

Groton Daily Independent

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Friday, Feb. 20

Anniv: Ken & Leslie Dinger

Birthdays: Gerald Osterman, Lori Giedt, Michael Wells, Shaun Wanner, Jerry Bjerke

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hamburger on bun, baked chips, lettuce salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ham and bean soup, egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, oatmeal raisin cookie.

Debate at Watertown

6:30pm: Girls Basketball hosts Redfield-Doland

Saturday, Feb. 21

Birthdays: Kate Profeta, Leah Swanson, Natalia Warrington, Scott Smith

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Rosewood Court

10:00am: Region Wrestling at GHS Arena

Sunday, Feb. 22

Birthdays: Anthony Schinkel, Chad Kampa, George Leonhardt, Leonard Broman, Robin Wanous-Williamson

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday School

10:15 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Milestones

9:00 am: Youth Wrestling at GHS Arena

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

Two bedroom apartment in the Rix Apartments (former city apartments) at 407 N Garfield

FOR RENT

Attached garage.

Major appliances included.

\$700 per month

Roger: 605/397-7118



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.

Groton Area boys beat Redfield-Doland

Groton Area boys held Redfield-Doland to single digits in each of the four quarters as the Tigers defeated the Pheasants, 48-33.

Hunter Lerew led the Tigers with 17 points followed by Lucas Sternhagen with nine, Spencer Knecht eight, Kyler Ell six, Bennett Shabazz three, Landon Larson and Wyatt Larson each with two and Seric Shabazz one.

Groton made 39 percent of its field goals while the Pheasants made just 20 percent. Groton was six of 14 from the line off of Redfield's 16 team fouls. Redfield-Doland was 11 of 15 from the line off of Groton's 17 team fouls.

Groton had more rebounds, 34-32, with Knecht and Larson each having seven for Groton and Ephram Albrecht having 12 for Redfield-Doland.

Sternhagen had three of the team's 11 assists and Groton had 10 blocks on the night - three by Lerew, two by Knecht, Bennett Shabazz and Larson and one by Chance Strom. Groton had nine turnovers, four of which were steals.

Redfield-Doland was led in scoring by Albrecht with 16 followed by Kyle Stover with five, Jake Baloun four, Carter Klapperich three, Alan Masat and Keven Krumm with two each and Bradyn Binger with one.

The Pheasants had five assists, 13 turnovers with eight of them being steals (two each by Sternhagen and Ell).

Redfield-Doland won the junior varsity game, 38-31. Scoring for Groton were Bennett Shabazz with seven, Aaron Severson six, Sean Shucring and Brandon Keith with five each and Seric Shabazz and Adam Herman with four each.

Classifieds

Apartments For Rent

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/397-8131.

Concessions

Manager Wanted

The Groton Area School District is seeking qualified applicants for a concessions manager for the 2015-2016 school year. Salary is \$50/event plus commission. Information and applications are available at www.grotonarea.com.

Service Notice: Ralph Breitreutz

Services for Ralph Breitreutz, 85, of Spearfish and formerly of Groton, will be 10:30 a.m., Monday, February 23 at the United Methodist Church, Groton. The Rev. Matt Richards will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, from 2:30-4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Ralph died February 18, 2015 at the Spearfish Hospital.

Applications for Baseball Coordinator, Coaches, Grounds-keeper, Concession Stand Manager, Concessions Workers; Swimming Pool Lifeguards; Public Works Laborers; Cemetery Caretaker, Swimming Pool Manager will be accepted until 5pm March 16 for the City of Groton. Request application at City Hall, 209 N Main St, PO Box 587, Groton, SD 57445 or by calling 397-8422. Equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against disabled persons. (0210.0217.0310)

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VISITOR: Groton ()

GROTON AREA NO PLAYER	TOT-FG 3-PT							REBOUNDS										MIN
	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S		
4 Sternhagen, Lucas	*	3	9	2	4	1	2	1	2	3	3	9	3	0	0	2	8:00	
10 Knecht, Spencer	*	4	8	0	0	0	1	3	4	7	2	8	2	3	2	1	24:00	
12 Ell, Kyler	*	3	9	0	2	0	0	0	4	4	1	6	2	0	0	2	24:00	
32 Dohman, Gabe	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	1	0	1	1	0	0	8:00	
40 Lerew, Hunter	*	7	15	0	0	3	3	2	2	4	4	17	1	2	3	1	8:00	
3 Schuring, Sean		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8:00	
5 Shabazz, Seric		0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	8:00	
14 Herman, Adam		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00	
22 Shabazz, Bennett		1	6	0	1	1	2	0	2	2	3	3	1	0	2	1	24:00	
24 Strom, Chance		0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0:00	
30 Larson, Landon		1	3	0	0	0	3	1	6	7	2	2	0	0	2	0	16:00	
34 Keith, Brady		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00	
42 Larson, Wyatt		1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	16:00	
Team Totals		20	52	2	8	6	14	9	25	34	17	48	11	9	10	8	160	

Total FG% - 1st: 10/30 0.333 2nd: 10/22 0.455 Game: 0.385 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/3 0.000 2nd: 2/5 0.400 Game: 0.250 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 4/11 0.364 2nd: 2/3 0.667 Game: 0.429 (4,6)

REDFIELD-DOLAND NO PLAYER	TOT-FG 3-PT							REBOUNDS										MIN
	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S		
4 Klapperich, Carter	*	1	9	1	5	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	24:00	
10 Masat, Alan	*	1	6	0	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	16:00	
11 Albrecht, Ephram	*	6	18	0	2	4	7	2	10	12	1	16	1	5	0	1	24:00	
22 Baloun, Jake	*	0	3	0	0	4	6	2	6	8	5	4	1	3	0	0	8:00	
24 Stover, Kyle	*	1	8	1	5	2	2	1	3	4	3	5	1	4	0	0	16:00	
1 Howe, Dalton		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	16:00	
2 Rozell, Drew		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00	
12 Krumm, Kevin		1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	16:00	
15 Klebsch, Collin		0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	24:00	
20 Jessen, Dalton		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8:00	
23 Binger, Bradyn		0	4	0	0	1	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	0	0	1	16:00	
32 Wipf, Taylor		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:00	
40 Suchor, Gabe		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00	
_Team Totals		10	50	2	15	11	18	7	25	32	16	33	5	13	0	4	176	

Total FG% - 1st: 5/24 0.208 2nd: 5/26 0.192 Game: 0.200 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/8 0.125 2nd: 1/7 0.143 Game: 0.133 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 7/10 0.700 2nd: 4/8 0.500 Game: 0.611 (9,2)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton	10	14	16	8	48
Redfield V	9	9	8	7	33

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GROTON AREA JV		TOT-FG 3-PT					REBOUNDS										MIN	
NO	PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
3	Schuring, Sean	*	2	11	1	4	0	0	2	5	7	2	5	1	1	1	4	16:00
5	Shabazz, Seric	*	2	6	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	4	1	2	0	3	16:00
14	Herman, Adam	*	1	5	0	1	2	2	2	2	4	5	4	1	5	0	2	8:00
22	Shabazz, Bennett	*	3	9	1	5	0	0	2	6	8	5	7	3	6	1	3	16:00
52	Severson, Aaron	*	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	1	16:00
4	Sippel, Anthony		0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:00
10	Lane, Marshall		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	24:00
12	Wuestewald, Frankie		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	8:00
20	Keith, Brandon		2	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	3	3	5	0	1	0	2	32:00
34	1.Keith, Brady		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
42	Thorson, Luke		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	8:01
50	Dobbins, Doug		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0:01
Team Totals			13	42	3	14	2	4	8	18	26	20	31	7	21	2	16	168

Total FG% - 1st: 10/23 0.435 2nd: 3/19 0.158 Game: 0.310 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/7 0.286 2nd: 1/7 0.143 Game: 0.214 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/2 1.000 2nd: 0/2 0.000 Game: 0.500 (2,3)

REDFIELD-DOLAND JV		TOT-FG 3-PT					REBOUNDS										MIN	
_NO	PLAYER	P	FG	FGA	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
_1	Howe, Dalton	*	3	8	1	3	1	2	1	0	1	2	8	1	5	0	1	24:00
12	Kruman, Kevin	*	2	6	1	3	5	9	0	6	6	1	10	4	5	0	0	32:00
15	1.Klebsch, Collin	*	1	6	0	0	2	3	1	6	7	2	4	0	1	1	1	24:00
20	Jessen, Dalton	*	0	4	0	0	2	4	0	1	1	1	2	0	5	0	0	32:00
23	Binger, Bradyn	*	5	8	0	0	3	3	3	2	5	2	13	0	2	0	5	24:00
2	Rozell, Drew		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	16:00
44	Utecht, Noel		0	0	0	0	1	4	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	8:00
Team Totals			11	32	2	6	14	25	7	18	25	9	38	5	22	1	8	160

Total FG% - 1st: 7/16 0.438 2nd: 4/16 0.250 Game: 0.344 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/2 0.500 2nd: 1/4 0.250 Game: 0.333 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 4/7 0.571 2nd: 10/18 0.556 Game: 0.560 (5,3)

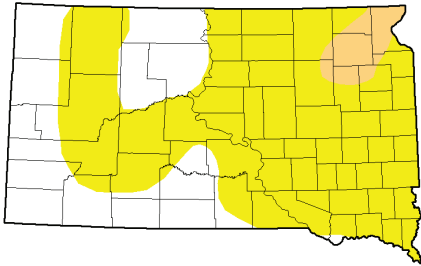
Technical Fouls: GRO (1) 4th 08:00 Coach
 : RED (0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton JV	15	9	5	2	31
Redfield JV	7	12	10	9	38

Last FG: Groton JV 4th-08:00, Redfield JV 4th-08:00
 Largest lead: Groton JV by 10 1st-08:00, Redfield JV by 7 4th-08:00
 Score tied: 3 times, Lead changed: 3 times

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Drought Monitor

Intensity:

- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought

- D3 - Extreme Drought
- D4 - Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying [text summary](#) for forecast statements.

Author(s):

Richard Heim, NOAA/NCDC

Portions of the Northern Plains and Upper Midwest received half an inch or less of precipitation this week, but this registered as above-normal due to normal being low during the winter dry season. A handful of stations in Upper Michigan reported more than half an inch of precipitation. Much of the Central Plains to Lower Great Lakes reported little to no precipitation. Precipitation was below normal (half an inch or less) across most of the Great Plains, except portions of Texas and southeast Oklahoma which received an inch or more of precipitation. Although streamflow levels were significantly low, much of Kentucky was buried in 8 to 16 inches of snow this week, with liquid equivalents of an inch or more of precipitation, so no change was made to the depiction over the Blue-

grass State. D0-D3 expanded in southwest Texas to the Texas panhandle due to re-evaluation of data.

2015 Groton Area Elementary Kindergarten Screening

March 2 – March 6

Parents of children ages 3-6 not yet attending school are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time.

Kindergarten Screening will take place at the Groton Area High School Gymnasium. Please park and use the east entrance to the gym.

Today in Weather History

February 20, 1962: Another round of heavy snow fell across the southeastern half of the state from the 20th through the 22nd with up to 10 inches of new snowfall. Snowfall amounts included, 5 inches at Bryant, 6 inches at Kennebec, 7 inches at Redfield, Brookings, Mitchell, and Sioux Falls, 8 inches at Miller, and 10 inches at Huron. Snowfall amounts for the record setting month of February 1962 ranged from 30 to 50 inches across much of the southeast part of the state.

February 20, 1997: Warm weather resulted in snowmelt runoff and ice breakup on the Bad River. As a result, the Bad River went above flood stage from Capa to Fort Pierre late in the evening of the 20th. Flood stage at Fort Pierre is 21 feet and the river rose to around 25 feet on the 21st. The Bad River went below flood stage during the afternoon of the 22nd. Lowlands near the river were flooded along with some county roads with some of the roads damaged. Late in the evening of the 20th, the trailer court on the southern edge of Fort Pierre was evacuated where they did some sandbagging. Also, on the west side of Fort Pierre, some roads were flooded.

February 20, 2011: The snowfall/blizzard event on 20-21 February 2011 produced yet another round of impressive snowfall totals across central and northeastern South Dakota and west-central Minnesota. Storm total snowfall amounts generally ranged from 8" to 12" with locally higher amounts in excess of 18" reported in a few locations.

1805 - The Potomac River was opened after being closed by ice for a period of two months. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1898 - Eastern Wisconsin experienced their biggest snowstorm of record. Racine received thirty inches, and drifts around Milwaukee measured fifteen feet high. (David Ludlum)

1912 - An F3 tornado killed 9 people and injured 50 others as it crossed Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. This would happen again in 1940.

1953 - A snowstorm in Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota produced drifts ten feet high which derailed trains. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm system over Arizona spread heavy snow from the Southern Rockies into the Southern Plains Region. Thunderstorms in central Texas produced golf ball size hail about the same time north central Texas was being blanketed with up to 8 inches of snow, closing many schools. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Snow and strong northerly winds ushered arctic air into the Great Lakes Region. The temperature at Sault Ste Marie MI plunged from 30 degrees at 5 AM to one below zero by 3 PM, with a wind chill reading of 40 degrees below zero. Five cities in Florida reported record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 90 degrees at Lakeland was just a degree shy of their February record. (The National Weather Summary)




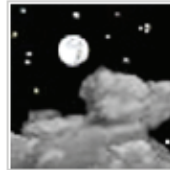

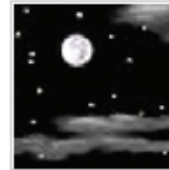

1989 - Thunderstorms developing during the early afternoon produced severe weather from eastern Texas to Alabama and northwest Florida. Thunderstorms spawned a dozen tornadoes during the afternoon and evening. Thunderstorms also produced 90 mph winds around Vicksburg MS, and 100 mph winds around Jackson MS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


1990 - Heavy snow spread into southwestern Kansas and the panhandle region of Oklahoma and Texas. Heavier snowfall totals included 12 inches at Boise City OK, 11 inches at Liberal KS, and 10 inches at Spearman TX. Blowing and drifting snow closed roads in the Oklahoma panhandle. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1995 - The temperature at the Civic Center in Los Angeles, California soared to 95 degrees. This is highest temperature ever recorded at the location during the month of February.

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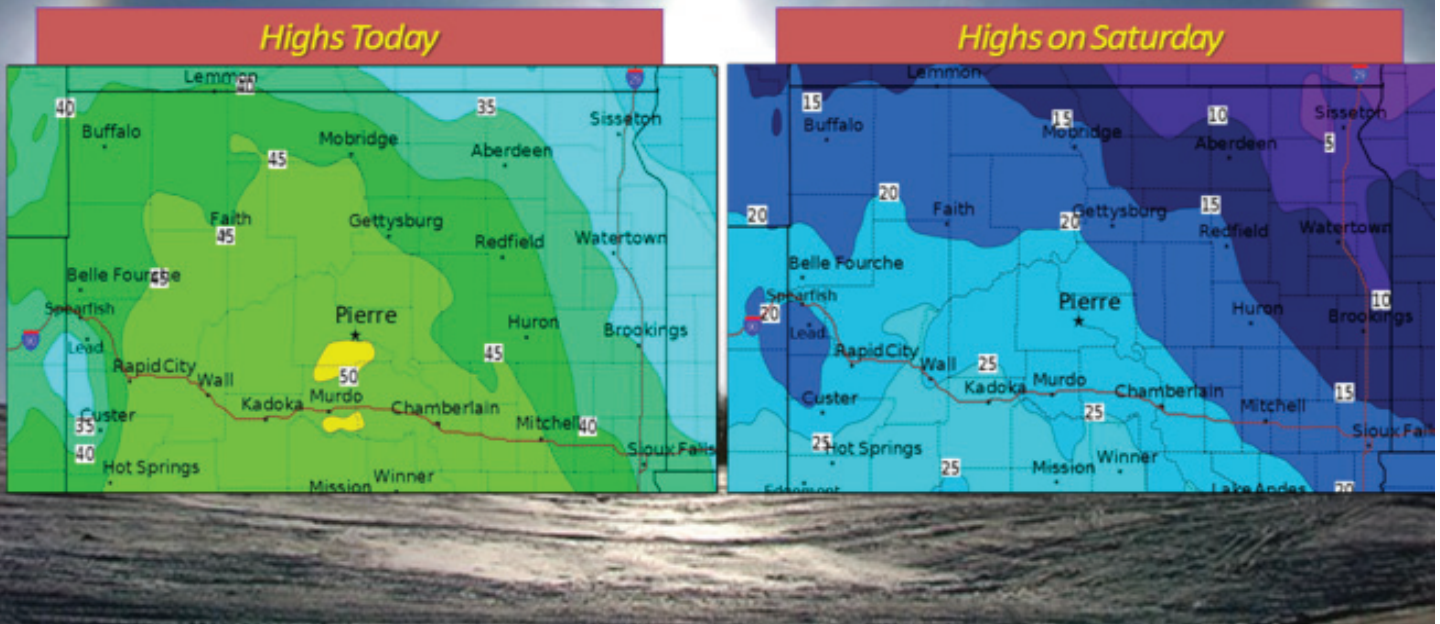
TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY
						
Cloudy	Chance Snow 30%	Slight Chc Flurries	Partly Cloudy	Cold	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 39 °F	Low: 9 °F	High: 12 °F ↓	Low: -12 °F	High: 3 °F	Low: -9 °F	High: 28 °F



Warm Today...Much Colder for Saturday

Light Snow Possible Tonight

weather.gov/Aberdeen
Like
National Weather Service Aberdeen
@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 02/20/2015 at 5:34AM

A warm front crossing the region today will bring above normal temperatures to the area. High temperatures will range from the lower 30s, in far northeastern South Dakota, to the lower 50s, in central South Dakota. This warmth will not last long however as a cold front will sweep southward late this afternoon. Light snow will be possible behind this cold front. Little to no snow accumulation is expected.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 21.5 at 5:53 PM

Low: -10.4 at 3:16 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 25 at 9:27 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 61° in 1930

Record Low: -30° in 1918

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 9°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.33

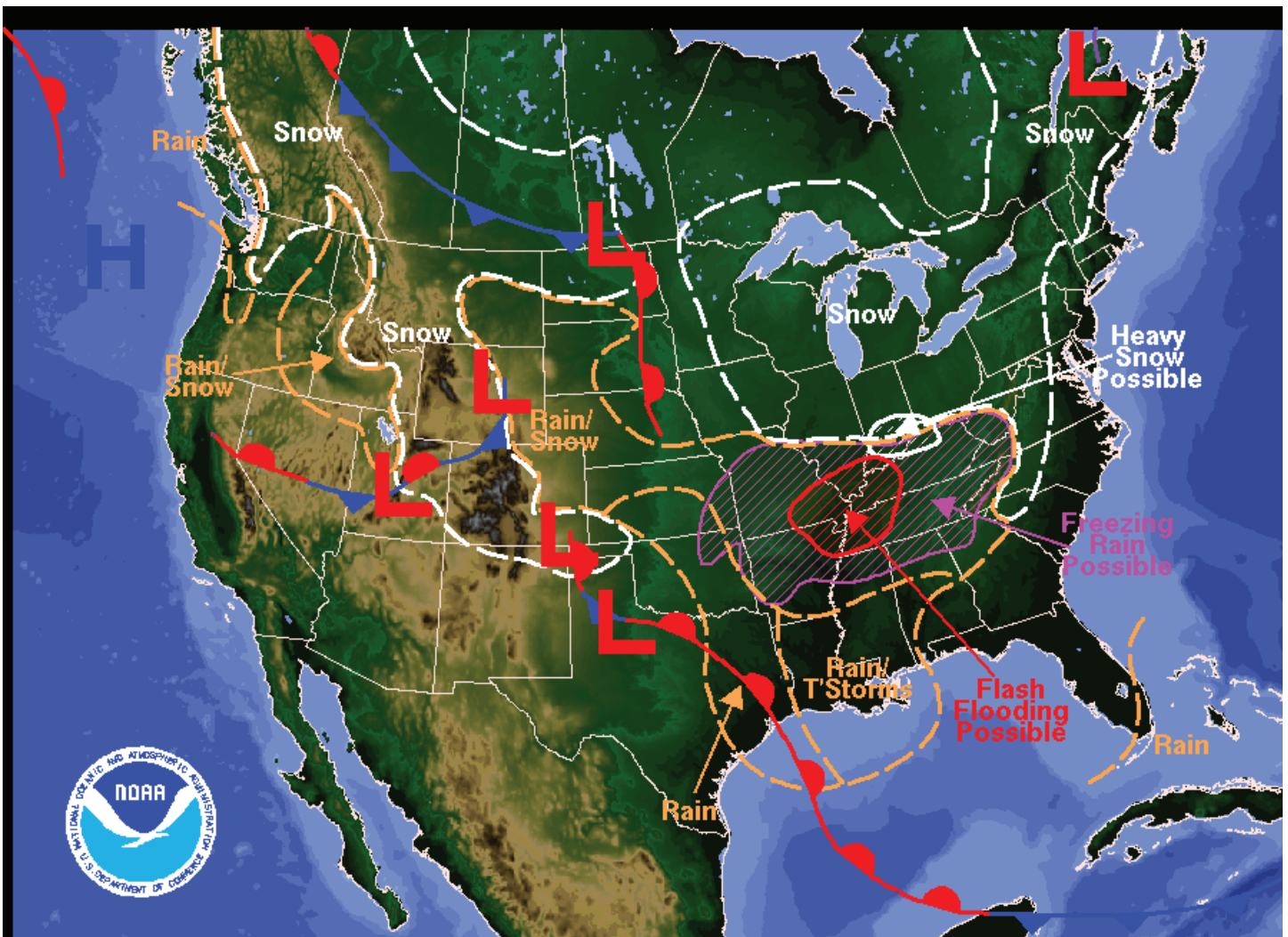
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.80

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 6:08 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:26 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Feb 20, 2015, issued 3:57 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



HEART MEDICINE

One of my dear physician-friends wrote a book entitled "The Body Reveals." He began his medical career as a general surgeon then studied to become a cardiovascular surgeon. One day while we were talking, he said, "Larry, the most disturbing part of my practice is that I cannot get people to look at their lives - what they are doing to themselves. People think they can do anything they want and then go to a physician for a prescription or some surgery and all of their problems will be corrected. That's not the way we work. There's a connection between our bodies and our minds and we are very complex beings, because of the way God made us."

There's an intimate and complex connection between our hearts and bodies. Remember – God's Word reminds us that our hearts contain emotions, values, goals, desires – the "sum total of who we are." And, Solomon said it so well: "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." This is the only time the word medicine is used in the Old Testament.

One's "peace of mind" directly affects our ability to maintain a life of wellness. Conversely, a "troubled mind" makes it difficult, if not impossible, to be healthy, and beyond that, to regain our health once we lose it.

The most important lesson for us to learn from this verse is that "God is in control." Whatever is, is a gift from Him to us and He is somewhere "in" that gift. He is at work in our lives shaping us to into His image. We must always remember that He will never leave or forsake us.

Prayer: Lord, life is difficult. Sickness comes, doubts arise, suffering hurts. Grant us strength, peace and hope. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 17:22 A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Winter keeping its icy grip around the Eastern US

The Associated Press

The bitter cold that has gripped the Eastern U.S. is showing no sign of letting up before the weekend as records for low temperatures were broken Friday.

The National Weather Service says the newest band of Arctic air could plunge parts of the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic into deep freezes that haven't been felt since the mid-1990s.

Temperatures and wind chills on Thursday dipped near zero or below in the Midwest, Northeast and even the South — where people are unaccustomed to the weather-related road hazards, school cancellations, and runs on supplies.

The cold snap followed snow and ice storms earlier in the week. The low temperatures caused much freezing and refreezing of snow, ice and roads. Weather forecasters warn that more sleet and freezing rain will be possible in the coming days.

Here's a look at the latest weather and the effect it is having around the country:

YOU THINK IT'S COLD WHERE YOU ARE?

Temperatures dropping close to 0 degrees where you are? That's nothing to folks in Embarrass, Minnesota.

On Thursday, the community reported a temperature of 41 below zero — without the wind-chill factor. Forecasters say that's the lowest recorded temperature in northern Minnesota this winter.

Elsewhere in Minnesota, it was 31 below zero in Ely and Fosston, and 28 below at Bemidji.

The National Weather Service issued a wind-chill advisory for parts of the state.

BONE-CHILLING AND RECORD-BREAKING

Bitter cold temperatures have shattered decades-old records in Washington and Baltimore.

The National Weather Service said the low Friday got down to 6 degrees at Reagan National Airport, just across the Potomac River from Washington. That beats the record low of 8 degrees, set in 1896.

At Baltimore's airport, the temperature dipped down to 2 degrees. The record was 4 degrees, set in 1979.

CHAIN-REACTION CRASH

Delaware State Police say at least 16 children suffered minor injuries when three school buses they were riding were involved in a chain-reaction crash.

It happened about 4 p.m. Thursday on Adams Road in Bridgeville. Troopers say three school buses were traveling north when the first bus slowed because of icy road conditions.

Officers say the third bus slid on the ice and rear-ended the second bus, which then hit the first bus.

Authorities say the buses were carrying 3rd- to 5th-grade students from the Woodbridge School District.

Police say at least 16 children were taken to area hospitals. The bus drivers were not hurt.

Troopers say no charges are expected to be filed.

BACK TO SCHOOL IN CHICAGO

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With the National Weather Service forecasting higher temperatures, Chicago Public School students will be returning to class.

Chicago school officials announced schools would reopen Friday for the district's nearly 400,000 students.

District officials ordered a cold-weather day for Thursday, when temperatures stayed in the single digits. The wind made it feel like temperatures were double digits below zero. Numerous other school districts were also shut down.

The weather service is forecasting high temperatures near 20 in northeastern Illinois for Friday, with wind chills near 15 to 25 degrees below zero in the morning. They are also forecasting light snow, with little or no accumulation.

ICY MARSH RESCUE

Firefighters in Revere, Massachusetts, rescued a man and his two dogs from an icy marsh.

Authorities say the dogs ran into the marsh Thursday morning and became stranded when a piece of ice they were on floated about 500 feet from the shore. The man tried to rescue the dogs, but got stuck in waist-high water and started having chest pains.

Firefighters pulled the man to safety and brought him to Massachusetts General Hospital. His name and condition haven't been released.

Rescuers then used an ice sled to retrieve the dogs from the floating ice. One of the dogs was uncooperative at first and bit the hand of a firefighter, who wasn't seriously hurt.

The dogs are OK.

ICE DAM DAMAGE

Homeowners struggling with ice dams that prevent melted snow from dripping off their roofs have a sympathetic ear from Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker.

He said Thursday that he and his wife are dealing with ice dams and icicles at their home. During his monthly "Ask the Governor" radio program, he described placing pots and pans, plastic bags and towels around the house to collect leaking water that is then dumped into a bathtub each morning.

Baker said he even climbed on his roof at one point to clear off snow.

It's a familiar scenario for thousands of homeowners after storms have left several feet of snow on roofs, leading to costly damage from ice dams and the threat of roof collapses.

ENOUGH 'FROZEN' WEATHER

The cold might not bother Disney's Queen Elsa, but it's wreaking enough havoc in Kentucky that police announced a joke warrant for the "Frozen" character's arrest.

Police in the rural town of Harlan posted on Facebook: "Suspect is a blonde female last seen wearing a long blue dress and is known to burst into song 'Let it Go!' As you can see by the weather she is very dangerous."

But they soon posted another message, advising residents to take the weather seriously, all kidding aside.

SNOW BUDDIES

In southeastern Virginia, a program helps residents shovel out if they can't do it themselves — but it says it needs volunteers.

Virginia Beach-based Operation Blessing operates the "Snow Buddy" program and has set up a mobile

command center.

With parts of Virginia under nearly a foot of snow, the team has received more than 100 requests. Priority is given to the elderly, sick, disabled and single mothers.

'ICE VOLCANO'

Arctic conditions have turned a geyser at a state park in western New York into a five-story-tall "ice volcano."

The geyser is in a pond near the Glen Iris Inn at Letchworth State Park. Days of subzero temperatures have formed a solid cone of ice several feet thick with water still spouting out of the top.

Park officials tell local news media that the formation is at least 50 feet high.

Winter is normally a quiet season for the park, known as the "Grand Canyon of the East" for its scenic gorges, but dozens of people are showing up daily to see the "volcano."

FROZEN BASS FISHING

In South Carolina, the start of the three-day Bassmaster Classic is being delayed about 90 minutes, pushing first launch to about 8:30 a.m. Friday when temperatures are forecast to be 17 degrees.

Still, the competitors will cast their lines amid finger-chilling temperatures when they head out on sprawling Lake Hartwell, located along the border of South Carolina and Georgia.

Much of the Dakotas abnormally dry or in moderate drought

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A winter with little snow has left much of the Dakotas abnormally dry or in moderate drought, though a weather expert says conditions could improve in the coming months.

National Drought Mitigation Center climatologist Brian Fuchs says the number of areas in the Plains states that are snow-free is "unheard of" for this time of year. The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports that Fuchs says parts of the Dakotas and Minnesota have been in moderate drought for three months.

The U.S. Drought Monitor shows about three-fourths of the Dakotas in abnormally dry or moderate drought conditions.

Fuchs says the coming months will determine whether summer will be marred by drought. He says there is a greater-than-average chance of precipitation in the region in March, April and May.

State looks to drop waterfowl designation on Onida lake

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A lake 30 miles northeast of Pierre might lose its designation as a refuge because of limited waterfowl use.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission wants to remove the Cottonwood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge near Onida in Sully County.

The GFP says neighboring landowners who've been contacted regarding the idea have been either neutral or supportive in removing the designation.

The GFP Commission will finalize the proposal March 5-6 during its meeting at the Red Rossa Convention Room in Pierre.

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Thursday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 62, Hamlin 33
Chadron, Neb. 64, Red Cloud 62
Corsica/Stickney 57, Hanson 38
Elkton-Lake Benton 61, Summit 52
Eureka/Bowdle 73, Leola/Frederick 52
Faulkton 50, Edmunds Central 47
Flandreau 72, Howard 16
Freeman Academy 66, Iroquois 33
Hot Springs 69, Hill City 58
Irene-Wakonda 70, Bridgewater-Emery 68
Kimball/White Lake 83, Andes Central 46
Lemmon 46, Bison 42
Madison 73, Vermillion 62
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 65, Parkston 62
Newell 58, Dupree 44
Oelrichs 79, Crazy Horse 64
Platte-Geddes 71, Wagner 43
Potter County 89, Ipswich 31
Rapid City Central 55, Rapid City Stevens 53, OT
Rapid City Christian 71, New Underwood 39
Redfield/Doland 48, Groton Area 33
Rosholt 78, Waubay 25
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 64, Mitchell Christian 40
Sioux Falls Christian 91, Beresford 71
Sioux Falls Lincoln 89, Brookings 64
Sioux Falls Washington 52, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 51
Spearfish 79, Douglas 57
Stanley County 66, Wall 33
Todd County 79, Pine Ridge 62
Warner 65, Aberdeen Christian 42
Yankton 44, Brandon Valley 28

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 64, Watertown 41
Bennett County 65, Kadoka Area 16
Beresford 51, Sioux Falls Christian 37
Brookings 54, Sioux Falls Lincoln 49
Burke/South Central 56, Gregory 29
Canton 56, Alcester-Hudson 50
Castlewood 65, Estelline 24
Chamberlain 67, Crow Creek 35
Chester 54, Arlington 30
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 51, Timber Lake 46, OT

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Clark/Willow Lake 49, Webster 31
Custer 49, Newell 30
Dakota Christian 60, Sunshine Bible Academy 50
Dell Rapids 60, Madison 52
DeSmet 71, Lake Preston 31
Faulkton 53, Edmunds Central 13
Florence/Henry 56, Wilmot 49
Hamlin 45, Aberdeen Roncalli 32
Herreid/Selby Area 49, Northwestern 44
Highmore-Harrold 70, Miller 45
Hill City 49, Hot Springs 42
Ipswich 57, Potter County 54
Jones County 61, Lyman 27
Lemmon 70, McIntosh 41
Leola/Frederick 57, Eureka/Bowdle 45
Milbank 51, Deuel 40
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 49, Parkston 32
Oelrichs 83, Crazy Horse 34
Rosholt 55, Waubay 40
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Mitchell Christian, forfeit
Sioux Valley 65, Garretson 28
Sisseton 47, Britton-Hecla 29
Spearfish 73, Douglas 50
St. Thomas More 60, Belle Fourche 26
Tea Area 55, Parker 45
Tri-Valley 46, Baltic 24
Viborg-Hurley 70, Marion 37
Wagner 59, Platte-Geddes 43
Wall 56, Stanley County 35
Waverly-South Shore 58, Great Plains Lutheran 52
West Central 61, Lennox 36
Yankton 44, Brandon Valley 39

House votes down plan to allow concealed weapons on campus

JAMES NORD, Associated press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Student representatives helped to successfully defeat a proposal on Thursday that would have allowed people 21 years or older to carry a concealed weapon on South Dakota's six public university campuses.

The state House voted 48-20 against the proposal, which was opposed by student groups that pushed for lawmakers to deny the measure. The South Dakota Board of Regents also opposed the plan.

Jess Peterson, executive director of the South Dakota Student Federation, said she's pleased lawmakers voted down the bill so that students can shift their attention back to other priorities.

"I'd much rather be focusing on the tuition freeze right now and all of those bills going through the Senate that help with student funding," Peterson, a University of South Dakota student, said before the vote.

Republican Rep. Jim Stalzer said his plan came at the request of students who want to carry concealed firearms on campus. He said he's concerned about student safety during potential terrorist attacks and believes in the deterrent effect that comes with concealed weapons.

"This is an emotional issue, but it really needs to be decided on the facts, and the facts are that concealed carry permits deter crime," he said.

Rep. Paula Hawks, a Democrat from Hartford, urged lawmakers to listen to the students, especially after the proposal received such strong objections at the legislative committee stage.

"They are your constituents, they are of voting age and they do have voices," she said. "Please listen to them."

State law requires a permit to carry a concealed weapon or have it out of sight in a vehicle. But the Regents have a rule that guns are not allowed on public university campuses. Opponents have said the campuses have police and safety officials on them to keep students safe.

The group Students for Concealed Carry says seven states have some form of law governing campus carry.

The South Dakota proposal would have allowed universities to prohibit weapons in student housing. Changes made on the House floor would have allowed restrictions in other areas such as those near sensitive equipment.

But Peterson said defeating the measure was important to college students in the state because allowing concealed weapons on campuses would create a sense of unease among students.

"I've had students come up to me and say, 'You know, I wouldn't feel comfortable taking a test in a classroom where I knew a gun was in the backpack of a person next to me,'" she said.

House defeats plan to allow all-night drinking in Deadwood

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state House has voted down a measure that would have authorized the city of Deadwood to allow liquor to be served all the time except for Christmas Day.

House lawmakers voted 39 to 29 to dismiss the proposal, which supporters called the "Destination Deadwood" bill.

Republican Rep. Tim Rounds of Pierre says his measure would have help Deadwood attract conventions, especially in off-peak months. He says the proposal would have allowed for local control over whether the expanded drinking hours would have been implemented.

Rounds says people simply go to their hotel rooms in Deadwood to drink after establishments close, so allowing expanded bar hours would offer a more controlled atmosphere.

Opponents argued successfully that there's no need allow people to drink later into the night.

Pine Ridge tribal president asks for US civil rights probe

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The tribal president from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has asked for a federal civil rights investigation into reported harassment of Native American students at a hockey game at the Rapid City Civic Center.

Oglala Sioux Tribe President John Yellow Bird Steele sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and President Barack Obama on Thursday asking for the inquiry.

His spokeswoman said the letter went out but he had not yet heard back late Thursday, and he did not want to comment beyond a news release and a copy of the letter.

Steele said the charging of one man with misdemeanor disorderly conduct when several other adults were involved in the Jan. 24 incident "sends the wrong message."

Trace O'Connell, 41, was charged as a result of a nearly month long investigations into events at the Jan. 24 game. O'Connell's attorney, Patrick Duffy, said Wednesday that his client disputes the charge.

Chaperones for the students from the American Horse School in Allen said the children and chaperones left the game early because of harassment that included sprayed beer, racial slurs and thrown objects.

Steele asked for an investigation based on the 1964 Civil Rights Act to determine whether hate crime or civil rights violation charges are warranted.

"The Rapid City Civic Center is a public accommodation and all Americans have a right to be free from discrimination in the use and enjoyment of such facilities. Our children, parents and teachers were denied their Civil Rights to use and enjoy the public accommodations during a school field trip," Steele wrote.

Sanford Health to become provider for ND public employees

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

Sanford Health Plan will be taking over as the primary health insurance provider for approximately 65,000 people in North Dakota after the state workers' retirement system on Thursday ended its decades-old relationship with the state's Blue Cross Blue Shield affiliate.

The new plan, which takes effect July 1, involves about 29,000 contracts covering current and retired public employees and their families, roughly 65,000 people.

Health insurance premiums will still go up over the two years of the contract but about 5 percentage points less than expected: 14.7 percent with Sanford Health versus 19 to 20 percent under Blue Cross, said Sparb Collins, executive director of the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System.

"We go out to bid, and as part of the bidding process, the Sanford plan offered us the same arrangement at a lower price," Collins said. "It's the same plan design that they have today. So the coverage remains the same."

Rich Adcock, executive vice president of Sanford Health, said upward of 97 percent of the providers in the existing retirement system's insurance network are already part of Sanford's network. He added that the roughly 3 percent of providers who fall in the gap will be offered the opportunity to join Sanford's network.

Sanford will begin to communicate with its soon-to-be members to explain how the transition will roll out, including the issuance of new insurance cards.

Adcock said Sanford is "highly confident" in its ability to handle the contract of North Dakota's largest employer group.

This is the biggest contract yet for the Dakotas-based insurer, which will now cover 110,000 people in North Dakota — 15 percent of the state's population. Sanford entered the insurance market in North Dakota in 2010 and currently insures about 45,000 in the state.

The retirement system's switch ends a 37-year connection with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Pat Bellmore, chief marketing officer for BCBS in the state, said the insurer believes its proposal "provided the best value possible" and warned of a "significant impact" that the move will have on the company's 1,000 North Dakota employees, including a team dedicated to servicing to public workers, retirees and their families.

"We want to assure NDPERS members that we will be working to ensure the smoothest transition possible, with the fervent hope that we will be able to provide health benefits to this group again in the future," Bellmore said.

Sanford is in the process of opening offices in Fargo and Bismarck and expects to have more than 100 positions available immediately in the state.

Rapid City police charge 20-year-old with man's slaying

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City authorities have arrested a man in connection with the slaying of a man whose body was found early Thursday morning.

Officers responded to a report of a disturbance around 12:20 a.m. at a home on Signal Drive and found the body of the man inside.

The police and sheriff departments say 20-year-old Anthony 'Tayshawn' Moses Smith, of Rapid City, was charged with second-degree murder. It's unclear if he has an attorney.

The name of the man found dead won't be released until his family is notified.

An autopsy is scheduled for Friday morning to determine the victim's cause of death.

US Rep. Kristi Noem addresses state lawmakers in Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem says some of the most pressing issues facing Congress include fighting extremism abroad, trade agreements and overhauling the federal tax code.

Noem said Congress could take a tip from South Dakotans about building the economy on Thursday in a speech to state lawmakers about the most significant issues before federal legislators.

Noem says she wants to share with Congress South Dakotans' knowledge that the state and federal governments don't build the economy. Noem says people create jobs and says the South Dakota economy is powered by empowered people.

South Dakota's lone U.S. representative says other issues Congress faces include opening up new markets through trade agreements and overhauling the federal tax code. She says now is the time to destroy the Islamic State group.

Campaigns, penalties drive health insurance signup

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — More prominent marketing campaigns, fear of potential tax penalties and an overall better understanding of the nation's health care law drove thousands of South Dakota residents to sign up for private health insurance during the second enrollment period that ended Sunday, health insurers said, resulting in a 60 percent increase in signups from last year.

A federal report released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services this week shows that 21,183 South Dakotans selected a plan during the three-month enrollment season, that's about 8,000 more signups compared to last year. The figure includes first-time enrollees and people who were re-enrolled.

Sunday was the nationwide deadline for the second sign-up period under President Barack Obama's health care law, which offers subsidized private coverage to people without access to it on the job. The law requires that all Americans have insurance or face a tax penalty, with plans in South Dakota offered through a federal website known as marketplace.

"I'm cautiously optimistic that in our state in particular, which is a very conservative and pragmatic state, we have moved ourselves past the initial suspicion related to the marketplace and how it was going to work," said Debra Muller, chief administrative officer for Avera Health Plans, which offered 11 individual plans and estimates to have signed up more than 10,000 people.

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Muller said she believes the increase in enrollees was a result of a "good, old-fashioned neighbor talking to neighbor" about their experiences after obtaining insurance.

South Dakota residents shopping for a plan on the federal website had three insurers to choose from: Avera Health Plans, Sanford Health Plan and Dakotacare. Consumers could choose from an average of 38 health plans in their county, that's six more plans compared to 2014.

The chief marketing officer for Dakotacare, Greg Jasmer, said the insurer this enrollment period had a more aggressive marketing campaign in hopes of encouraging people to sign up. He said it is likely that more people signed up because they understood better the financial help available. But, he added, the potential punishment for going against the law also influenced people.

"People having a better understanding of the penalties involved if they did not carry health insurance and those penalties increasing from 2014 to 2015 also played a role in the increase enrollment," he said.

For 2014, the fine was the greater of \$95 per person or 1 percent of household income above the threshold for filing taxes. That fine will be collected when taxpayers file their 2014 returns. But this year the fine will jump to the greater of 2 percent of income or \$325.

About 88 percent of South Dakota consumers who signed up qualify for a federal subsidy that on average covers about \$234 of their monthly premiums, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Enrollment figures could increase because the deadline has been extended to Sunday for people who faced computer glitches and long waits while trying to enroll over the phone last week. But they could also decrease if people do not pay their premiums.

Sanford Health Plan this enrollment season decided to contact by phone all marketplace enrollees to ensure that they fully understood the plan they selected. Lisa Carlson, the insurer's director of planning and regulation, said enrollees were also reminded during those calls to pay their premiums if they hadn't yet done so.

Carlson said the more functional www.healthcare.gov, which was marred with glitches last year, made the enrollment process more consumer-friendly.

"I would give it a B+," Carlson said of the overall enrollment season.

USDA: 300 fewer farms, ranches in South Dakota in 2014

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says there were 400 fewer small operation farms and ranches in South Dakota last year.

The Department's annual survey shows the state had about 31,700 farms and ranches in 2014. The state saw a net loss of 300 from 2013.

While there were 100 more farms and ranches that brought in more than \$100,000 in agricultural sales, there were 400 fewer farms that made less than \$100,000.

The total farm and ranch count in the state is at its lowest since 2008 when there were about 31,400.

Panel passes parental consent requirement for minor tanning

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An industry representative said Thursday that a proposal to require minors to get parental consent to use tanning salons isn't necessary because it's largely already standard practice in the state.

The House Health and Human Services Committee voted 8-5 on Thursday for the measure, which

was pared down in the committee from an earlier proposal that would have banned minors from using a tanning facility at all.

Year Round Brown Vice President Zach Neugebauer said in an interview that most tanning businesses, including Year Round Brown's chain of salons, already require parental consent for minors in South Dakota. He said the company changed the requirement for a parent's permission from 16 up to 18 several years ago.

The American Cancer Society argues that tanning leads to a higher risk of skin cancer. Republican Rep. Lana Greenfield of Doland said she thought the proposal interferes with small businesses and should be shot down.

"It's ridiculous for us to try to control this any further," Greenfield said. "They're professionals in the field."

Year Round Brown has seven locations in South Dakota, including five in Sioux Falls. Neugebauer said he doesn't think it's necessary to have a provision in law if the industry is already self-enforcing the parental consent requirement.

"Why create a law on the books when you already have people doing the stuff anyways?" he said, adding that the opponents overhype the dangers of tanning.

But, David Benson, South Dakota government relations director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, said evidence shows that parental consent requirements don't help limit the use of tanning beds.

Benson said younger people's skin is much more delicate than adult skin and that restrictions on tanning are necessary to protect South Dakota youth from the risk of skin cancer.

"That message is not getting out there, whether it's to teens or parents," Benson said. "South Dakota needs to take tanning seriously and parental consent is not the way to do that."

The measure moves to the full state House of Representatives for consideration.

Wild Card 2 ticket sold in Box Elder worth \$6,004

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Wild Card 2 ticket sold in Box Elder is worth \$6,004 in the latest drawing.

The ticket matched all five white ball numbers but missed the Wild Card in the Wednesday drawing to win the game's second prize, at odds of 1 in about 127,000. The ticket won an additional \$4 on other play lines.

The winner has about six months to claim the money.

Wild Card 2 is played in the Dakotas, Montana and Idaho. The jackpot is at \$305,000 for Saturday's drawing.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. LATEST SNOWDEN LEAK DETAILS GOVERNMENT HACKING

The NSA helped Britain steal codes from a data chip manufacturer, allowing both governments to spy on mobile phones worldwide, the documents reportedly show.

2. UKRAINE SAYS REBEL ATTACKS CONTINUE DESPITE CEASE-FIRE

Separatist fighters fire on Ukrainian positions nearly 50 times over the past day, a Ukrainian military spokesman says.

3. CAR BOMB IN EASTERN LIBYA KILLS AT LEAST 30

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which seems to bear the hallmarks of Islamic militants who have battled the army for months in and around the eastern city of Benghazi.

4. GOVERNORS JOCKEY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AS 2016 LOOMS

A three-day gathering beginning Friday in Washington will give a select group of state executives a chance to work in private to improve their White House prospects.

5. ARREST IN ROAD-RAGE KILLING OF LAS VEGAS MOTHER

The 19-year-old suspect is a neighbor who had a history with the family before the shooting, police say.

6. WHICH CONTINENT HOLDS KEY TO MANKIND'S FUTURE

Clues to answering humanity's most basic questions are locked in Antarctica - a continental freezer the size of the United States and half of Canada.

7. WHAT HURTS U.S. CORPORATE EARNINGS

For some global corporations, the surging U.S. dollar means the difference between a profit and a loss.

8. 'PARKS AND RECREATION' WRITER-PRODUCER DIES

Harris Wittels, 30, was found dead of a possible drug overdose at his Los Angeles home, police say.

9. BEST BETS FOR BEST PICTURE

"Birdman" will win the Oscar on Sunday, AP Film Writer Jake Coyle predicts. But his colleague Lindsey Bahr is picking "Boyhood."

10. WHO UNVEILS NEW EDUCATION INITIATIVE

In a nod to the often overlooked science behind races, NASCAR announces a commitment to promote "STEM" — the buzzword for science, technology, engineering and math — inside classrooms and out.

AP News in Brief

Latest Snowden leak: NSA helped British spies hack Dutch company to break into mobile phones

WASHINGTON (AP) — Britain's electronic spying agency, in cooperation with the U.S. National Security Agency, hacked into the networks of a Dutch company to steal codes that allow both governments to seamlessly eavesdrop on mobile phones worldwide, according to the documents given to journalists by Edward Snowden.

A story about the documents posted Thursday on the website The Intercept offered no details on how the intelligence agencies employed the eavesdropping capability — providing no evidence, for example, that they misused it to spy on people who weren't valid intelligence targets. But the surreptitious operation against the world's largest manufacturer of mobile phone data chips is bound to stoke anger around the world. It fuels an impression that the NSA and its British counterpart will do whatever they deem necessary to further their surveillance prowess, even if it means stealing information from law-abiding Western companies.

The targeted company, Netherlands-based Gemalto, makes "subscriber identity modules," or SIM cards, used in mobile phones and credit cards. One of the company's three global headquarters is in Austin, Texas. Its clients include AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon and Sprint, The Intercept reported.

The Intercept offered no evidence of any eavesdropping against American customers of those providers, and company officials told the website they had no idea their networks had been penetrated.

Experts called it a major compromise of mobile phone security.

A spokeswoman for Sprint Nextel said Thursday that her company had no comment on the report, while a spokeswoman for T-Mobile said her company was referring reporters to Gemalto and declined further comment.

Ukraine says rebels attacked nearly 50 times in past day despite cease-fire

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — A Ukrainian military spokesman says separatist rebels fired on Ukrainian positions nearly 50 times over the past day, despite a cease-fire that was called into effect five days ago.

Lt. Col. Anatoliy Stelmakh said Friday that the village of Kurakhovo, west of the rebel stronghold of Donetsk, was hit by fire from Grad rockets and that the village of Berdyansk near the port city of Mariupol was hit by artillery and mortar fire during the night.

After Ukrainian forces withdrew this week from the city of Debaltseve, concern has risen about whether rebels would aim to take Mariupol. The city lies on the Sea of Azov between mainland Russia and the Russia-annexed Crimean peninsula.

Police say teenage neighbor is suspected in Las Vegas road-rage killing

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Police took an important step toward solving the mystery surrounding the killing of a Las Vegas mother outside her home, arresting a teenage neighbor who had a history with the family that reached a boiling point the night of the shooting.

Erich Nowsch, 19, was arrested on suspicion of murder Thursday after SWAT teams surrounded his home a block away from the residence of victim Tammy Meyers. Las Vegas police Capt. Chris Tomaino said detectives believe Nowsch was the gunman. He was arrested on a murder warrant, but not been formally charged.

Tomaino said police are seeking a second suspect.

Police and the family of the victim have characterized the case as a road rage altercation that escalated into the deadly encounter a week ago. The exact circumstances of the fight remained unclear, but the family knew the suspect said Robert Meyers, the victim's husband.

He said Tammy Meyers took on a nurturing role for Nowsch, giving him money and food and urging him to dress properly.

Closed-door 2016 jockeying on tap as governors from across nation meet in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pay little attention to the official agenda for this weekend's meeting of the National Governors Association. It's the presidential politics being played in the hallways and private rooms that may matter most.

Around panel discussions on cybersecurity and education reform, several state executives will spend much of the NGA's winter meeting looking ahead at 2016. After all, the three-day gathering that begins Friday comes at a critical time for ambitious Republican governors looking to make the jump into the presidential contest.

Each comes with his own mission: Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is trying to capitalize on his newfound

momentum. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is fighting to preserve his top-tier status. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence want to remind Washington's political elite that they ought to be part of the 2016 conversation.

The weekend is packed with private events featuring "a lot of significant donors who are worth courting for anyone who has presidential aspirations," said Fred Malek, a high-profile GOP fundraiser himself.

And beyond donors, the gathering offers presidential hopefuls and their allies the opportunity to court political strategists, congressional leaders and even other governors who could play a crucial role in the election of the next president.

A 1st lady 1st? Former Virginia governor's wife faces sentencing on corruption convictions

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — If prosecutors get their way, former Virginia first lady Maureen McDonnell could become the first modern-day governor's spouse sent to prison for felonies she was convicted of committing while she held the mostly ceremonial position.

McDonnell will be sentenced Friday in U.S. District Court on eight public corruption counts. Federal prosecutors have recommended an 18-month prison term — six months less than former Gov. Bob McDonnell got when he was convicted on 11 counts last month. Maureen McDonnell's attorneys are asking for probation and 4,000 hours of community service.

According to scholars and research conducted by The Associated Press, first spouses of other states have had lesser brushes with the law — such as a former West Virginia first lady who was acquitted more than a century ago on charges of forging her first husband's signature. None, however, has confronted the prospect of a prison term for a felony conviction.

More recently, former Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber and his fiancée, Cylvia Hayes, faced questions over whether she was personally enriched by the relationship. Neither has been charged.

The McDonnells were convicted in September of doing favors for the CEO of a nutritional supplements company in exchange for \$165,000 in gifts and loans.

Student in grave condition among 7 infected with 'superbug' at Los Angeles hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Among the seven people infected by a "superbug" outbreak tied to medical instruments at a Los Angeles hospital is an 18-year-old student who has spent nearly three months in the hospital and is in grave condition, his attorney said.

The young man was struggling not to become the third of those infected at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center to die, Attorney Kevin Boyle said Thursday.

He had entered the hospital for a procedure that involved using an endoscope to examine his pancreas.

"They were scoping it out, trying to see what was the matter," Boyle said. "He had no life-threatening condition before like he does now."

At least seven people — two of whom died — have been infected with a potentially lethal, antibiotic-resistant strain of bacteria known as carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, or CRE, after undergoing similar endoscopic procedures. More than 170 other patients may also have been exposed, hospital officials said.

US trial over deadly attacks could hurt Palestinian effort to charge Israel with war crimes

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian officials are nervously watching a landmark terrorism trial in the United States, brought by victims of Palestinian suicide bombings and shootings aimed at civilians. They fear a negative verdict could hurt their international image at a time when they are preparing to press war crimes charges against Israel.

The \$1 billion lawsuit was filed over a series of deadly attacks in or near Jerusalem that killed 33 people and wounded hundreds more during the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, a decade ago. The plaintiffs have turned to the U.S. court because some of the victims were American citizens.

Although the cases are not directly linked, a ruling against the Palestinian Authority in New York federal court threatens to undermine Palestinian efforts to rally international support for a brewing battle at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. With American plaintiffs seeking billions of dollars in damages, it could also deliver a tough financial blow to the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority refused to comment on the lawsuit. But several senior Palestinian officials said the case is being closely watched in Ramallah and acknowledged they are worried about the outcome. The officials spoke anonymously on the advice of their lawyers.

At issue are several Palestinian attacks between 2001 and 2004 targeting civilians, including a bombing at a packed cafeteria at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, as well as suicide bombings and shootings on busy streets.

Winter's frosty grip to tighten even more across portions of Southeast, Mid-Atlantic

The bitter cold that has gripped the Eastern U.S. is showing no sign of letting up before the weekend. The National Weather Service says the newest band of Arctic air could plunge parts of the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic into deep freezes that haven't been felt since the mid-1990s.

Temperatures and wind chills on Thursday dipped near zero or below in the Midwest, Northeast and even the South — where people are unaccustomed to the weather-related road hazards, school cancellations, and runs on supplies.

The cold snap followed snow and ice storms earlier in the week. The low temperatures caused much freezing and refreezing of snow, ice and roads. Weather forecasters warn that more sleet and freezing rain will be possible in the coming days.

Here's a look at the latest weather and the effect it is having around the country:

Antarctica: Earth's wildest, most desolate continent holds clues to mankind's past and future

DECEPTION ISLAND, Antarctica (AP) — Earth's past, present and future come together here on the northern peninsula of Antarctica, the wildest, most desolate and mysterious of its continents.

Clues to answering humanity's most basic questions are locked in this continental freezer the size of the United States and half of Canada: Where did we come from? Are we alone in the universe? What's the fate of our warming planet?

The first explorers set foot in Antarctica 194 years ago hunting 19th century riches of whale and seal

oil and fur, turning tides red with blood. Since then, the fist-shaped continent has proven a treasure chest for scientists trying to determine everything from the creation of the cosmos to how high seas will rise with global warming.

"It's a window out to the universe and in time," said Kelly Falkner, polar program chief for the U.S. National Science Foundation.

For a dozen days in January, in the middle of the chilly Antarctic summer, The Associated Press followed scientists from different fields searching for alien-like creatures, hints of pollution trapped in pristine ancient ice, leftovers from the Big Bang, biological quirks that potentially could lead to better medical treatments, and perhaps most of all, signs of unstoppable melting. The journey on a Chilean navy ship along the South Shetland islands and vulnerable Antarctic Peninsula, which juts off the continent like a broken pinky finger, logged 833 miles (1,340 kilometers) and allowing the AP team a firsthand look at part of this vital continent.

From Apple to Avon, rising dollar takes toll on US corporate profits; more pain ahead

NEW YORK (AP) — The biggest obstacle for Coca-Cola and Pepsi these days isn't tied to taste tests, the declining popularity of sugary drinks or even their century-long rivalry. It's the surging U.S. dollar.

The two soda giants rely on overseas customers for roughly half of their revenue. When they turned in their quarterly results last week, both reported a drop in sales. The strong dollar made all the difference: strip it out and shrinking sales suddenly rise.

The dollar has been a source of constant complaint this earnings season. Global corporations from Avon Products to Yum Brands have said their quarterly results would have been much better if it hadn't been for the rising dollar. For some, the currency's strength has meant the difference between a profit and a loss.

"It has really hit earnings," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank.

Over the past year, the dollar has climbed 18 percent against major currencies. The surging dollar and plunging oil prices are the main reasons analysts keep cutting their forecasts for corporate profits even though economists expect the U.S. economy to pick up speed

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 2015. There are 314 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 20, 1905, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, upheld, 7-2, compulsory vaccination laws intended to protect the public's health. (The case involved a Swedish immigrant, Henning Jacobson, who refused to pay a \$5 fine for refusing to be vaccinated against smallpox; the Court upheld the right of states to penalize individuals who rejected vaccinations, but did not say they could be forcibly vaccinated.)

On this date:

In 1792, President George Washington signed an act creating the U.S. Post Office.

In 1862, William Wallace Lincoln, the 11-year-old son of President Abraham Lincoln and first lady Mary Todd Lincoln, died at the White House, apparently of typhoid fever.

In 1915, the Panama Pacific International Exposition opened in San Francisco (the fair lasted until

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December).

In 1938, Anthony Eden resigned as British foreign secretary following Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's decision to negotiate with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. strategic bombers began raiding German aircraft manufacturing centers in a series of attacks that became known as "Big Week."

In 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. Rabinowitz*, ruled 5-3 that authorities making a lawful arrest did not need a warrant to search and seize evidence in an area that was in the "immediate and complete control" of the suspect.

In 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Project Mercury's Friendship 7 spacecraft.

In 1965, America's Ranger 8 spacecraft crashed on the moon, as planned, after sending back thousands of pictures of the lunar surface.

In 1971, the National Emergency Warning Center in Colorado erroneously ordered U.S. radio and TV stations off the air; some stations heeded the alert, which was not lifted for about 40 minutes.

In 1987, a bomb left by Unabomber Ted Kaczynski exploded behind a computer store in Salt Lake City, seriously injuring store owner Gary Wright. Soviet authorities released Jewish activist Josef Begun.

In 1998, Tara Lipinski of the U.S. won the ladies' figure skating gold medal at the Nagano Olympics; Michelle Kwan won the silver.

In 2003, a fire sparked by pyrotechnics broke out during a concert by the group Great White at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, killing 100 people and injuring about 200 others.

Ten years ago: Israel's Cabinet gave final approval to the government's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements. Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton traveled to Lamau, Indonesia, ground zero of tsunami devastation, where they promised survivors that more help would come. Jeff Gordon won his third Daytona 500. Allen Iverson was selected MVP of the NBA All-Star game, helping the Eastern Conference to a 125-115 victory. Death claimed actress Sandra Dee at age 62; musical actor John Raitt at age 88; and counterculture writer Hunter S. Thompson at age 67.

Five years ago: Alexander Haig, a soldier and statesman who'd held high posts in three Republican administrations and some of the U.S. military's top jobs, died in Baltimore at 85. Floods and mudslides on the Portuguese island of Madeira claimed more than 40 lives.

One year ago: Protesters advanced on police lines in the heart of the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, prompting government snipers to shoot and kill scores of people. In Sochi, Canada beat the U.S. 3-2 in overtime to win its 4th straight Olympic women's hockey gold. Adelina Sotnikova became Russia's first gold medalist in women's Olympic figure skating, defeating defending champion Yuna Kim of South Korea.

Today's Birthdays: Gloria Vanderbilt is 91. Actor Sidney Poitier is 88. Racing Hall of Famer Bobby Unser is 81. Actress Marj Dusay is 79. Jazz-soul singer Nancy Wilson is 78. Racing Hall of Famer Roger Penske is 78. Singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie is 74. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Phil Esposito is 73. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is 73. Movie director Mike Leigh is 72. Actress Brenda Blethyn is 69. Actress Sandy Duncan is 69. Rock musician J. Geils is 69. Actor Peter Strauss is 68. Rock singer-musician-producer Walter Becker (Steely Dan) is 65. Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown is 64. Country singer Kathie Baillie is 64. Actor John Voldstad is 64. Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is 61. Actor Anthony Stewart Head is 61. Country singer Leland Martin is 58. Actor James Wilby is 57. Rock musician Sebastian Steinberg is 56. Comedian Joel Hodgson (HAHD'-suhn) is 55. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Charles Barkley is 52. Rock musician Ian Brown (Stone Roses) is 52. Actor Willie Garson

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is 51. Actor French Stewart is 51. Actor Ron Eldard is 50. Model Cindy Crawford is 49. Actor Andrew Shue is 48. Actress Lili Taylor is 48. Singer Brian Littrell is 40. Actress Lauren Ambrose is 37. Actor Jay Hernandez is 37. Actress Chelsea Peretti (TV: "Brooklyn Nine-Nine") is 37. Country musician Coy Bowles is 36. Actress Majandra Delfino is 34. Singer-musician Chris Thile (THEE'-lee) is 34. Actress-singer Jessie Mueller is 32. Actor Jake Richardson is 30. Singer Rihanna is 27. Actor Jack Falahee (TV: "How to Get Away With Murder") is 26.

Thought for Today: "The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous." - Frederick Douglass, American abolitionist (born circa 1817, died this date in 1895).