

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Open House Bridal Shower For

**Brianna Woods**

**Bride-to-be of Zach Geary**

**Saturday, April 30th**

**9:30-11:30**

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic  
Church – Groton**

**The couple is registered at:**

**Target, Herbergers & Menards**

**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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## Sunday, April 24

**Birthday:** Taryn Rossow

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

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

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran fellowship

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

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran final School for the  
summer

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

## Monday, April 25

**School Breakfast:** Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice,  
milk.

**School Lunch:** Taco salad, tater tots, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Meatballs, mashed potatoes and  
gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Charlie Pray, Rachel Blackmun, Rick  
Schauer

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

10:00am: Girls golf at Milbank

4:00pm: 7th/8th grade track at Aberdeen

7:30pm: School Board Meeting

## Tuesday, April 26

Ag Fair in Aberdeen

**School Breakfast:** Mini pancakes, fruit, juice,  
milk.

**School Lunch:** Mini corn dog, baked beans,  
carrots and dip, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Hamburger cabbage roll hot dish,  
tomato spoon salad, pears, cornmeal muffin.

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

11:30am: Track in Groton

Wednesday, April 27

Biology II Health Science Career Day in Aberdeen



**Dakota Outdoors**

**Erik Dean**

402 N Main St  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
605.229.0123

dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

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## Death Notice: Jean Lowary

Laura Jean Lowary, 91, of Sioux Falls and formerly of Groton fell asleep Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls. Services are pending for Saturday with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

## Handiman looking for work

I can do almost anything from building whatever you need, repairing machinery, welding, flooring, installing windows and doors. If you're looking for work to be done around the home or farm, I'm your guy. Call me at 605/228-4172.

**Now Doing Core Aeration**

**Mowing ~ Trimming**

**Edging ~ Fertilizing**

**Spring/Fall Cleanups**

Travis Kurth, Licensed and Insured

Free Estimates ~ 605/397-7469

**Cutting Edge Lawn Care**

*Quality Lawn Care At Affordable Prices*



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**GROTON LIONS** picked up trash along the highway Groton on April 28. Pictured, back row, L-R are Larry Wheeting, Marti Seurer, Justin Olson, Ryan Quiggle, Dave Pigors, Topper Tastad, Lee Nickeson, and Justin Kerstan, chairman.

Front row-L-R - Nancy Larsen, Ron and Kathryn Rehfuss; and kneeling, Lee Schinkel.

Missing from pic was Karyn Kerstan, and Mark Wattier.

 **livestream**

School Board, 7:30 p.m., April 25th

FCCLA Style Show, 7 p.m., April 28

FFA Banquet, 6:30 p.m., April 29

**gdilive.com**

## Groton MS/HS News

As we near the completion of another school year, I hope you've each had a positively memorable year and wish you all the best for a safe and enjoyable summer season.

The first week in May brings a couple of opportunities to share a gesture or word of thanks with some of the people so influential in our students' lives and so crucial to the mission of our school district. Teacher Appreciation Week and Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week are both slated for the week of May 2-6.

The single-most important variable in the quality of education a child receives is the quality of the teachers they work with. We are grateful for the commitment and effort of our teachers who've answered the call to serve their communities and students if, for no other reason, than they believe in the value of providing opportunities and support for young people. In the midst of very busy and active lifestyles, it can be easy to neglect an opportunity to express to a teacher your gratitude for something they've done to help you, your children, or someone else's children. This spring, I challenge you to take the time to acknowledge in some simple way – notes, emails, phone calls – a teacher that you're thankful for.

Similarly, our schools do not and could not function well without the support staff that provides our students and teachers with the services they need to perform their best in the classroom. Our food service staff is certainly an important part of this group and we are proud of the work they do to serve our kids and interact with them daily.

Of course, the end of the year also means that another graduating class will exit our school system and pursue their dreams and goals. My hopes for them are that they're able to take the foundation they've worked hard to create in our school and transform that into the achievement of the goals for their futures – whatever those may be. Watching these young adults grow and mature is one of the most validating and rewarding aspects of being an educator. Best wishes and congratulations to the class of 2016.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Educationally Yours,  
Joe Schwan  
Superintendent

### **Biology I – Travis Kurth**

The students have just concluded a large unit on genetics and genetic engineering. We start with the very basics of DNA and its structure and work our way up to the different uses of the DNA. We also talk about genetically modified foods and cloning. It leads to a lot of different discussions about the repercussions of such technology along with its ability to change the way we deal with medicine. We are now moving on to discussions involving Charles Darwin and the theory of natural selection.

### **Life Science – Travis Kurth**

The students are in a unit on ecology. They are learning about the biosphere and the biotic and abiotic factors that make up the parts of ecosystem. We are also talking about populations and how they influence an ecosystem. When we talk about that we have to discuss the carrying capacity of an ecosystem and how that can affect population. This will lead into discussion on food chains and food webs. As the year finishes up we will talk about recycling and renewable resources.

### **Introduction to Agriculture – Adam Franken**

The freshmen ag class is just getting started learning about parliamentary procedure. They are discovering how to properly conduct a meeting to make it more efficient and get things done. The students will be debating motions properly to learn how to share their opinion in a convincing way without arguing.

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## **Agricultural Processing – Adam Franken**

The ag processing students are learning about dairy products and the processes milk goes through to make them. We will make some of the products in class as well as taste and identify different types of cheese. At the end of then year, the students will identify the different retail cuts of meat and learn the proper preparation and cooking methods.

## **Animal Science – Adam Franken**

The animal science students are currently discussing the different breeding systems within the livestock industry. They will learn the parts and functions of the male and female reproductive systems. At the end of the unit, they will be selecting sires they would use to breed groups of females.

## **Agricultural Management – Adam Franken**

The senior students are working together to build their own farms. They have to start from scratch and come up with an inventory, budget, and farm plan for their project. They have created a net worth statement and budget for themselves as well.

## **Horticulture – Adam Franken**

The horticulture students are busy in the greenhouse caring for their plants. They have many things growing and are exciting to get them in the ground soon. They are also going to be landscaping the south side of the school.

## **FFA – Adam Franken**

The FFA Chapter recently competed at the State FFA Convention. The students did very well, with Trey Wright placing 10th in the Vet Science CDE, Nicholas Achen placing 7th in the Dairy Cattle CDE and John Achen placing 1st in the Dairy Cattle CDE. The Dairy Cattle Team, consisting of John Achen, Nicholas Achen, Miranda Hanson, and Brenna Johnson, placed first overall and qualified for the National FFA Convention.

The students also taught 475 fourth grade students about agriculture at the Ag Fair in Aberdeen on April 19th. This is the favorite event for many of the members.

We are gearing up for our last event for the year, our FFA Banquet on April 29th. At this event, the members will be recognized for their accomplishments throughout the year.

## **Geometry – Mr. Kjellsen**

The Geometry classes recently completed a unit on perimeter and area. They found the perimeter and area of various different polygons. They are now working on 3-dimensional geometry. They will draw and find the lengths of different 3-D shapes, such as prisms, pyramids, cylinders, cones, and spheres. They will also find the surface area and volumes of these shapes.

## **Algebra II – Mr. Kjellsen**

The Algebra II classes are working on a chapter involving radicals and exponents. They are simplifying expressions and solving equations involving radicals. Their next chapter begins the Trigonometry portion of the class. Trigonometry, by definition, means triangle measure. They will learn various trigonometric ratios they can use to find different sides and angles of triangles. They will also graph trigonometric equations.

## **Trig/Precalc – Mr. Kjellsen**

The Trig/Precalc class just completed the unit of differential calculus. Differential calculus is a branch of mathematics where derivatives are found and used to graph equations. It can also be used to solve problems where maximum or minimum values need to be found. They are now starting the unit on integral calculus. This study of calculus involves integration and finding anti-derivatives. They will use this to find areas of different 2-dimensional shapes and volumes of 3-dimensional shapes.

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## **7th FACS – Mrs. Tietz**

The 7th grade FACS class is currently wrapping up their introductory foods unit where they learned very basic cooking skills including kitchen safety and sanitation, table manners and table setting, principles of microwaving, measuring, and cooking terms. The students were able to put their skills to use as they made such dishes as chocolate cake, orange julius, sloppy joes, individual apple crisps, coffeecake, and apple cinnamon rolls. After finishing this unit, the students went into the introductory sewing unit where they are learning basic sewing safety, equipment, sewing machine parts, and sewing techniques. The students will learn to control the sewing machine by first sewing on paper and then move on to sewing a "seam sample". This allows them practice the techniques before starting work on their final project which is a pillowcase. The students get to choose their fabric for this project. To end the quarter they will be exploring a unit on "Friendships".

## **FACS I – Mrs. Tietz**

FACS I students are in the middle of our Foods and Nutrition Unit after recently finishing up a sewing unit where they constructed a cozy blanket that they will be showing off at the annual FCCLA Style Show. In the Foods and Nutrition Unit they began by learning about food and kitchen safety, measuring and kitchen math, nutrients and how they work in your body and how you can adapt recipes you make at home to be more nutritious. Currently, they are exploring how to prepare foods in each of the 5 food groups. We will then be concluding the school year with a unit on Child Development where they will specifically be learning about preschoolers.

## **FACS II – Mrs. Tietz**

The FACS II class also recently finished up their sewing unit by constructing a reversible satchel purse. The students really enjoyed making this accessory for themselves and were able to be really creative as they an abundance of choices for the coordinating fabrics they could choose. Currently they are in the middle of our last unit of the school year, Interior Design. Elements of design, the role of color in design, principles of design, textiles, how to choose backgrounds, furniture, and furniture arrangement are the main lessons the students will delve into in preparation for designing their own virtual home. Students will also visit local homes in the community. Thank you to those who have opened their homes to our students to see how all of the lessons they have learned in the classroom can be applied in today's homes.

## **FACS IV – Mrs. Tietz**

Quilting, quilting, quilting!!! That is what filled our third quarter in FACS IV. The students enjoyed choosing their own quilt pattern and fabric. They enjoy seeing the fabric go from a piece of material to small pieces that get sewn together to form a big, beautiful quilt they can be proud of! They will be displayed at the FCCLA Style Show in late April. This senior-filled class is wrapping up their high school days in FACS with a scrapbooking unit where they are be able to scrapbook some high school memories and then they will be making a padded bulletin board in which they can display pictures at their graduation receptions and then take them to wherever their next adventure leads.

## **FCCLA – Mrs. Tietz**

We celebrated FCCLA week, February 8-11, by selling lollipops to students and we delivered them a few days prior to Valentine's Day. We also all wore our FCCLA shirts one day that week to promote FCCLA in the school! In March, we held a "Mother Daughter Dinner" for FCCLAers and their moms. It was held in the conference room, a pasta bar, garlic bread, lettuce salad with homemade dressings and dessert was served. The FCCLA officers worked hard to put on this wonderful candlelit event for the moms. We played games and ended the evening with each FCCLAers giving their mom a rose. It was a great time! Fifteen of the FCCLAers will be attending the SD FCCLA State Meeting at the end of April where they will

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be competing in the Illustrated Talk categories and as be helping voting delegates runners and timekeepers. We will wrap up the year with our annual style show on Thursday, April 28, "Stay Cozy with FCCLA". Please come and enjoy all of the projects the students have made as well as the latest prom fashions! We will also be taking our prom dress fashions on the road to the Golden Living Center to help them celebrate Mother's Day! The prom dress fashion show will be a highlight in their program on May 9.

## 7-12 Vocal Music - Mr. Swanson

Greetings! This winter has gone by fast and I can hardly believe we are preparing for our spring concert! Back in February, several High School vocal music students had a great day at Solo and Ensemble Contest in Aberdeen. We came home with nine Superior vocal solo awards. All vocal groups received a Superior rating as well. The High School Choir also performed at Large Group Contest at Aberdeen Central. The 66 member choir performed three songs for three professional judges. They receive a superior rating and where the second highest rating at contest.

The Show Choir has had a super successful season this year. We received 2nd Runner-Up in our division at the Vermillion Invitational, and receive 2nd runner up in our division at the Mitchell Classic in Mitchell. Our biggest accomplishment was our Grand Champion at the State Show Choir Competition. The hard working show choir members are now the first ever state show choir champions. I am sure that this day will be an everlasting memory! We also performed at the POPS Concert and performed for the 2nd, 4th, and 5th graders!

We hope to see you at our 6-12 Spring Concert May 5 at 7:00 PM and at the Elementary Spring Concert May 3 at 7:00 PM!

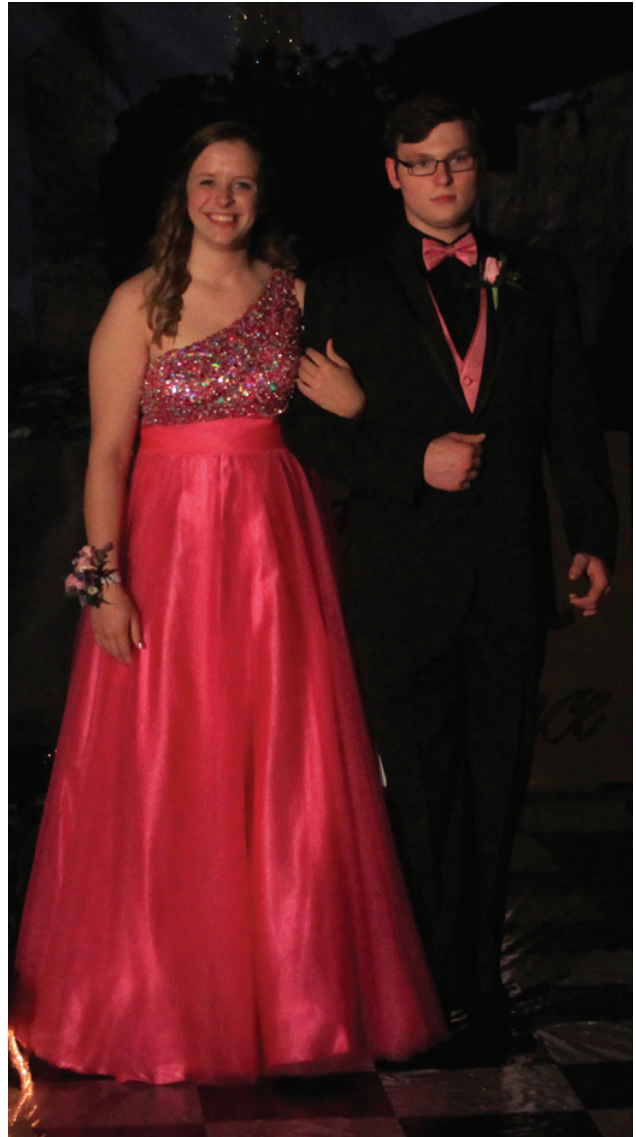


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**Taryn Rossow**  
escorted by Clark Gibbs



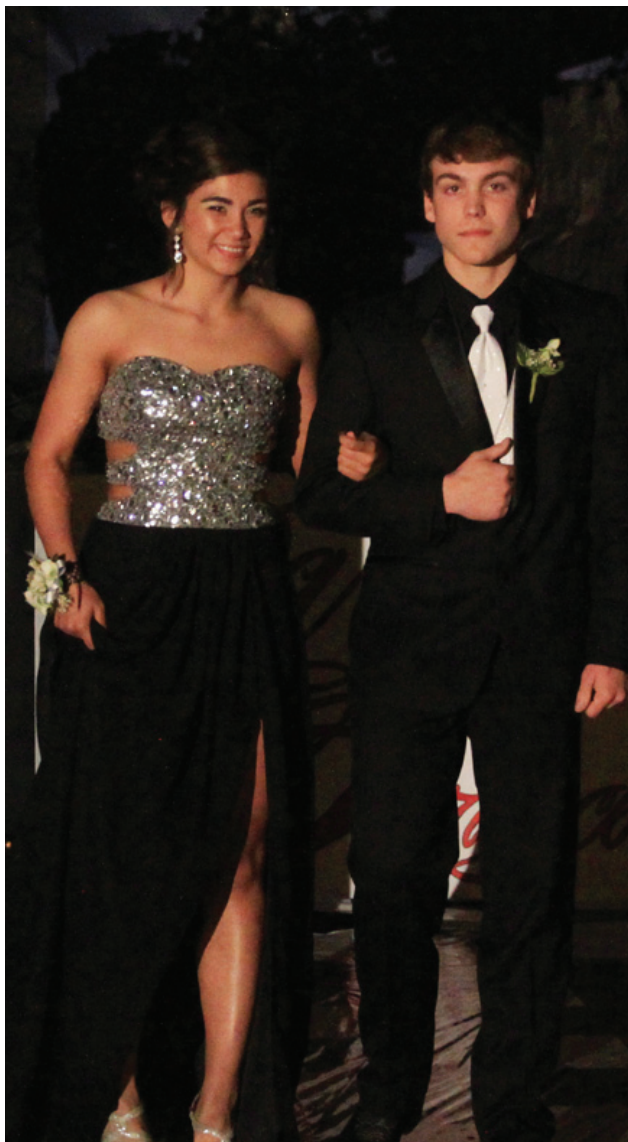
**Mikaela Blumhardt**  
escorted by Kobe Weets

The Groton Area prom was held Saturday evening in the high school gym. The Groton Independent will be featuring couples from the prom during the next few weeks. There were 52 couples at the prom. HD DVDs of the prom are available from the Independent for \$26.50 or can be mailed out for \$30. Call 605-397-7285 or mail check to Independent, 110 N Washington St., Groton SD 57445-2252.

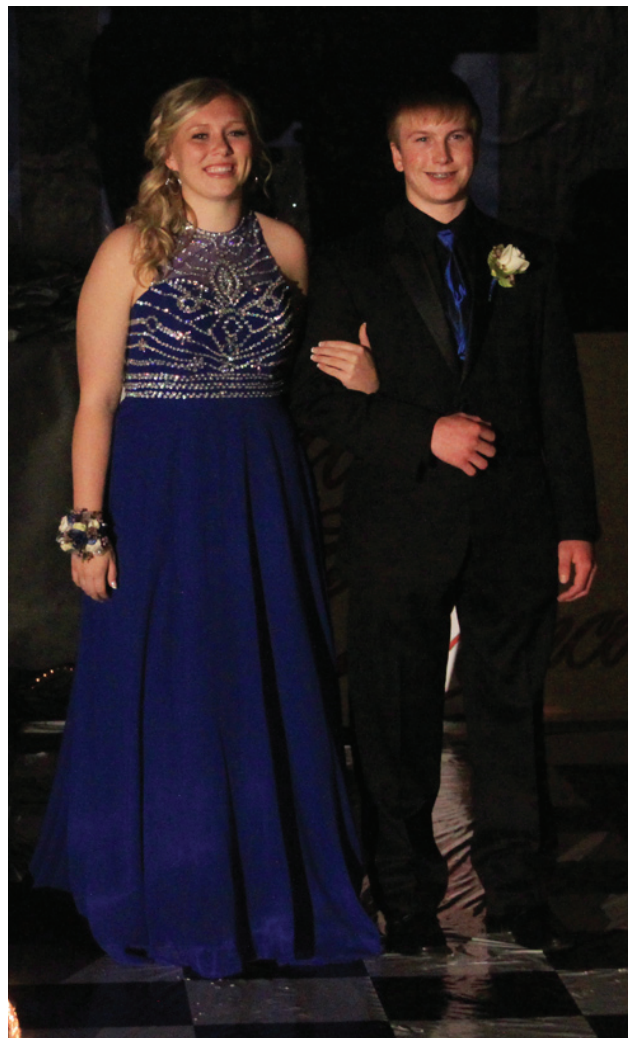


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**Payton Maine**  
escorted by **Braiden Craig**



**Marlee Jones**  
escorted by **James Thompson**

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**Paityn Bonn**  
escorted by **Sean Schuring**



**Jessica Adler**  
escorted by **Truitt Rogers**



## Commonsense Accountability

With Tax Day only a week or so behind us, the amount of personal information we send in with our tax return is still fresh in our minds: Social Security numbers; our annual salary; in some cases, the routing number for our bank account! That's the kind of information we wouldn't share with just anyone, so it begs the question: whose hands does this information fall into once it arrives at the IRS?

Before we get too far in, I want to say that I've met with some incredible folks in South Dakota who do some of this work and do it with integrity. But the IRS is a nationwide agency. Not everyone lives up to South Dakota's standards, including many decision-makers within the IRS.

In the past few years alone, the agency has targeted groups based on their political beliefs. They've let criminal acts pass by the wayside, sending out billions of dollars in improper payments. They've let calls from taxpayers go unanswered, picking up just 15.6 percent of calls during the height of tax-filing season this year. Thousands of employees have neglected to pay their own taxes. And all the while, the agency has handed out about \$6 million worth of bonuses.

With all of this as background, it may come as no surprise that the IRS also knowingly hired hundreds of former employees who had previously been fired for misconduct. Some of these people had been fired from the IRS for filing false documents. Some accessed sensitive taxpayer information without permission. Some just didn't show up to work for what totaled about 8 weeks' worth of work, leading to a stamp on their personnel file saying: "Do Not Rehire." Incredibly, all of these people were rehired.

Nearly one in five of the rehired employees had new performance issues when they returned to the IRS, according to a federal report. This defies commonsense.

What's more, the IRS has shown a complete disregard for changing the practice and insists that prior conduct or performance issues do not play a significant role in deciding the candidates they choose to hire. I couldn't let this policy stand.

I introduced legislation to prohibit the IRS from hiring employees they had already fired once for misconduct. It earned bipartisan support, and on April 21, the House of Representatives gave the legislation its stamp of approval. The Senate has already started its work on this legislation. I'm hopeful they can sign off on this bill soon and put this commonsense reform on the President's desk.

In addition to the bill I introduced, the House passed legislation that ended bonuses to IRS employees until the agency starts to fix its terrible customer service record. We also passed a bill to get rid of an unaccountable IRS slush fund, giving taxpayers a greater say over how fees the IRS collects are used. Finally, we passed legislation to stop the IRS from hiring any new employees until they can certify that no employees are delinquent on their own taxes. These are commonsense, if you are out there to protect hardworking taxpayers.

These bills are only a snippet of what must be done to correct a broken system. Nonetheless, as we work toward a fairer, flatter and simpler tax code, I'll be looking for more opportunities to make the IRS more accountable to you.



## Energy Bill Benefits South Dakotans

The Senate recently passed a bipartisan, comprehensive energy bill that will increase energy security and help keep energy costs low for South Dakota families. The Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016 is the first comprehensive energy bill to pass the Senate in nearly a decade. Included in the final package are a number of measures to improve the energy needs of South Dakotans, and other provisions that will directly benefit our state. I was pleased to vote for it on the Senate floor.

The bill includes my easement disclosure amendment that would make sure landowners are aware of all the options available to them when choosing to place their land in a conservation easement. Landowners in South Dakota deserve to know that perpetual conservation easements aren't their only option. This legislation will increase awareness for shorter, termed easements that keep the landowner and the federal government on equal footing. I believe it will also result in greater conservation opportunities.

Specifically, this amendment contains language to establish a federal education program through the U.S. Department of the Interior to allow landowners to learn all of the federal conservation options available to them when choosing to restrict future use of their land through a federal easement. The agency will be required to make landowners aware of this program when approaching them about participating in a conservation program.

Another South Dakota provision included in the energy bill is the Black Hills National Cemetery Boundary Expansion Act, introduced by Sen. John Thune and me earlier this Congress. This will facilitate a permanent land transfer of around 200 acres of Bureau of Land Management land to expand the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis. The permanent land transfer will guarantee that generations of South Dakota veterans will be able to rest peacefully in the Black Hills National Cemetery.

Reauthorization of the Brownfields program was included in the energy bill as well. I worked with a number of my colleagues on the Brownfields Utilization, Investment and Local Development Act, also referred to as the BUILD Act, which will provide funding for technical assistance grants to small communities and rural areas. This will be helpful to many South Dakota communities by expanding the scope of eligible grant recipients to include non-profit community groups. I was happy to see it included in the final energy bill.

The bill will enhance our ability to protect the electric grid from weather events and cybersecurity threats. Passing the Energy Policy Modernization Act is just one more example of the Senate's commitment to strengthening economic security for the American people and of our dedication to an all-of-the-above approach to energy policy. We would have liked to see additional energy production measures included in the bill, but operating under a divided government requires any legislation passed to meet the approval of both Republicans and Democrats. We may not have gotten everything we wanted, but this bill is step in the right direction.

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## Today in Weather History

April 24, 1948: A significant F2 tornado moved northeast from South of Castlewood to near Goodwin. Barns were destroyed on two farms. Also on this day, two other tornadoes were observed in South Dakota. One moved from Turner County on into Minnehaha County, injuring two people. The other touchdown 3 miles Southeast of Sioux Falls, destroying barns and other buildings on the west edge of Brandon.

1899 - Two women and one son lived to tell the story of being picked up by a tornado and carried more than a fourth of a mile, flying far above the church steeples, before being gently set down again. The young boy and one of the ladies said they had the pleasure of flying alongside a horse. The horse "kicked and struggled" as it flew high above, and was set down unharmed about a mile away. (The Weather Channel)

1908 - Severe thunderstorms spawned eighteen tornadoes over across the Central Gulf Coast States claiming the lives of 310 persons. The state of Mississippi was hardest hit. A tornado near Hattiesburg MS killed 143 persons and caused more than half a million dollars damage. Four violent tornadoes accounted for 279 of the 310 deaths. The deadliest of the four tornadoes swelled to a width of 2.5 miles as it passed near Amite LA. The tornado also leveled most of Purvis MS. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. Up to seven inches of rain drenched Virginia in three days. Morgantown WV received 4.27 inches in 24 hours, and flooding was reported in south central West Virginia. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure produced high winds and severe thunderstorms in the Southern Plains Region. Strong thunderstorm winds destroyed two mobile homes at Whitt TX injuring two persons. Winds associated with the low pressure system gusted to 70 mph at Guadalupe Pass TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Twenty cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Russell KS was the hot spot in the nation with a reading of 101 degrees. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from Colorado to Wisconsin. Hail four and a half inches in diameter was reported at Sargeant NE. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Southern High Plains to north central Kansas. Thunderstorms spawned ten tornadoes, including one which injured four persons and caused 1.5 million dollars damage at Shattuck OK. Thunderstorms also produced softball size hail at Wheeler TX, wind gusts to 85 mph southwest of Arnett OK, and 13.45 inches of rain near Caldwell TX, which resulted in the worst flooding in recent memory for that area. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2010 - An EF-4 tornado up to 1.75 miles wide travels 149.25 miles through Mississippi, the widest and fourth longest path in Mississippi history. It left behind major destruction to businesses, churches and homes, four fatalities in Yazoo City and ten fatalities across the state.

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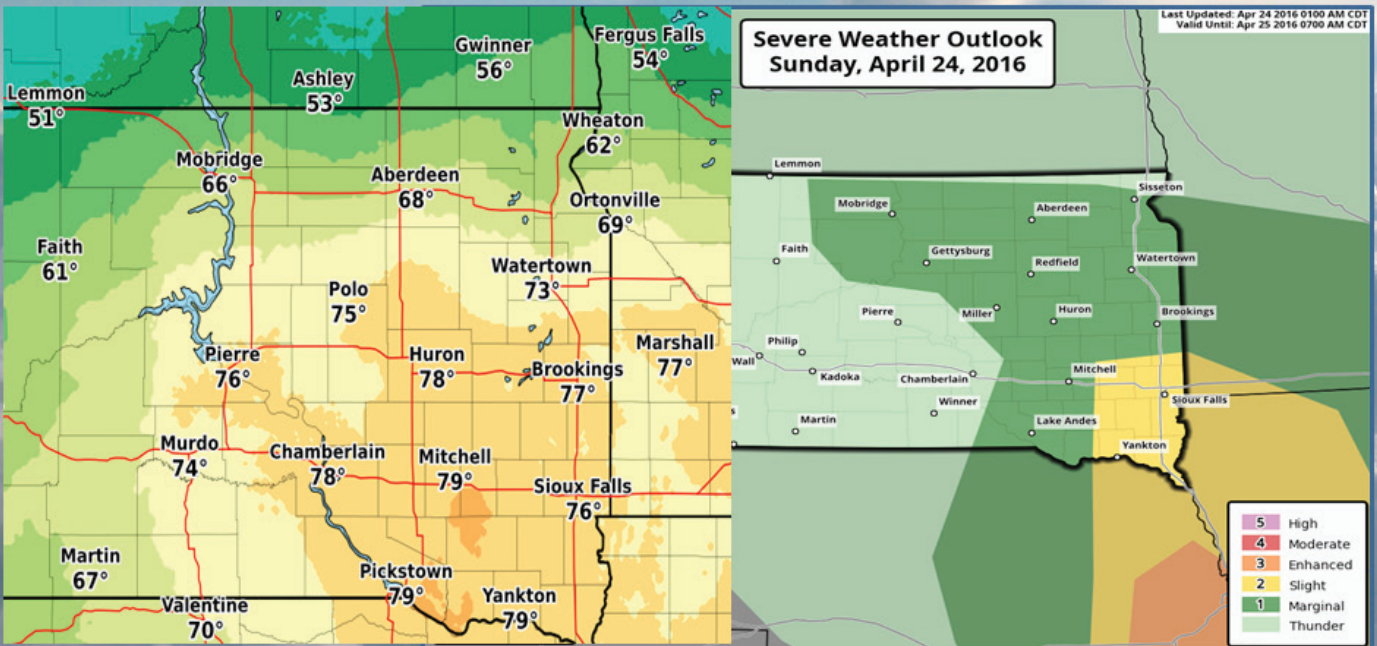
1106 N 2nd St., Groton  
605/397-2365

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
 50%	 60%	 60%	 20%	 20%	 60%	 70%
Chance T-storms	T-storms Likely	Rain Likely	Slight Chance Rain	Cloudy then Slight Chance Rain	Rain Likely	Rain Likely
High: 67 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 47 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 53 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 48 °F

## Strong Storms Possible This Afternoon



National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD

Published on: 04/24/2016 at 4:46AM

As low pressure moves across the region today - we can expect a period of scattered showers and storms this morning. Strong storms will be focused across mainly eastern South Dakota this afternoon. Temperatures will cool behind the system.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 78.4 at 5:12 PM

**Low:** 49.0 at 1:17 AM

**High Gust:** 39 at 1:20 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 92° in 1962

**Record Low:** 17 in 1956

**Average High:** 62°F

**Average Low:** 35°F

**Average Precip in April.:** 1.34

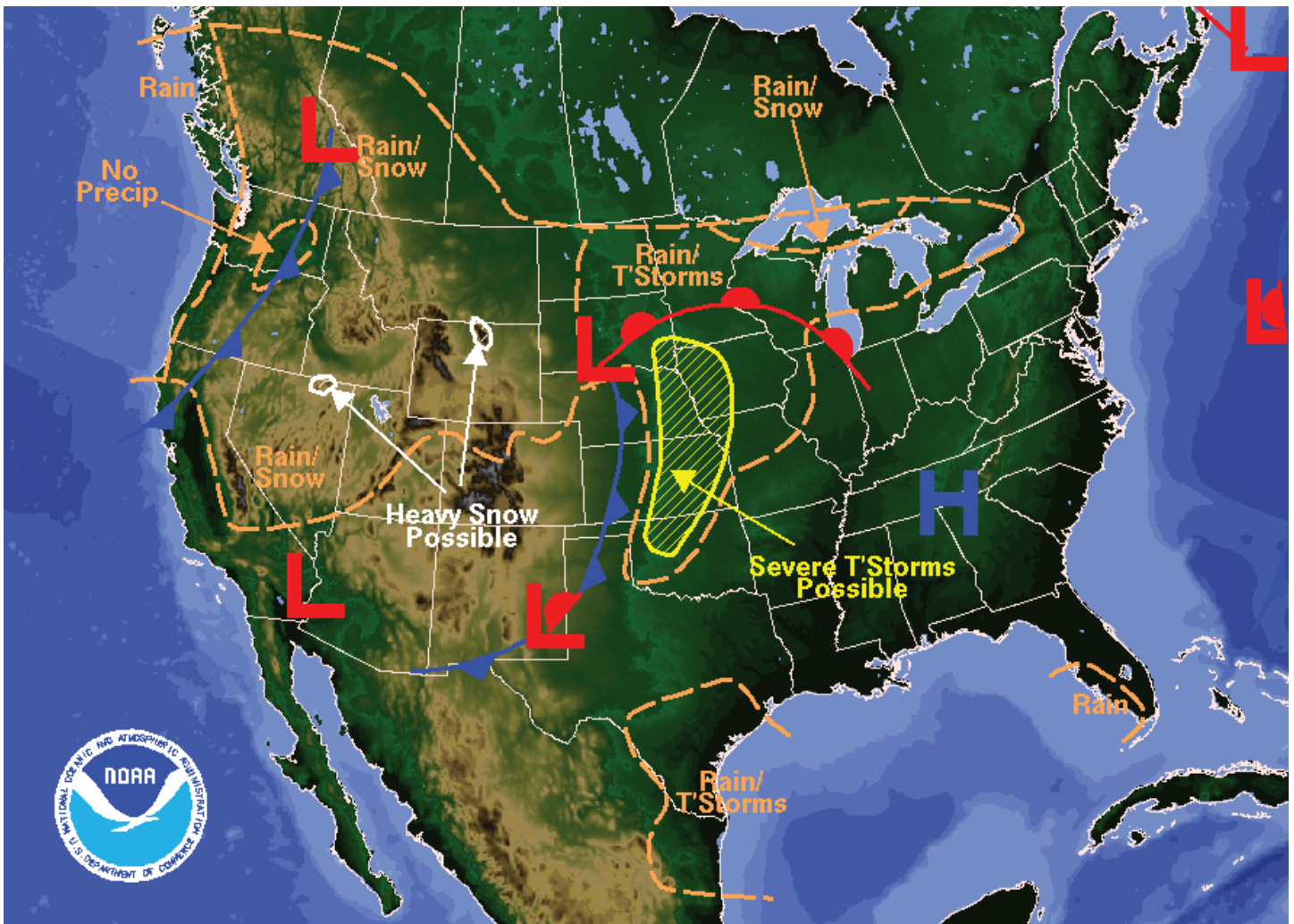
**Precip to date in April.:** 1.25

**Average Precip to date:** 3.52

**Precip Year to Date:** 2.20

**Sunset Tonight:** 8:32 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 6:30 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Apr 24, 2016, issued 5:18 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## **MEN OF GOD - WHERE ARE YOU?**

The president of a large corporation was so challenged and inspired after he read the book, Men Of God, that he called the local book store to order 375 copies for his key leaders. After explaining his request for the books, the sales associate said, "I'm sorry, but we don't have 375 Men Of God in Chicago, why don't you try Detroit."

How do we recognize so called Men Of God? Who are they and where can we find them? Paul wrote to Timothy that God gave us His inspired Word that "is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right." Because the whole Bible contains God's specific directions to lead and guide those who would become "men of God," it is to be read, studied and applied to one's life every day. It is the standard for our conduct and will provide us with the guidance and direction we need to show the world God's love, salvation and hope. It is the only source of instruction for what God wants us to do.

In the Bible we will discover what is true, what is right, what is just and what is required of both men and women of God. In it we will find the strength to do what He wants us to do and the truth that will give us the courage and confidence we need to be His disciples to witness His love, grace, mercy and salvation to others. Through its teaching we will find light for our paths, guidance for our decisions, insight for our problems and hope when we cannot see beyond our moments of despair.

If we choose to commit ourselves to become "men and women of God," we will find everything we need to know about the journey in His Word. And when we begin, He will be with us!

Prayer: Lord, may we strive to become men and women of God through a life of surrender and service to You and those for whom You died. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



## News from the Associated Press

### **Pierre installs new baler at solid waste facility**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The city of Pierre has installed a new baler at its solid waste facility.

The machine compacts all non-recycled solid waste that comes to Pierre's solid waste facility and bales it for optimal disposal at the city's landfill. The new machine replaces a deteriorating baler that had been in use for more than a decade.

Solid Waste Manager Val Keller says running nearly 20,000 tons of trash through a baler annually takes its toll on a machine.

The facility processes all the waste collected in Pierre, Fort Pierre, Onida, Agar and Midland, as well as Hughes, Hand and Hyde counties. With the new baler in place, the city can now process solid waste about 10 percent faster than it could with the older baler.

### **Sioux Falls police identify man killed in shooting**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police have identified a man who was shot and killed in a parking lot of a casino. The suspect remains at large.

Authorities say 28-year-old Baptiste White Eyes died at a hospital after he was shot in the head at 6:49 p.m. Friday outside the Lucky Lady Casino.

Police have identified a suspect in the homicide who is 5-foot-7 and 150 pounds with black hair and was last seen wearing a black short-sleeve T-shirt, a black Minnesota Twins hat and dark-colored jeans.

Michael Gross, who lives across the street from the casino, told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader he heard two shots and saw a man fall down. Gross said he's afraid to live in the neighborhood.

It's the fourth homicide in Sioux Falls this year.

### **Woman accused of stealing mail from post office in Pollock**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Pollock woman has been indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly stealing mail.

Federal authorities say 55-year-old Elaine Reller is charged with theft of mail. She has pleaded not guilty.

Reller is accused of taking mail that belonged to someone else from an authorized depository at the post office in Pollock, in north central South Dakota.

The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in custody.

Court documents do not list an attorney for Reller.

### **Grand jury indicts Porcupine man on sexual contact charge**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man is accused of engaging in sexual contact with two girls under the age of 12.

Authorities say 41-year-old Emerson Spider, of Porcupine, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of abusive sexual contact. He has pleaded not guilty.

Spider faces a maximum penalty of life in prison. There is no parole in the federal system.

A federal public defender could not be reached for comment. No trial date has been set.

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## Man charged in federal court with assault, child abuse

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Federal officials say a Sioux Falls man has been indicted on two counts of assault and one count of child abuse.

Thirty-seven-year-old Justin Stone Arrow faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison on the three charges. He has pleaded not guilty.

Authorities say the incident happened on March 10. Stone Arrow allegedly assaulted a person under 16 years old and the attack resulted in "substantial bodily injury."

A federal public defender could not be reached for comment.

## Key developments in North Korean crisis

The Associated Press

North Korea says it successfully tested a submarine-launched missile, while its foreign minister tells AP his country is ready to give up further nuclear tests under conditions. A look at key developments Sunday:

### MISSILE TEST

Pyongyang said it successfully test-fired a ballistic missile from a submarine — a worrying development because mastering the ability to fire missiles from submerged vessels would make it harder for outsiders to detect what North Korea is doing before it launches, giving it the potential to surprise its enemies.

Hours before the announcement, South Korean military officials said the North fired what appeared to be a ballistic missile from a submarine off its eastern coast. The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the projectile traveled about 30 kilometers (19 miles) Saturday evening. That's a much shorter than the typical distance of a submarine-launched ballistic missile, which can fly at least 300 kilometers (186 miles).

U.S. Strategic Command, headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, said its "systems detected and tracked what we assess was a North Korean submarine missile launch from the Sea of Japan." It said the missile launch "did not pose a threat to North America."

### U.S. RESPONSE

The U.S. State Department said that in response to Saturday's launch, it was limiting the travel of North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong and his delegation to U.N. functions in New York, where they are attending a U.N. meeting on sustainable development. The U.S. noted "launches using ballistic missile technology are a clear violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions."

"We call on North Korea to refrain from actions that further destabilize the region and focus instead on taking concrete steps toward fulfilling its commitments and international obligations," said State Department spokesman John Kirby.

### NORTH TO STOP NUKE TESTS IF ...

In New York, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong told The Associated Press that his country is ready to halt its nuclear tests if the United States suspends its annual military exercises with South Korea.

He also defended the country's right to maintain a nuclear deterrent and warned that North Korea won't be cowed by international sanctions. And for those waiting for the North's regime to collapse, he had this to say: Don't hold your breath.

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Ri held firm to Pyongyang's longstanding position that the U.S. drove his country to develop nuclear weapons as an act of self-defense. At the same time, he suggested that suspending the military exercises with Seoul could open the door to talks and reduced tensions.

"If we continue on this path of confrontation, this will lead to very catastrophic results, not only for the two countries but for the whole entire world as well," he said. "It is really crucial for the United States government to withdraw its hostile policy against the DPRK and as an expression of this stop the military exercises, war exercises, in the Korean Peninsula. Then we will respond likewise." DPRK is an abbreviation for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry called the North's proposal "not worth considering."

## HUMAN RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVES CAN VISIT NORTH, BUT AT OWN RISK

North Korea's foreign minister said international human rights organizations are welcome to inspect conditions in the North — but some might have to travel at their own risk.

"We have our doors open for anybody who is interested to come to the DPRK and see the reality," Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong told The Associated Press in an interview, using the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

But Ri said there are risks for those who want to "totally fabricate" the situation in the North. One person that he indicated would definitely not receive a warm welcome is the U.N.'s special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea, Marzuki Darusman.

Darusman has been very outspoken about human rights abuses in the North and suggested regime change might be the only solution — a position that has made him persona non grata in Pyongyang.

## NORTH DEFENDS JAILING AMERICAN

North Korea's foreign minister defended the jailing of an American university student for alleged anti-state activities, but told The Associated Press that he would inform authorities in Pyongyang there is concern in the U.S. over the student's fate. He also noted that other detainees have been released before serving their full sentences.

North Korea's highest court sentenced Otto Warmbier, a 21-year-old University of Virginia undergraduate, to 15 years in prison at hard labor after he confessed he had tried to steal a propaganda banner as a trophy for an acquaintance who wanted to hang it in her church.

Warmbier, of Wyoming, Ohio, had also been charged with trying to gather information that could be used against the North Korean leadership.

The U.S. government condemned the sentence and accused North Korea of using such American detainees as political pawns.

Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong on Saturday countered that the student was being used by Washington "as a tactic to make our lives difficult" by creating internal disturbances.

## **AP Exclusive: N. Korea to halt nuke tests if US stops drills**

**ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — North Korea is ready to halt its nuclear tests if the United States suspends its annual military exercises with South Korea, the North Korean foreign minister told The Associated Press in an interview in which he also warned that his country won't be cowed by international sanctions.

Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong defended the country's right to maintain a nuclear deterrent, and for those waiting for the North's regime to collapse, he had this to say: Don't hold your breath.

"Stop the nuclear war exercises in the Korean Peninsula, then we should also cease our nuclear tests,"

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he said in his first interview Saturday with a Western news organization.

Ri held firm to Pyongyang's longstanding position that the U.S. drove his country to develop nuclear weapons as an act of self-defense. At the same time, he suggested that suspending the military exercises with Seoul could open the door to talks and reduced tensions.

"If we continue on this path of confrontation, this will lead to very catastrophic results, not only for the two countries but for the whole entire world as well," he said, speaking in Korean through an interpreter. "It is really crucial for the United States government to withdraw its hostile policy against the DPRK and as an expression of this stop the military exercises, war exercises, in the Korean Peninsula. Then we will respond likewise." DPRK is an abbreviation for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Ri, who spoke calmly and in measured words, a contrast to the often bombastic verbiage used by the North's media, claimed the North's proposal was "very logical."

He granted the interview in the country's diplomatic mission to the United Nations. He spoke beneath portraits of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jung Il, North Korea's two previous leaders — the grandfather and father of current leader Kim Jong Un.

If the exercises are halted "for some period, for some years," he added, "new opportunities may arise for the two countries and for the whole entire world as well."

Ri's comments to the AP came just hours after North Korea test-fired a ballistic missile from a submarine in its latest show of defiance as the U.S.-South Korea exercises wind down. He referred to the launch in the context of current tensions caused by the military exercises. "The escalation of this military exercise level has reached its top level. And I think it's not bad — as the other side is going for the climax — why not us, too, to that level as well?"

It is extremely rare for top North Korean officials to give interviews to foreign media, and particularly with Western news organizations.

Ri's proposal, which he said he hoped U.S. policymakers would heed, may well fall on deaf ears. North Korea, which sees the U.S.-South Korean exercises as a rehearsal for invasion, has floated similar proposals to Washington in the past, but the U.S. has insisted the North give up its nuclear weapons program first before any negotiations.

The result has been a stalemate that Ri said has put the peninsula at the crossroads of a thermo-nuclear war.

In Seoul, South Korea's Foreign Ministry released a statement Sunday that called the North's proposal "not worth considering." The ministry noted that the North's suggestion is nothing new, and said that the comment was just part of its maneuvering to wiggle out of the difficult situation created by stronger international sanctions.

In response to Ri's remarks, a U.S. State Department official defended the military exercises as demonstrating the U.S. commitment to its alliance with the South and said they enhance the combat readiness, flexibility and capabilities of the alliance.

"We call again on North Korea to refrain from actions and rhetoric that further raise tensions in the region and focus instead on taking concrete steps toward fulfilling its international commitments and obligations," said Katina Adams, a spokeswoman for the State Department's Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs.

Sanctions, Ri said, won't sway the North.

"If they believe they can actually frustrate us with sanctions, they are totally mistaken," he said. "The more pressure you put on to something, the more emotionally you react to stand up against it. And this is important for the American policymakers to be aware of."

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Ri, in New York to attend a United Nations' meeting on sustainable development, said the possibility of conflict has increased significantly this year because the exercises have taken on what Pyongyang sees as a more aggressive and threatening tone — including training to conduct precision “decapitation” strikes on North Korea’s leadership.

This year’s exercises are the biggest ever, involving about 300,000 troops. Washington and Seoul say they beefed up the maneuvers after North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test, in January, which also brought a new round of tough sanctions by the U.N. down on Pyongyang’s head. The exercises are set to continue through the end of the month.

Pyongyang, meanwhile, has responded with a series of missile launches and statements in its media that the country has developed its long-range ballistic missile and nuclear warhead technologies to the point that they now present a credible deterrent and could even be used against targets on the U.S. mainland, though not all foreign analysts accept that claim.

Ri also used his presence at the U.N. conference as a forum to denounce Washington, saying in a brief statement that while North Korea is contributing to the objectives of global sustainable development by taking measures to double its production of grains to solve its food problem by 2030 and by reforesting 1.67 million hectares (4.13 million acres) of mountainous areas, it is doing so under “the most adverse conditions due to outside forces.”

In the interview, he stated that the United States has used its power to get other countries to join in pressure on North Korea.

“A country as small as the DPRK cannot actually be a threat to the U.S. or to the world,” he told the AP. “How great would it be if the world were to say to the United States and the American government not to conduct any more military exercises in the Korean Peninsula ... But there is not a single country that says this to the U.S.”

“These big countries alone or together are telling us that we should calm down,” he said. “For us this is like a sentence, that we should accept our death and refuse our right to sovereignty.”

Ri said North Korea is not encouraged by the thawing of relations between Washington and Cuba or Iran.

“We’re happy for the Cuban people and the Iranian people that they have reached successes on their path to pursuing their own goals and interests,” he said. But he added that those cases “differ totally” from the U.S.-North Korea relationship.

## **‘Most beloved’ of Prince family, friends bid farewell**

**JEFF BAENEN, Associated Press**

**KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Family and friends of Prince said a “loving goodbye” to the music icon on Saturday in a small private ceremony after his remains had been cremated.

His publicist Yvette Noel-Schure said the celebration of his life included his “most beloved” family, friends and musicians. She said a musical celebration will be held at a future date.

The list of people who attended was not announced, but Prince’s sister Tyka Nelson and brother-in-law Maurice Phillips were seen on the grounds of Prince’s estate Paisley Park, as well as friends such as percussionist Sheila E. and bassist Larry Graham.

Some of the hundreds of fans who congregated at Paisley Park Saturday got a memento of Prince. People emerged from the estate and handed out round purple boxes containing a color photo of Prince and a black T-shirt with “3121” printed on it in white — the numbers were the title of a Prince album.

Prince was found unresponsive in an elevator Thursday at Paisley Park, and an autopsy was done Fri-

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day. But authorities have not released a cause of death and have said results could take days or weeks.

The publicist's brief statement repeated that the cause of Prince's death was unknown and said autopsy results wouldn't be received for at least four weeks.

The statement said the "final storage" of Prince's remains would be private.

"We ask for your blessings and prayers of comfort for his family and close friends at this time," the statement said.

Prince was last seen alive by an acquaintance who dropped him off at Paisley Park at 8 p.m. Wednesday, according to Carver County Sheriff Jim Olson. The "Purple Rain" star, born Prince Rogers Nelson, was found by staff members who went to the compound in Chanhassen, about 20 miles outside Minneapolis, the next morning when they couldn't reach him by phone.

Emergency crews who answered the 911 call could not revive Prince, the sheriff said.

Prince's death came two weeks after he canceled concerts in Atlanta, saying he wasn't feeling well. He played a pair of makeup shows April 14 in that city, apologizing to the crowd shortly after coming on stage.

Early in the first show, he briefly disappeared from the stage without explanation. After about a minute he returned and apologized, saying he didn't realize how emotional the songs could be. He played the rest of the show without incident and performed three encores.

In the later show, he coughed a few times, though the show was again energetic.

Prince was slated to perform two shows earlier this week at the Fox Theatre in St. Louis but canceled last week because of health concerns.

Sheila E. has told the AP that Prince had physical issues from performing, citing hip and knee problems that she said came from years of jumping off risers and stage speakers in heels. But she said she hadn't talked directly with him in several months.

## 'He was family': Music star Prince stayed home in Minnesota

JEFF BAENEN, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Bob Dylan left Minnesota, but Prince never did.

When the music superstar died at age 57, it was in the same suburban Minneapolis studio compound where he had lived for years. He could have opted for the glamour of either coast but stayed home, where fans occasionally saw him in local nightclubs, a record store, or just bicycling near Paisley Park.

"He was everything here," said Mark Anderson, 43, a longtime fan who estimated he saw at least 30 Prince shows and would bring his teenage son from nearby Eagan to see Prince's occasional late-night jams at Paisley Park. "He was more than a musician. He was family.

"I think a lot of fans feel that way."

Crowds continued flocking Saturday to pay respects at Paisley Park. An autopsy was conducted Friday, but officials said it may be weeks before results are known. A group of Prince's "most beloved" family, friends and musicians celebrated his life in a small, private service on Saturday after his remains were cremated.

Prince's fame made Minnesota feel good about itself.

In the wake of his death, fans here have recalled how the Oscar and seven-time Grammy winner put the sleek "Minneapolis Sound" of the 1980s on the national music map.

"When you think of Minneapolis, you automatically think of Prince," said Jen Boyles, 37, a longtime Twin Cities music journalist.

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman was among thousands that turned up Thursday night outside of First Avenue, the downtown Minneapolis nightclub Prince made famous with his hit 1984 movie "Purple

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Rain" and where part of the movie was set and filmed.

"Think about what Prince has meant to so many people across the globe, not to mention folks in the Twin Cities," Coleman told the Star Tribune. "Prince made us cool. Prince really made his mark from here."

Even the local sheriff, at a news conference on Prince's death, reminded reporters that the purple-loving megastar was, at heart, a local guy.

"This is a tragedy for all of us. To you, Prince Rogers Nelson was a celebrity. To us, he's a community member and a good neighbor," Carver County Sheriff Jim Olson said Friday.

Minnesota is a rich musical state that has produced Bob Dylan, Judy Garland, Eddie Cochran and the Andrews Sisters. But they all moved away.

Bob Fuchs, the manager of Electric Fetus, a south Minneapolis record store where Prince would browse without fans bothering him, rated Prince equal to Dylan. Prince's decision to stay home, Fuchs said, made him special.

"As far as hometown musicians who still live here, that puts Prince at No. 1," he said.

Lars Larson, who worked as security for Paisley Park on and off since 2001, said he thinks Prince cherished small-town life.

"He had the freedom to do stuff here and not worry about paparazzi bothering him. I remember he would take trips to Dairy Queen in his BMW. I don't know if you can get away with that in Hollywood," Larson said.

A few years ago, Prince showed up with a guitar at First Avenue, where he frequently performed, to see the band Gayngs, the club's general manager, Nate Kranz, recalled. But instead of performing, Prince just watched from the stage, Kranz said.

Prince last performed at the club in 2007, but would stop by occasionally to see local acts, Kranz said.

Besides opening his 65,000-square-foot Paisley Park recording complex in 1987 in Chanhassen, a town of nearly 23,000 people about 20 miles southwest of Minneapolis, Prince also owned a lot of undeveloped land in the suburb, Mayor Denny Laufenburger said.

"Maybe to a certain extent he considered this a little bit of peaceful repose," Laufenburger said.

Heather McElhatton of Minneapolis, who worked as a set decorator for Prince video shoots at Paisley Park from 1988 to 1998, said Prince had his pick of locating his \$10 million studio but chose to remain in the Twin Cities.

"He could have put Paisley Park anywhere. He could have put it on the moon and musicians would have rocketed up to record with him," McElhatton said. "He never lost touch with who he was or his roots."

## Solar plane readies to land in California after 3-day flight

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A solar-powered airplane on a journey around the world was preparing to land in California on Saturday night to complete a risky, three-day flight across the Pacific Ocean.

The Solar Impulse 2 was flying in a holding pattern off the San Francisco coast on 70 percent of stored energy while waiting for winds to decrease for landing at Moffett Airfield in Mountain View.

The aircraft performed a fly-by over the Golden Gate Bridge in the late afternoon following 56 hours of flight that began Thursday morning in Hawaii.

"I crossed the bridge. I am officially in America," pilot Bertrand Piccard declared as he flew over the iconic span as spectators watched the narrow aircraft with extra wide wings from below.

Piccard said stopping in Silicon Valley, where the airfield is located, will help link the daring project to

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the pioneering spirit of the area.

"Can you imagine crossing the Golden Gate Bridge on a solar-powered plane just like ships did in past centuries? But the plane doesn't make noise and doesn't pollute," Piccard said a live video feed on the website documenting the journey.

"It's a priority to link the project we have with the pioneering spirit in Silicon Valley," he added.

The aircraft started its around-the-world journey in March 2015 from Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, and made stops in Oman, Myanmar, China and Japan. It's on the ninth leg of its circumnavigation.

The trans-Pacific leg of his journey is the riskiest part of the solar plane's global travels because of the lack of emergency landing sites.

After uncertainty about winds, the plane took off from Hawaii on Thursday morning. The crew that helped it take off was clearing out of its Hawaiian hangar and headed for the mainland for the weekend arrival.

At one point passengers on a Hawaiian Air jet caught a glimpse of the Solar Impulse 2 before the airliner sped past the slow-moving aircraft.

The Solar Impulse 2 landed in Hawaii in July and was forced to stay in the islands after the plane's battery system sustained heat damage on its trip from Japan.

Piccard's co-pilot Andre Borschberg flew the leg from Japan to Hawaii. He was aboard a helicopter to welcome Piccard as he approached the Bay Area.

The team was delayed in Asia, as well. When first attempting to fly from Nanjing, China, to Hawaii, the crew had to divert to Japan because of unfavorable weather and a damaged wing.

A month later, when weather conditions were right, the plane departed from Nagoya in central Japan for Hawaii.

The plane's ideal flight speed is about 45 kph, or 28 mph, though that can double during the day when the sun's rays are strongest. The carbon-fiber aircraft weighs more than 5,000 pounds, or about as much as a midsize truck.

The wings of Solar Impulse 2, which stretch wider than those of a Boeing 747, are equipped with 17,000 solar cells that power propellers and charge batteries. The plane runs on stored energy at night.

## 'Saturday Night Live' devotes entire show to Prince tribute

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC's "Saturday Night Live" is airing a special tribute show titled "Goodnight Sweet Prince."

SNL alum Jimmy Fallon of "The Tonight Show" is hosting Saturday's episode, which features clips of Prince performing on the comedy show over the past four decades and skits with former cast member Fred Armisen portraying the artist.

The show also includes an eight-minute medley Prince performed during a 2014 show and a surprise performance during a party thrown after the show's 40th anniversary special last year.

The 57-year-old Prince died Thursday at his Paisley Park compound in suburban Minneapolis. An autopsy was done Friday but no cause has been announced.

The tribute show replaced a previously announced "Saturday Night Live" rerun.



## 'I am here' - Silenced by autism, young man finds his voice

MARTHA IRVINE, AP National Writer

April is National Autism Awareness Month

METAIRIE, La. (AP) — Though he cannot speak, Benjamin Alexander has much to say, one typed word at a time.

Ben was diagnosed with nonverbal autism and epilepsy a few months before his third birthday. Now 22, he is a writer and a student at Tulane University in New Orleans with a GPA of 3.7. In his essays, he returns repeatedly to the "fiend" that tried to silence him, the condition he sarcastically calls his "gift."

"Who in the hell gave me this gift?" he wrote in one piece published in a local online journal. "Please, take it back."

Ben wants to help educate people about autism and challenge stereotypes. That's not easy because he still needs some assistance using a computer to communicate, and that's caused some to doubt him over the years.

On a recent evening, Ben's father settles him at the keyboard and rests his hand under his son's arm. He lightly squeezes Ben's forearm, a subtle move that sets him into action. Ben begins to punch the keys with one finger.

"I . am . not . stupid . as . some . people . used . to . think," Ben types. He unwraps his arm from his dad's and hits the period by himself, causing the computer to read each word in a robotic voice that he doesn't really like, but needs.

Later he adds, "I want people to know I am here."

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As the sun rises over the leafy streets of suburban New Orleans, Ellen Schneider enters her son's room, adorned to the ceiling with tributes to his beloved New Orleans Saints football team, and rouses him for his day on campus. "Come on, B-man." She leads him to the bathroom to use an electric toothbrush. "Oooh, you're gorgeous," she says, as she looks into his wide hazel eyes and wipes his bearded face with a towel.

This morning, Ben is calm, having taken his medication — pills for everything from epileptic seizures to anxiety. He eats sliced apples and bread for breakfast while laughing to himself or babbling: "Aw aw, mm mm, bip bip." The soft sounds seem involuntary in some moments, self-soothing in others.

This daily existence, with its many ups and downs, has tested the resolve of his success-minded parents, both age 55. His mother is an ophthalmologist, his father an obstetrician. They also have two daughters, Hillary, 25, and Lexi, 15.

"We cure things with our hands. We cut it out. If it's something that needs to be removed, we remove it," his dad, Sam Alexander, says. But with Ben's condition, "we couldn't do that."

When Ben was born, there was no indication that anything was wrong. Family videos show a smiley, chubby-cheeked boy with curly red hair just beginning to form words. "Hello," he seems to utter in one video, after picking up an old telephone receiver.

In the months that followed, however, Ben lost those first few words. He stopped looking people in the eye. His parents often would find him off in a corner spinning around and around.

Doctors initially told them to be patient, that it wasn't unusual for some kids to have delayed speech. But then, when Ben was about 2 1/2, came the diagnosis they feared: autism. Often called pervasive developmental disorder, it was accompanied by epileptic episodes, which worsened in adolescence.

"It felt like he died," dad says.

Ben never spoke again.

Though advised to keep their expectations low, his parents took him from specialist to specialist, to Miami, Boston and Chicago, and tried any number of recommended therapies.

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Eventually, Ben saw Dr. Stanley Greenspan. The Maryland child psychiatrist used a technique called "floortime," where Ben played problem-solving games on the floor with his therapists or parents.

In his writing, Ben recalls how the doctor in blue jeans and Birkenstocks encouraged him: "It does not matter how fast you get there, so long as you get there."

Early on in their battle with autism, Ben's parents heard that a nonverbal boy in India was writing poetry about his condition, and they wondered: What if Ben could communicate that way? So they tried facilitated communication, a controversial method where another person supports the typing hand of a nonverbal autistic person to help him "speak" using a computer.

One afternoon, dad asked 8-year-old Ben a question.

"Who is the president of the United States?"

"G-e-o-r-g-e-w-b-u-s-h," Ben typed on a portable keyboard, according to his father, who supported his typing hand.

These days, dad often only needs to hold Ben's forearm loosely when he types, or he places his flat hand atop his son's wrist to steady him in moments of higher anxiety.

For some reason, his parents say, human touch and verbal prompting help bridge the connection between what Ben's brain wants to do, and the actual execution. When typing, he appears to be directing his own finger to particular keys. His eyes alternate from keys to screen. He often sees and fixes his mistakes, though his parents also point out errors.

Because Ben needed more physical support early on, some people didn't believe he was typing his own thoughts. His parents say they included the administrators at the private school he attended. So he switched to a public school, where special education teacher Judy Nodurft took on his case.

She, too, had doubts initially. She'd heard of cases where well-meaning parents directed their children's typing, an oft-repeated criticism of facilitated communication. Nodurft received training for supported typing at an institute at Syracuse University in New York and, after working with Ben, became a believer.

"You were hard," Ben typed recently when Nodurft visited his home. She chuckled.

By the time Ben was 9, he wrote an essay — "My Adventure in Life" — that won a state writing honor. It was compiled from his answers to his mom's questions about what his autism felt like.

In simple words — and with mom telling him what didn't make sense or pointing out spelling and punctuation errors — Ben told readers how he needed to be by himself to think and how looking into her eyes was often difficult for him, even "painful."

Even so, he wrote, "I can not wait to start living."

Today, Ben is living the life of a college student. In his classes at Tulane, he sits with his dad at his side, often in a back corner with easy access to an exit. Sometimes, his father places his hand over Ben's mouth to quiet him, or nudges him to participate in a discussion. Ben clicks his laptop mouse so the computer voice announces "Speak!" when he has a question or comment, his way of raising his hand.

During a screenwriting class this semester, he contributes to a discussion on the movie "The Social Network."

"I loved it because I found it ironic that a guy who was socially inept started a social network," Ben says through his laptop voice, as the instructor nods in agreement.

Dr. Paul Lipkin, director of the Interactive Autism Network at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, says as few as 10 percent of people on the autism spectrum have no real language, and most of those tend to have low intellectual abilities.

Though many experts point to studies debunking facilitated communication, Lipkin is less skeptical,

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even if Ben seems “really rare.”

“As physicians,” he says, “we never say never.”

Ben is the first person with nonverbal autism to attend Tulane, and administrators and professors say they’ve never had reason to doubt his abilities. The university’s accessibility office arranged meetings to introduce Ben and his father to each new professor. But assistant director Shawna Foose, who’s gotten to know Ben well, says that’s about it.

“He doesn’t want to be seen as a freak or a fraud,” she says.

Thomas Beller, an associate professor of creative writing who’s had Ben in class, says he, too, quickly bypassed the “exoticism” of Ben’s condition to judge him on the merits of his work.

“I don’t want to grade him on a curve as the autistic guy,” Beller says.

Writing takes Ben many hours. He uses predictive word processing software that allows him to choose from a list of words after typing a few letters. Sometimes he writes fiction, such as a short story set at the time of Hurricane Katrina, and he is talking about a novel. Essays are his favorite form, though.

This year, at his father’s suggestion, Ben wrote about a remarkable meeting — and a transformative conversation. Using his voice simulator, he spoke to one of his heroes, Steve Gleason, a former Saints player who now has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, and also speaks with the help of a computer.

The conversation turned serious when Ben shared his anger, asking: “Can you tell me how you stay so positive? How do you deal with frustration? How do you make your computer scream?”

Gleason replied that he’d found purpose by helping others with a foundation he and his wife formed. He also assured Ben that it was normal to question the meaning of his life. Ben was amazed.

“I have only dreamed about being normal,” he wrote in the piece, published on Tulane’s news site.

Gleason also told Ben that he could be an example for other people with autism. Ben, in his interview, says he knows that’s true.

“I am not the autism poster boy. But I hope that people will ... allow us to be heard.”

## **Q&A: A look at nonverbal autism, facilitated communication**

**MARTHA IRVINE, AP National Writer**

**April is National Autism Awareness Month**

Benjamin Alexander, the first student with nonverbal autism to attend Tulane University in New Orleans, is an English major and a writer who’s had essays published locally. He uses a form of facilitated communication, or supported typing, and hopes to educate others about living with autism.

Here are some questions and answers about nonverbal autism and facilitated communication.

**WHAT IS NONVERBAL AUTISM?**

Researchers have found that as few as 1 in 10 people on the autism spectrum are nonverbal, meaning they have little to no meaningful spoken language. Dr. Paul Lipkin, an autism researcher in Baltimore, says a majority of people who are autistic and nonverbal generally don’t speak because of lower intellectual ability. But he and other experts say they have little doubt that some have inner voices and thoughts, some quite profound.

“It will always be one of the rarer conditions within the autism spectrum. But we are more likely to recognize someone’s ability than we would have before . and to focus on the abilities,” says Lipkin, director of the Interactive Autism Network at the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

**CAN PEOPLE WHO ARE NONVERBAL AND AUTISTIC LEARN TO COMMUNICATE?**

Yes. There certainly are cases where nonverbal people on the autism spectrum have learned to speak a few words. More often, they learn to write or type. Dr. Paul Wang, vice president of medical research for the organization Autism Speaks, points to Naoki Higashida, a young man in Japan who has written

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a book about his nonverbal autism, "The Reason I Jump," and Carly Fleischmann, a Canadian woman who is on the autism spectrum and has written a book with her father. In India, Tito Mukhopadhyay communicates with a very few spoken words and in writing and also composes poetry.

Some experts, such as Wang and Lipkin, think these cases are rare. However, others who study augmentative and alternative communication, or AAC, say early intervention increases the chances that nonverbal people develop language or communication of some sort, even if very basic. Some who are nonverbal are able to use software and apps with pictures to help them communicate. Some learn to type using software with predictive text. And some, like Mukhopadhyay, also can write by hand with pen or pencil.

Some teachers and parents also use facilitated communication, or supported typing. However, that method is controversial.

## WHAT IS FACILITATED COMMUNICATION?

Facilitated communication, first used with patients with cerebral palsy in Australia in the 1980s, is a method in which the hand, wrist or arm of a nonverbal person is supported by another person so that he or she can type. When using predictive word processing software, typists choose from a list of words after typing a few letters. Ben Alexander uses this type of software both at home and in class. A computer voice can then read his words aloud.

## WHY IS FACILITATED COMMUNICATION CONTROVERSIAL?

Studies have found that most people who used facilitated communication received too much help from assistants, raising questions about whose thoughts were really being expressed. In some instances, courts also have thrown out testimony derived from facilitated communication. A compilation of research that found this method unreliable appeared in the academic journal "Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities" in 2014. Several professional organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, have issued statements about the pitfalls of facilitated communication.

"Every time researchers have looked into it rigorously, it doesn't pan out," Wang says.

But some experts say its usefulness cannot be ruled out in all cases. "I don't think it's ever been said it's a definite no. There's always exceptions to everything," says Lipkin, adding that he also wouldn't want to give false hope to families with autistic children who are nonverbal.

Connie Kasari, an autism expert at UCLA, says that if the results are consistent, "they may be real."

"I have been very much surprised by students who are able to participate fully in academics when using AAC" when behavioral testing predicted otherwise, she says. "So you never know."

## Today in History

### The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, April 24, the 115th day of 2016. There are 251 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 24, 1916, some 1,600 Irish nationalists launched the Easter Rising by seizing several key sites in Dublin. (The rising was put down by British forces five days later.)

On this date:

In 1792, the national anthem of France, "La Marseillaise" (lah mahr-say-YEHZ'), was composed by Captain Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle.

In 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress.

In 1866, the first version of German composer Max Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G-minor, Op. 26, was performed (the Concerto underwent a series of revisions by Bruch before achieving its final form).

In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States. (The United States responded in kind the next day.)

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In 1915, what's considered the start of the Armenian genocide began as the Ottoman Empire rounded up Armenian political and cultural leaders in Constantinople.

In 1932, in the Free State of Prussia, the Nazi Party gained a plurality of seats in parliamentary elections.

In 1953, British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1962, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology achieved the first satellite relay of a television signal, using NASA's Echo 1 balloon satellite to bounce a video image from Camp Parks, California, to Westford, Massachusetts.

In 1970, the People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which kept transmitting a song, "The East Is Red."

In 1980, the United States launched an unsuccessful attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen.

In 1986, Wallis, Duchess of Windsor, for whom King Edward VIII had given up the British throne, died in Paris at age 89.

In 1990, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, carrying the \$1.5 billion Hubble Space Telescope.

Ten years ago: Terrorist bombings killed at least 23 people at a beach resort on Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Speaking in Irvine, California, President George W. Bush said those calling for deporting all of the estimated 11 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally back to their home countries were being "unrealistic." Rabbi Moses Teitelbaum, spiritual leader of an ultra-Orthodox Jewish sect, died in New York at age 91.

Five years ago: Pope Benedict XVI offered an Easter Sunday prayer for diplomacy to prevail over warfare in Libya and for citizens of the Middle East to build a new society. Taliban militants staged a massive jailbreak in Kandahar, Afghanistan, as some 480 inmates escaped through a tunnel that had been dug over a matter of months. Madame Ngo Dinh Nhu, 86, who'd served as South Vietnam's unofficial first lady early in the Vietnam War, died in Rome.

One year ago: President Barack Obama marked the 10th anniversary of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, praising the nation's spying operations as the most capable in the world. The presidents of Russia and France joined other leaders at ceremonies in Yerevan commemorating the estimated 1.5 million Armenian victims of the 1916 massacre by Ottoman Turks. In a long awaited interview about his gender identity, former Olympic champion Bruce Jenner told ABC's Diane Sawyer said that "for all intents and purposes, I am a woman."

Today's Birthdays: Movie director-producer Richard Donner is 86. Actress Shirley MacLaine is 82. Author Sue Grafton is 76. Actor-singer Michael Parks is 76. Actress-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 74. Former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 74. Country singer Richard Sterban (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 73. Rock musician Doug Clifford (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 71. Rock singer-musician Rob Hyman is 66. The acting Taoiseach of Ireland, Enda Kenny, is 65. Actor-playwright Eric Bogosian is 63. Rock singer-musician Jack Blades (Night Ranger) is 62. Actor Michael O'Keefe is 61. Rock musician David J (Bauhaus) is 59. Actor Glenn Morshower is 57. Rock musician Billy Gould is 53. Actor-comedian Cedric the Entertainer is 52. Actor Djimon Hounsou (JEYE'-mihn OHN'-soo) is 52. Rock musician Patty Schemel is 49. Rock musician Aaron Comess (Spin Doctors) is 48. Actor Aidan Gillen is 48. Actress Melinda Clarke is 47. Actor Rory McCann is 47. Latin pop singer Alejandro Fernandez is 45. Country-rock musician Brad Morgan (Drive-By Truckers) is 45. Rock musician Brian Marshall (Creed; Alter Bridge) is 43. Actor Derek Luke is 42. Actor Eric Balfour is 39. Actress Rebecca Mader is 39. Country singer Rebecca Lynn Howard is 37. Country singer Danny Gokey is 36. Actor Austin Nichols is 36. Actress Sasha

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Barrese is 35. Contemporary Christian musician Jasen Rauch (Red) is 35. Singer Kelly Clarkson is 34. Rock singer-musician Tyson Ritter (The All-American Rejects) is 32. Actor Doc Shaw is 24. Golfer Lydia Ko is 19.

Thought for Today: "I feel proud to be living in a country where people are not afraid to laugh at themselves and where political satire is tolerated by the government, if not the television network." — Pat Paulsen, American comedian (born 1927, died this date in 1997).

## 911 caller who found 2 of 8 bodies: 'There's blood all over'

**KANTELE FRANKO, Associated Press**

PIKETON, Ohio (AP) — An out-of-breath caller who found two of the eight slain members of an Ohio family told a 911 dispatcher in a quavering voice that "there's blood all over the house."

"I think my brother-in-law's dead," she said, her voice rising as she adds later that it looks like someone has "beat the crap out of them."

"I think they're both dead," she said before breaking down into sobs, according to one of two 911 call recordings released Saturday by the state attorney general's office.

The calls were released a day after eight family members were found dead with gunshots to the head at four properties in rural southern Ohio.

Authorities continued the scramble to determine who targeted that clan and why. Investigators said they interviewed more than 30 people in hopes of finding leads in the deaths of the seven adults and the teenage boy whose bodies were found Friday at homes southwest of Piketon. They completed work at the crime scenes Saturday.

"It's a very active and ongoing investigation," said Lisa Hackley, a spokeswoman for Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine. "We're looking for the person or persons who did this."

The victims, all members of the Rhoden family, were identified Saturday as 40-year-old Christopher Rhoden Sr.; his 16-year-old son, Christopher Rhoden Jr.; 44-year-old Kenneth Rhoden; 38-year-old Gary Rhoden; 37-year-old Dana Rhoden; 20-year-old Clarence "Frankie" Rhoden; 20-year-old Hannah Gilley; and 19-year-old Hanna Rhoden.

It appeared some of the family members were killed as they slept, including Hanna Rhoden, who was in bed with her newborn baby nearby, authorities said. The infant was 4- or 5-days old, authorities said. The infant, Hannah Gilley's 6-month-old baby, and 1 other small child were not hurt.

Authorities said none of the injuries appeared self-inflicted; they believed there was at least one assailant. A search for the perpetrator or perpetrators continued Saturday as surviving members of the Rhoden family were urged to take precautions. Authorities offered them help, and recommended that area residents also be wary.

Phil Fulton, the pastor of Union Hill Church up the road from where some of the victims were found, described the family as close-knit and hardworking. He said they were previously part of his congregation, though not recently.

"We're just doing everything we can to reach out to the family to show them love and comfort," Fulton said.

Reading a statement from the family, Kimberly Newman of the Ohio Crisis Response Team, told reporters gathered alongside the barricaded road that leads to some of the crime scenes that they appreciated "the outpouring of prayers and support."

"They ask that you continue to keep them in your prayers," Newman said.

The exact timing of the shootings remained unclear. Authorities got the first 911 call shortly before 8 a.m. Friday; the second call came several hours later from another location, where the caller said he

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found his cousin.

"I just went in hollering at him ... And I looked up at him and he had a gunshot wound," he said.

Two of the crime scenes are within walking distance of each other along a sparsely populated, winding road that leads into wooded hills from a rural highway. The third residence is more than a mile away, and the fourth home is on a different road, at least a 10-minute drive away, said the investigation's leader, Benjamin Suver, a special agent in charge with Bureau of Criminal Investigations.

Investigators blocked off wide areas around the crime scenes, but aerial photos showed law enforcement vehicles parked outside the properties. One scene appeared to have a trailer home and several others buildings a short walk apart, with a school bus and numerous other vehicles parked in the grass around the property.

Pike County Sheriff Charles Reader and DeWine said in a joint statement Saturday that investigators worked through the night processing evidence at the scene. Officials said a Cincinnati-area businessman put up a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the capture and conviction of the killer or killers.

Authorities refused to discuss details about the crime scenes, the type or number of weapons used, the evidence found, and the search operations.

The owner of at least two of the properties is listed as Christopher Rhoden, according to Pike County auditor's records.

Kendra Jordan, 20, said she often worked nights at a nursing home with Hanna Rhoden and described her as outgoing, funny and always smiling.

"If you were having a bad day, she'd be the first one to come up to you to question you about what was going on," Jordan said. "She was amazing."

Jordan said the town would have difficulty recovering from the loss of such a well-known family in the tight-knit community.

"Everyone knows that family, you can't not know that family," she said. "They're involved in everything, and they're at every event that's going on in town. Just about see them anywhere you went."

## **Trump top suggestion to replace Robert E. Lee school name**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A YU-U-U-GE name is the most popular suggested replacement name for a Texas elementary school named after the top hero of the Confederacy.

Donald J. Trump Elementary was the most popular suggestion with 45 submissions out of 240 received, according to Austin Independent School District officials.

The second-most popular suggestion was 34 submissions to keep the present name. Other popular namesakes included author Harper Lee and artists Russell Lee and Elizabet Ney. Among those also receiving votes were Willie Nelson, Spike Lee and Stevie Ray Vaughn.

The Texas capital's school board voted last month to replace the Confederate general as the school name. It could decide on a new name May 23.

## **India revokes passport of tycoon who owes \$1 billion**

**NIRMALA GEORGE, Associated Press**

NEW DELHI (AP) — India on Sunday revoked the passport of a flamboyant Indian businessman accused of fleeing to London in March while owing more than a billion dollars to Indian banks.

External Affairs Ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup said the decision to revoke Vijay Mallya's passport was taken considering the evidence gathered by India's Enforcement Directorate, which has been investigating the tycoon's massive debts.

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The ministry was also consulting legal experts on seeking Mallya's deportation from the UK to face charges of money laundering and financial irregularities.

The opposition Congress party has accused the government of letting Mallya flee India while being pursued by banks for debts totaling 90 billion rupees (\$1.3 billion). The government denies the charge.

India's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley defended Mallya's departure, saying the banks had not initiated the legal process to prevent him from leaving by the time he boarded the flight out of India.

The Enforcement Directorate told the government that Mallya was not cooperating with the investigators, after he ignored three dates when he was summoned to give evidence to them.

The government last week suspended the businessman's passport, after giving him a week to explain why his passport should not be revoked.

The government was committed to bringing Mallya back to India to face justice and was "considering steps for Mallya's deportation," Swarup told reporters Friday.

Mallya was once hailed as India's version of British tycoon Richard Branson for his investments in a brewing and liquor company, an airline, a Formula One team and an Indian Premier League cricket club.

His downfall was triggered by the failure of Kingfisher Airlines, which he launched in 2005. The Indian government in 2012 suspended the license of the airline after it failed to pay pilots and engineers for months.

Mallya ceded management control of his flagship United Spirits Limited to global spirits company Diageo. Diageo's agreement last month to pay Mallya \$75 million in exchange for his resignation as chairman of USL prompted a legal push by competing creditors, who say they should have the first claim to that money.

Mallya is famous for a flashy lifestyle and lavish parties attended by fashion models, Bollywood movie stars and cricket players.

## **White House poised to release secret pages from 9/11 inquiry**

**DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration will likely soon release at least part of a 28-page secret chapter from a congressional inquiry into 9/11 that may shed light on possible Saudi connections to the attackers.

The documents, kept in a secure room in the basement of the Capitol, contain information from the joint congressional inquiry into "specific sources of foreign support for some of the Sept. 11 hijackers while they were in the United States."

Bob Graham, who was co-chairman of that bipartisan panel, and others say the documents point suspicion at the Saudis. The former Democratic senator from Florida says an administration official told him that intelligence officials will decide in the next several weeks whether to release at least parts of the documents. The disclosure would come at a time of strained U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia, a long-time American ally.

Tim Roemer, who was a member of both the joint congressional inquiry as well as the 9/11 Commission and has read the secret chapter three times, described the 28 pages as a "preliminary police report."

"There were clues. There were allegations. There were witness reports. There was evidence about the hijackers, about people they met with — all kinds of different things that the 9/11 Commission was then tasked with reviewing and investigating," the former Democratic congressman from Indiana said Friday.

Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were citizens of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government says it has been "wrongfully and morbidly accused of complicity" in the attacks, is fighting extremists and working to clamp down on their funding channels. Still, the Saudis have long said that they would declassification



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of the 28 pages because it would "allow us to respond to any allegations in a clear and credible manner."

The pages were withheld from the 838-page report on the orders of President George W. Bush, who said the release could divulge intelligence sources and methods. Still, protecting U.S.-Saudi diplomatic relations also was believed to have been a factor.

Ben Rhodes, President Barack Obama's deputy national security adviser, said Obama asked National Intelligence director James Clapper to review the papers for possible declassification.

"When that's done we'd expect that there will be some degree of declassification that provides more information," Rhodes told reporters in Riyadh last week where Obama met with King Salman and other Saudi leaders. The White House says the 28 pages did not come up during discussions.

Neither the congressional inquiry nor the subsequent 9/11 Commission found any evidence that the Saudi government or senior Saudi officials knowingly supported those who orchestrated the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people. But Graham, the relatives of victims and some lawmakers think there is reason to further probe possible Saudi links.

Roemer said many questions remain about the roles of Fahad al Thumairy, an official at the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles who allegedly helped two of the hijackers find housing and transportation after they arrived in Southern California. Al Thumairy was later denied entry into the United States in May 2003 after the State Department alleged that he might be involved in terrorist activity. Roemer also wants to know more about Omar al Bayoumi, who was strongly suspected of being a Saudi spy and was alleged to have been helpful to the hijackers.

"We did not discover ... Saudi government involvement at the highest level of the 9/11 attacks," Roemer said. But he added: "We certainly did not exonerate the Saudis. ... Saudi was a fertile ground for fundraising for al-Qaida. Some of these issues continue to be problems today. That's why we need to continue to get to the bottom of this."

The online 28pages.org, an Internet site pushing to get the documents released, points to another document declassified in July 2015 that outlined ways in which the commission could examine possible Saudi links.

The 47-page document lists several pages of individuals of interest and suggests questions that could be pursued. One name is suspected al-Qaida operative Ghassan al Sharbi.

Al Sharbi, who was taking flight lessons in the Phoenix area before 9/11, was captured in 2002 in the same place in Pakistan as Abu Zubaydah, a top al-Qaida trainer who was apprehended and water-boarded dozens of times by U.S. interrogators.

The document said that after al Sharbi was captured, the FBI discovered some documents buried nearby. One was al Sharbi's pilot certificate inside an envelope from the Saudi Embassy in Washington, although it's unclear whether the license had been mailed by the embassy or if the envelope was simply being reused.

A CIA's inspector general report in June 2015 said there had been no reliable reporting confirming Saudi government "involvement with and financial support for terrorist prior to 9/11." But it also that people in the CIA's Near East Division and Counterterrorism Center "speculated that dissident sympathizers within the government may have aided al-Qaida." The rest of chapter, titled "Issues related to Saudi Arabia," is blacked out.

A bill directing the president to release the 28-page chapter was introduced in the Senate, and nearly three dozen Republicans and Democrats in the House are backing a similar resolution.

Reps. Walter Jones, R-N.C., Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., and Thomas Massie, R-Ky., wrote Obama last

week saying they don't think releasing the chapter will harm national security and could provide closure for the victims' families.

California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, has read the pages and said this past week that while he wants to see them declassified to end speculation about what they say, releasing them will not quell the debate over the issue.

"As is often the case, the reality is less damaging than the uncertainty," he said.

## **Obama to use Germany visit to push trans-Atlantic trade deal**

**DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press**

AERZEN, Germany (AP) — President Barack Obama, beginning a visit Sunday to Germany, hoped to build momentum for a U.S.-Europe trade deal that has become a tough sell, particularly in Germany.

Other issues were on the agenda for talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, including efforts to counter the Islamic State group, improve cooperation on counterterrorism, and encourage countries to share law enforcement information. IS says it was responsible for attacks that killed 30 people in Brussels last month.

Obama also wants to give Merkel public praise for her "courageous" handling of the migrant issue. Her decision to allow the resettlement in Germany of hundreds of thousands of people fleeing violence in Syria and other areas of conflict in the Mideast caused an angry domestic backlash.

Merkel recently helped European countries negotiate a deal with Turkey to help stem the migrant flow, but she and the other leaders are now under pressure to revisit it.

The Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) was a main factor behind what likely is Obama's final stop in Germany before he leaves office in January. He planned to join Merkel at the Hannover Messe, the world's largest industrial technology trade fair, to promote the agreement.

Thousands of people took to the streets in protest in Hannover on Saturday, the day before Obama arrived. Some carried placards that said "Yes We Can — Stop TTIP!" It was a riff on Obama's 2008 presidential campaign slogan.

In November, more than 100,000 people in Berlin protested against the proposed pact.

Proponents say the deal would boost business at a time of global economic uncertainty. Critics fear the erosion of consumer protections and environmental standards.

Negotiators in Washington and Europe are trying to finalize key parts of the deal before the end of the year, after which Obama's successor and election campaigns in major European countries could further complicate the already difficult negotiations.

Obama said it was important to conclude negotiations even though Congress is unlikely to ratify the deal before he leaves office. "But if we have that deal, then the next president can pick that up rapidly and get that done," he told the BBC in an interview broadcast Sunday.

In London on Saturday, he argued for the pact while acknowledging the tough work needed to complete it.

Despite "enormous amounts of trade" between the U.S. and Europe, "there's still barriers that exist that prevent businesses and individuals that are providing services to each other to be able to be able to do so seamlessly," he said. The pact will bring millions of jobs and billions of dollars in benefits to both sides of the Atlantic, Obama said.

Negotiating trade deals "is tough," Obama said, because each country fights for its own interests.

"The main thing between the United States and Europe is trying to just break down some of the regulatory differences that make it difficult to do business back and forth," he said.

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Merkel is the world leader with whom Obama has worked throughout his two terms, in good and bad times, and he planned to use the visit to show political solidarity, particularly on the migrant issue. Her approach to the crisis, which dented her popularity at home, "has been courageous," he said.

Merkel and top European officials traveled near the Turkish border on Saturday to promote the EU-Turkey migrant deal.

"She's demonstrated real political and moral leadership," Obama told the German daily Bild in an interview published Saturday. "The politics around refugees and immigration is hard in any country, but I believe the best leaders are willing to take on the toughest issues, especially when it's not easy."

Obama was likely to contrast Merkel with the Republican presidential candidates in the United States who want to block Muslims from entering America.

On Monday, Obama was to give a speech addressing the challenges facing the United States and Europe.

Merkel has used the occasion of Obama's visit to invite the leaders of France, Britain and Italy to Hannover that day for a meeting expected to focus on Syria, Libya, IS, migration and other issues.

## **No Soup For You: Man upset after restaurant runs out of soup**

MANSFIELD, Texas (AP) — A Texas lawyer upset that he wasn't provided a cup of soup during a recent meal has notified a restaurant owner that he'll sue if not reimbursed the \$2.25 for the soup.

Dwain Downing also is seeking \$250 in attorney fees for the time spent drafting a letter sent to Benji Arslanovski, who operates Our Place Restaurant in the Fort Worth suburb of Mansfield.

Downing says the soup was listed on the menu as part of a Saturday special. He says the restaurant offered no discount or substitution when it ran out.

The lawyer argued the menu amounts to a contract with the customer and Arslanovski violated the terms of the contract.

But the restaurateur says the menu makes clear the soup comes with a meal "while supplies last."

## **Daughter says father made threats day before fatal shootings**

**JONATHAN LANDRUM, Associated Press**

**Jr., Associated Press**

ATLANTA (AP) — The daughter of a northeast Georgia man suspected of shooting five people to death before killing himself says her father was a "ticking time bomb."

Lauren Hawes told The Associated Press on Saturday that she and her 1-year-old daughter hid in a neighbor's house — barely escaping with their lives — while her father, Wayne Anthony Hawes, 50, went on a bloody rampage and killed five people, including her grandmother and cousin.

"He made threats before, but we never thought it would be at this capacity," Lauren Hawes said. "He's been kind of a ticking time bomb if you want to put in a few words."

Capt. Andy Shedd of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office said in a statement that the Friday night shootings stemmed from a domestic dispute that left three men and two women dead at two separate locations within about a mile of each other. The body of shooting suspect Hawes was recovered Saturday by authorities in his home in Appling.

Lauren Hawes, 26, confirmed that the bloodshed was connected to a domestic dispute between her parents: her mother had walked out on her father just a week ago. Angela Dent had left before — but this time, she took her possessions with her to prevent Hawes from destroying them as he had done in the past.

After Dent's departure, Wayne Hawes bottomed out emotionally.

"He's done things that were questionable in the past, but never to this extent. This is very surprising. We thought he could possibly hurt himself, but not others," said Lauren Hawes.

The rampage began Friday evening, when sheriff deputies responded to a home at about 8 p.m. and found three victims. Authorities then were called to a second home nearby, where two other victims were found.

"We believe the two shootings were related based on witness accounts," Shedd said. When authorities reached Hawes' house and entered, they found him dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. They also found evidence that he attempted to set the house on fire.

The victims were identified as Roosevelt Burns, 75; Rheba Mae Dent, 85; Trequila Clark, 31; Lizzy Williams, 59; and Shelly Williams, 62. One of the female victims died on the way to the hospital, Shedd said. The others were dead at the scene.

"We believe some of the victims were related to the suspect's wife," Shedd said.

Lauren Hawes said Rheba Mae Dent was her grandmother, and her cousin was Trequila Clark. She said her grandmother was retired and her cousin was a registered nurse, who graduated from Augusta State University in 2012. She said Roosevelt Burns was her grandmother's brother.

Ola Murry of Appling in northeast Georgia said the neighborhood is still devastated by the events. Murray said she thought Hawes was a nice guy, but he made a "stupid" decision.

She would see him around the neighborhood and he would often say hello while passing by.

"I always thought he was a nice guy," Murray said. "I know he did what he did, but that doesn't make him a bad guy. You know, the devil gets into you sometimes and you do stupid stuff. You got to think. You always have to put the Lord in front of you, let him lead you and you won't go wrong."

An investigation is ongoing.

## Trump's cries of 'rigged' system shift blame for his losses

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP) — Donald Trump keeps hammering away at Republican insiders even as campaign aides are gingerly courting those same officials.

"You know, right now we're fighting the party because it's a rigged system, ok? It's a rigged system," he told a boisterous crowd in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Saturday.

It may seem counterproductive, but Trump's foot-stomping has served as a rallying cry to boost turnout and reinforce his appeal to voters who feel disenfranchised. The "rigged" system argument is a convenient scapegoat, shifting the blame for any future potential losses and lost delegates away from a campaign that has been outmaneuvered.

Trump has won more states than his rivals, yet his team has been badly outplayed by Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in ensuring that supportive delegates make it to the GOP convention in July in Cleveland.

Pennsylvania, one of five states voting Tuesday, has an especially confusing delegate system.

The primary winner will emerge with 17 delegates. But 54 delegates can vote for whomever they want. The ballot will feature 162 potential delegates, but it will offer no information about whom they support. That means voters who haven't consulted with the campaigns about their rosters will be in the dark.

"That's why we have to win big," Trump told supporters Friday at a rally in Harrington, Delaware. "That's why on Tuesday, everyone has to go out and vote. We have to win big because the system is

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rigged.”

Trump’s argument would only grow stronger if he were to win the majority of votes in Pennsylvania — opinion surveys show him with a significant lead — yet emerge with fewer delegates than Cruz.

Trump has been relentless in his criticism of the delegate system, slamming party “bosses” and calling out the Republican National Committee and its chairman, Reince Priebus.

On Friday, Trump compared himself to a prize fighter competing in rival territory.

“The fighters have a great expression. When you have a champ that goes into a big territory but it’s unfriendly; it’s home of the other fighter. But the good ones go, ‘No, no, I’m not worried,’” he said. “Because if I knock him out there’s nothing the judges can do. Right? What we have to do is knock them out with the volume of our votes.”

Earlier in the week, at a Florida resort where GOP officials gathered to discuss the presidential nominating process, Trump campaign aide Paul Manafort brushed off the idea that Trump’s rhetoric was making it more difficult to build bridges with party leaders.

“What he’s slamming is the system. He’s saying the system is rigged. And the system is rigged. It’s rigged in all 50 states where they have different rules and that don’t take into account modern presidential campaigns,” Manafort said.

Manafort added that Trump wanted to work with Priebus to change the system for the next election. “That’s where things are getting confused,” he said. “He’s saying we’ve got to change rules so the next time, when people vote, their vote counts.”

Nonetheless, frustration with Trump’s attacks on the RNC and the integrity of the nomination process were widespread at the party meeting in Hollywood, Florida, even as Trump’s team was trying to make amends.

In a private meeting Thursday with GOP officials, Manafort tried to assure them that Trump was on their side and prepared to fundraise for the party. He stressed that the candidate had had some “very good” conversations with Priebus and said the campaign hoped to work closely with state leaders to build its general election campaign.

In Delaware, Trump’s supporters said the billionaire is right to be angry at the delegate process.

“It’s not democratic,” said Paul Eugstenberg, 72, a retired pilot from Dover. “This should be decided by the voters. It should not be decided at the convention. They have to fix this. This is not how this should work.”

Some suggested that if Trump were leading the delegate race going into the convention only to have someone else nominated, it would make them consider staying home in November instead of voting for the Republican nominee.

“If this is taken from Mr. Trump, it would destroy the Republican Party,” said Debbie Patty, a retired teacher from Greenwood. “People would think their vote doesn’t count and that the party doesn’t care about them.”

“I would never vote for a Democrat, but I’m not sure I could vote for a Republican in that scenario, either,” Patty said. “That means not voting at all, and I hate that idea. But it might be what I have to do.”

## How early is too early for word that tornadoes may come?

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NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Meteorologists are finding something much tougher to forecast than a stormy atmosphere: the human mind.

Forecasters at the federal Storm Prediction Center see a high chance of severe storms, with possible killer tornadoes, next Tuesday in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. Federal Emergency Management Agency chief Craig Fugate said the early heads-up helps disaster officials prepare, but what about you: Do you really need to worry — or even know about it — this far in advance?

For all of their advances in the physical sciences, forecasters have yet to determine when advance warnings are most effective and how urgent their messages should be. They worry about the “cry wolf” syndrome, in which people may tune them out, and about people over-reacting, especially with tornadoes. People have left much safer buildings and headed into their cars to flee, but cars are the last place you want to be in a tornado.

And it’s not just tornadoes. Forecasters are still trying to understand why several people in Houston ignored the mantra “turn around, don’t drown” and died after driving onto flooded streets last week.

After mastering physics, meteorologists must now master psychology.

With people, “things change all the time. That makes studying humans infinitely harder than studying physical processes,” said Kim Klockow, a visiting scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s headquarters. “We are leaps and bounds ahead in physics.”

Klockow has studied both meteorology and human behavior and was hired to help the federal government find the right mix of social and physical sciences in its warnings.

There’s a test Tuesday.

In guidance distributed Thursday to emergency managers and local forecasters, the Storm Prediction Center used the term “severe weather outbreak possible” — the earliest it has ever used that language ahead of potential severe weather, SPC spokeswoman Keli Pirtle said.

Six days out, forecasters were 30 percent sure that severe storms will develop Tuesday in an area stretching roughly from Dallas to Wichita, Kansas, including much of Oklahoma. Storms shift eastward Wednesday into parts of Arkansas and the mid-Mississippi River Valley. Subsequent forecasts have offered the same general prediction.

“This far out, we cannot give specifics,” said Rick Smith, the warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Norman. “We don’t even know for sure this is going to happen. We’re just in a heads-up phase.”

Forecasts intended for the general public don’t use the term “outbreak.” Smith’s guidance to the public is to remember that it’s spring in the southern Plains, but it’s given in a way that won’t scare people.

“Can they go out and buy a weather radio this weekend? Can you vacuum the spider webs out of your storm shelter?” Smith asked. “It’s April. We’re in Oklahoma and Texas. We need to be doing this anyway.”

In the past, forecasters often erred on the side of scaring people, figuring it is better to give them too much warning rather than not enough. But Klockow said, “We can’t always just hit the red button,” especially in the new social media world when things get amplified. Researchers have to explain the uncertainty involved, she said.

At FEMA, the question is, “What do you do differently with this information?” Fugate said Friday. The disaster agency will start targeted social media messages reminding people to get prepared. That’s the

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message officials have in advance: Get prepared now.

Klockow and others found in a study published in 2011 that if people had an hour's notice of a tornado's arrival, many would try to flee, putting them in the path of danger. With 15 minutes' notice, they would seek shelter.

Two years later, the widest tornado on record hit Oklahoma City's western suburbs, forming just after 6 p.m. Eight people died, and a National Weather Service assessment noted that several were killed while trying to flee the storm.

"Everyone had always thought that increasing lead time was good," Klockow said. "People just don't like to be sitting ducks."

Smith conducted a web-based seminar for 150 emergency managers and others on Friday, looking ahead to Tuesday. The goal was to ensure that they were ready, such as by having gasoline in their chainsaws. At his office, he was charging portable computers and ensuring that they had the latest software for conducting damage surveys.

Klockow is already warning people about this potential storm on her personal social media accounts: "I'm hitting the caution button."