trump coming, we will miss you. Blame Erick Erickson, your weak and pathetic leader."

Rising GOP star George P. Bush hopes he can help propel father Jeb to the White House

LEXINGTON, S.C. (AP) — George P. Bush is talking up his dad Jeb — but he knows he'll have to endure some gentle ribbing about his grandfather and uncle first.

"We are lucky to have George Bush here. That's George P. Bush," quips state Sen. Katrina Shealy, who introduces the Texas land commissioner to the crowd at Lizard's Thicket, an eatery where locals talk politics over fried chicken, giblet and cornbread gravy and five kinds of pie.

Bush grins but stays silent. "Yeah," he later concedes to a reporter, "I've heard just about every George Bush joke that there possibly is."

That's because the next-generation bearer of the powerful political name has been helping relatives run since age 3, when he clutched a balloon and sported a campaign T-shirt as his grandfather, George H.W. Bush, launched his first presidential bid from a Houston park in 1979.

But never has George P.'s role as a political surrogate been as important as it is in the 2016 primary campaign. The 39-year-old is traveling the country — and flexing his muscle as a rising political star in Texas — as he attempts to help his father become the third Bush to win the nomination and then the White House.

Islamic State group's command is dominated by ex-officers from Saddam's military, spy agency

BAGHDAD (AP) — While attending the Iraqi army's artillery school nearly 20 years ago, Ali Omran remembers one major well. An Islamic hard-liner, he once chided Omran for wearing an Iraqi flag pin into the bathroom because it included the words "God is great."

"It is forbidden by religion to bring the name of the Almighty into a defiled place like this," Omran recalled being told by Maj. Taha Taher al-Ani.

Omran didn't see al-Ani again until years later, in 2003. The Americans had invaded Iraq and were storming toward Baghdad. Saddam Hussein's fall was imminent. At a sprawling military base north of the capital, al-Ani was directing the loading of weapons, ammunition and ordnance into trucks to spirit away. He took those weapons with him when he joined Tawhid wa'l-Jihad, a forerunner of al-Qaida's branch in Iraq.

Now al-Ani is a commander in the Islamic State group, said Omran, who rose to become a major general in the Iraqi army and now commands its 5th Division fighting IS. He kept track of his former comrade through Iraq's tribal networks and intelligence gathered by the government's main counterterrorism service, of which he is a member.

It's a common trajectory.

Family says Palestinian man died of injuries sustained in West Bank arson that killed baby son

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — The father of a Palestinian toddler killed in a firebomb attack blamed on Jewish extremists has died of wounds sustained in the same incident, his family said Saturday.

In the pre-dawn attack on July 31, assailants hurled firebombs into a bedroom of the Dawabsheh family's home in the West Bank village of Duma. Ali Dawabsheh, 18 months, perished in the flames, while his 4-year-old brother and parents were seriously hurt.

Ali's uncle, Nasser, said the family received word early Saturday from Israel's Soroka Medical Center that the toddler's father, Saed, had died. Nasser Dawabsheh said the funeral would take place Saturday. Saed Dawabsheh's death was also confirmed by Duma's mayor, Abdel Salam Dawabsheh.

The Soroka spokesman could not be reached for comment.

Surprise ending at end of Colorado theater shooting trial: James Holmes gets life

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — James Holmes will spend the rest of his life in prison after at least one juror balked at the possibility of sentencing him to death for the massacre that claimed 12 lives and spawned a gut-wrenching four-month trial.

Because the 12 jurors failed to unanimously agree that Holmes should be executed, he will be sentenced to life in prison without parole for the chilling 2012 attack on a midnight screening of a Batman movie that also left 70 injured.

Nine jurors wanted to execute Holmes, but one was steadfastly opposed and two others wavering, a juror told reporters after the verdict was announced.

"Mental illness played into the decision more than anything else," said the woman, who would not give her name. "All the jurors feel so much empathy for the victims. It's a tragedy."

The verdict shocked the courtroom. Holmes' mother, Arlene, who had begged jurors to spare his life,

leaned her head against her husband's shoulder and began sobbing. In the back, Aurora police officers who responded to the bloody scene of Holmes' attacks began crying.

Typhoon Soudelor threatens China after leaving 6 dead and 4 missing in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Typhoon Soudelor barreled toward mainland China on Saturday after downing trees, traffic lights and power lines in Taiwan, where at least six people were killed, four left missing and dozens injured.

A total of 101 people were hurt in Taiwan and more than 3 million households lost electricity as the powerful storm left streets strewn with fallen trees. All 279 domestic flights were canceled Saturday, as well as at least 37 international flights.

An 8-year-old girl and her mother died when they were swept out to sea Thursday from a beach on the east coast, the official Central News Agency reported. The girl's twin sister remains missing.

Other casualties included a firefighter who was killed and another injured after being hit by a drunken driver as they attempted to move a fallen tree in the island's south.

The center of the storm made landfall in eastern Taiwan at 4:40 a.m. Saturday. By mid-morning, Soudelor was packing maximum sustained winds of 162 kilometers (100 miles) per hour, Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said.

19-year-old football player shot by police in Texas car dealership struggle was unarmed

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — A police officer in suburban Dallas shot and killed a college football player during a struggle after the unarmed 19-year-old crashed a car through the front window of a car dealership, authorities said.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office identified the dead man as Christian Taylor, of Arlington. Taylor was a sophomore at Angelo State University in San Angelo.

Officers were responding to a burglary call about 1 a.m. Friday in Arlington when they discovered someone had driven a vehicle through a front window of the Classic Buick GMC, according to a statement from the Arlington Police Department. The statement said police approached the suspect and a struggle ensued. At some point during the struggle, an officer shot Taylor.

Police identified the officer as Brad Miller, a 49-year-old who has been with the department since last September and who has been working under the supervision of a training officer since his graduation from the police academy in March. The police statement said Miller had no police experience before joining the Arlington police force.

He will be placed on administrative leave, which is routine in such cases. Independent criminal and administrative investigations, according to the police statement.

Official: 4 people freed from Mali hotel after standoff with jihadis that leaves 12 dead

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — Four people held in a hotel in central Mali after an attack by Islamic extremists were freed Saturday following a long standoff with the army and special forces that left 12 people dead, Mali's defense ministry adviser said.

After the operation ended four additional bodies were found in the Hotel Byblos in the town Sevare, including three hotel staff and one jihadi, said Lt. Col. Diarran Kone. Officials had earlier announced that five Malian soldiers were killed, two jihadis and a U.N. contractor, bringing the total death toll to 12.

"The operation ended around 5 a.m. Four hostages were freed and four bodies found," he said. "The operation was led by Mali's gendarmerie with our partners."

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U.N. mission in Mali spokeswoman Radhia Achouri said the four freed were United Nations employees. She would not give their nationalities, but said they will eventually be flown to the Malian capital Bamako. Islamic extremists started the attack Friday at the hotel in Sevare, about 600 kilometers (375 miles) north of Bamako.

Months after losing election, Sri Lanka's ex-strongman faces tough battle to return as premier

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Mahinda Rajapaksa, once poised to be Sri Lanka's president for life, is a desperate man these days. At stake is not just his own political future, but that of an entire dynasty and a network of supporters he founded at every level.

A shocking loss to a former ally in the January election he had himself called two years ahead of schedule has hit his once powerful family's fortunes hard. It seems only a political revival may offer them some hope of protection from the slew of corruption and other criminal charges they now face.

So Rajapaksa is in the race in this month's election for prime minister, a job only second to that of president.

While in power, he created a powerful narrative of the warrior king and the savior of his people who led a successful military campaign against separatist Tamil Tiger rebels to end a decades-long civil war. He also abolished the two-term limit for presidency, enabling him to stay in power for life or until his eldest son, who he was grooming, was ready to take over.

And he consolidated all power among a tight coterie of friends, family and loyalists, taking control of the Parliament, courts and all state institutions.

AP PHOTOS: After 70 years, a Nagasaki atomic bomb survivor remains scarred for life

NAGASAKI, Japan (AP) — Struggling a bit with a left arm that has never straightened out, Sumiteru Taniguchi slowly peeled the undershirt off his frail 86-year-old body to show two visitors his scars from the atomic bomb attack on Nagasaki.

For 70 years, he has lived with them, a web of wounds covering most of his back, and the remains of three ribs that half rotted away and permanently press against his lungs, making it hard to breathe. His wife still applies a moisturizing cream every morning to reduce irritation from the scars. Not a day goes by without pain.

He was 16 and on the job as a letter carrier when the powerful blast threw him from his bicycle. He had been about 1.8 kilometers (1.1 miles) from the epicenter of the "Fat Man" plutonium bomb that detonated over Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945, killing more than 70,000 people. Six days later, Japan surrendered, ending World War II.

Speaking in a weak voice with some effort, he told the story last month of wandering for three days in a daze, unaware of the seriousness of his injuries. He felt something like a ragged cloth hanging from his back, shoulder and arm: It was his skin.

He would spend the next 21 months lying on his stomach, getting treatment for his burned back, decomposing flesh and exposed bones. Going in and out of consciousness, he could hear the nurses passing by in the hallway asking each other if the boy was still breathing. He thought: "Just kill me."

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, August 8, the 220th day of 2015. There are 145 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On August 8, 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed the U.S. instrument of ratification for the United

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Nations Charter. The Soviet Union declared war against Japan during World War II.

On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte set sail for St. Helena to spend the remainder of his days in exile.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft signed a measure raising the number of U.S. representatives from 391 to 433, effective with the next Congress, with a proviso to add two more when New Mexico and Arizona became states.

In 1937, during the Second Sino-Japanese War, Japan completed its occupation of Beijing.

In 1942, during World War II, six Nazi saboteurs who were captured after landing in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others who'd cooperated with authorities were spared.

In 1953, the United States and South Korea initialed a mutual security pact.

In 1963, Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.

In 1968, the Republican national convention in Miami Beach nominated Richard Nixon for president on the first ballot.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew branded as "damned lies" reports he had taken kickbacks from government contracts in Maryland, and vowed not to resign - which he ended up doing.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon announced his resignation, effective the next day, following damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal.

In 1994, Israel and Jordan opened the first road link between the two once-warring countries.

In 2007, space shuttle Endeavour roared into orbit with teacher-astronaut Barbara Morgan on board.

In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was sworn in as the U.S. Supreme Court's first Hispanic and third female justice.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush signed a bill to give billions in tax breaks to encourage home-grown energy production but acknowledged it wouldn't quickly reduce high gasoline prices or the nation's dependence on foreign oil. Iran resumed work at a uranium conversion facility after suspending nuclear work for nine months to avoid U.N. sanctions. Actress Barbara Bel Geddes, 82, died in Northeast Harbor, Maine. Publisher John H. Johnson, founder of Ebony and Jet magazines, died in Chicago at 87.

Five years ago: Flooding in Gansu province in China resulted in mudslides that killed more than 1,400 people. Academy Award-winning actress Patricia Neal died in Edgartown, Massachusetts, at 84.

One year ago: The U.S. unleashed its first airstrikes against the Islamic State group in northern Iraq amid a worsening humanitarian crisis. Israel and militants from Gaza resumed cross-border attacks, after a three-day truce expired. Israeli movie producer Menachem Golan, 85, died in Tel Aviv. British-born actor Charles Keating, 72, died in Weston, Connecticut.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Richard Anderson is 89. Actress Nita Talbot is 85. Singer Mel Tillis is 83. Actor Dustin Hoffman is 78. Actress Connie Stevens is 77. Country singer Phil Balsley (The Statler Brothers) is 76. Actor Larry Wilcox is 68. Actor Keith Carradine is 66. Country singer Jamie O'Hara is 65. Movie director Martin Brest is 64. Radio-TV personality Robin Quivers is 63. Percussionist Anton Fig is 62. Actor Donny Most is 62. Rock musician Dennis Drew (10,000 Maniacs) is 58. TV personality Deborah Norville is 57. Actor-singer Harry Crosby is 57. Rock musician The Edge (U2) is 54. Rock musician Rikki Rockett (Poison) is 54. Rapper Kool Moe Dee is 53. Rock musician Ralph Rieckermann is 53. Middle distance runner Suzy Favor Hamilton is 47. Rock singer Scott Stapp is 42. Country singer Mark Wills is 42. Actor Kohl Sudduth is 41. Rock musician Tom Linton (Jimmy Eat World) is 40. Singer JC Chasez ('N Sync) is 39. Actress Tawny Cypress is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Drew Lachey (Iah-SHAY') (98 Degrees) is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marsha Ambrosius is 38. Actress Lindsay Sloane is 38. Actress Countess Vaughn is 37. Actor Michael Urie is 35. Tennis player Roger Federer is 34. Actress Meagan Good is 34. Britain's Princess Beatrice of York is 27. Actor Ken Baumann is 26. Pop singer Shawn Mendes is 17.

Thought for Today: "Man adjusts to what he should not; he is unable to adjust to what he should." - Jean Toomer, African-American author-poet (1894-1967).