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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

3:00-5:00 pm: Open Gym for grade JK-8.

5:00-7:00 pm: Open Gym for grades 9 and older

Monday, Feb. 23

Birthdays: Iva Mae Aeilts, Jerry Rossow

6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

10:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study Leaders Meet

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Taco salad, refried beans, fruit, bread sticks.

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potato and gravy, parsley buttered carrots, banana cake

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

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.

1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

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.

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Region Wrestling Results Available On-Line

PIERRE – The 55th Annual South Dakota State High School Post-Season Wrestling Championships begin tonight with an added feature – live Mat-Side scoring and results available immediately online from all eight regional sites!

Thanks to a partnership with TrackWrestling, each of the eight SDHSAA Regional Tournaments will make live scoring and result information available online to fans, coaches, student athletes, media and members of the public, free-of-charge.

With the implementation of TrackWrestling, all State Tournament draw and pairing information will also be released through TrackWrestling.com at 10 PM Central Time on Saturday Evening.

You can find a link to each Regional Tournament through our partners at TrackWrestling, or by clicking on this link. As always, State Tournament information will be made available through our Partners at South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Copy this link to your browser or go to www.trackwrestling.com

<http://s400.trackwrestling.com/tw/pre-definedtournaments/MainFrame.jsp?newSession=false&sport=wrestling&TIM=1424532901031&pageName=&ie=false&frameSize=1164>

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.

Applications for Baseball Coordinator, Coaches, Groundskeeper, 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)



Roni Levtzow and Jessica Bjerke battle for the ball.

Groton Area girls fire in 11 three-pointers in win over Redfield-Doland

"It was a big win for us and a nice birthday present." Those were the words of Coach Shaun Wanner as the Groton Area girls basketball team lit the nets on fire to overcome Redfield-Doland in a Northeast Conference game, 54-49.

The Lady Tigers made 58 percent of their three-point shots, making 11 of 19 shots. Courtney Kurtz made four, Ashley Gibbs three and Audrey Wanner and Katie Koehler each made two.

"It was a big confidence booster for us," Wanner said. "It was a nice way for the seniors (Kurtz and Gibbs) to end the season playing on their home court."

Groton needed to make the shots as the taller Redfield-Doland team proved tough on the boards and worked the inside game. In the first quarter, Groton made five three-point shots and the Pheasants also made two. The lead changed hands nine times before the Tigers ended with a

17-15 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The battle continued in the second quarter with six more lead changes as Redfield-Doland took a 27-24 lead at the end of the third quarter.

The game was tied three times in the third quarter before Audrey Wanner made a three-pointer with 2:41 left to give Groton a 35-34 lead. Then Kurtz sank a three-pointer and then stole the ball and made the layup just before the end of the third period as Groton took a 40-34 lead at the break. Groton opened up the fourth quarter with a shot and an eight-point lead, 42-34. The Pheasants rallied back to within two, 42-20,



Katie Koehler made two of three three-pointers on the night.

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but Groton went back on top by seven, 47-40, thanks a three-pointer by Kurtz.

Redfield-Doland made it a three-point game, 40-47, with 66 seconds left. Kurtz was four of four from the charity stripe down the stretch to help secure the 54-49 win.

"I'm proud of the way the girls played," Wanner said. "We did a good job moving the ball around. We are actually scoring more points than we did last year, but we're also giving up more, too."

Groton will enter region play next week Tuesday at Webster and will play around 6 p.m. against Sisseton. "The region is wide open," Wanner said. "There is no dominate team and anyone who puts three days of good games together will come out on top."

Kurtz led the Tigers with 22 points followed by Gibbs with 10, Wanner had eight, Gibbs and Carly Wheeting each had six and Jessica Bjerke added two.

The Pheasants were led by Jamie Tebben with 16 followed by Sarah Rozell with 10, Joslyn Heer nine, Jordanne Howe eight and Roni Levtsov with six.

Groton Area made 37 percent of their field goals while Redfield-Doland made 41 percent. Groton Area made seven of 14 free throws for 50 percent off of Redfield-Doland's 12 team fouls. Redfield-Doland was five of eight from the line off of Groton Area's nine team fouls. Groton's zone defense helped with the rebounds as 20 of 26 rebounds were defensive. Redfield had 20 rebounds. Leading rebounders were Wanner for Groton Area with nine and Tebben of Redfield-



Courtney Kurtz stole the ball and went the distance to make this basket to give Groton a 40-34 lead with 12 seconds left in the third quarter.



Carly Wheeting made this basket with 2:47 left in the first half to give Groton a 24-21 lead.

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Doland with 10.

Kurtz had seven of the team's 12 assists. Redfield-Doland had 16 assists. Groton had 11 turnovers with Redfield-Doland had five turnovers with four of them being steals. Kurtz had three steals.

Groton Area won the junior varsity game, 25-10. Scoring for Groton were Gia Gengerke with 10, Marlee Jones eight, Emily Locke three, Alexis Stange two and Madison Sippel and Lexi Gustafson each had one.

The Region 1A Tournament stacks up like this.

On Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 4:30 p.m., Game 1 has Milbank taking on Britton-Hecla. Game 2 is 20 minutes after Game 1 which features Groton Area and Sisseton. Game 3 is 20 minutes after Game 2 as Aberdeen Roncalli plays Tiospa Zina. On Thursday, Feb. 26, Webster Area will play the winner of Game 3 at 6 p.m. with the winners of Games 1 and 2 playing 20 minutes after the first game. The championship game is slated for Tuesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. All games are played at the Webster Armory.

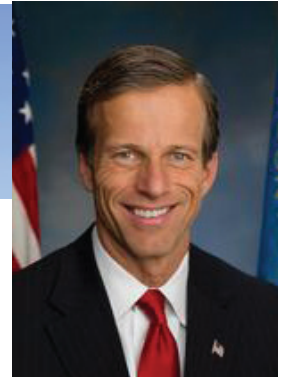


Ashley Gibbs made three of five three-pointers on the night.



Audrey Wanner launches a shot as her dad and coach, Shaun Wanner, and assistant coach, Joel Guthmiller, watch.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Where's the Meat?

Many of us recall the popular 1980s ad campaign by the fast food chain Wendy's with its slogan, "Where's the beef?" The ad poked fun at many fast food establishments for the sometimes small size of the hamburger patty compared with buns. Wendy's gained attention for their clever ad that touched on the frustrations of many patrons who wanted more for their money. While the campaign is now a famous slogan in the advertising world, a slight modification of the slogan could highlight concerns about the new Obama administration report on 2015 dietary guidelines for Americans—"Where's the meat?"

Every five years, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services review the dietary guidelines for American food consumption. A recent advisory committee report recommends to the agencies what should be included in the new dietary guidelines. The nearly 600-page report leaves lean red meat out of what it considers to be a healthy diet, which is not only a great concern to dietitians who support consumption of lean red meat but is also concerning for the South Dakota livestock industry.

This isn't the first time the Obama administration has promoted limiting meat consumption. As you may recall, in 2012, USDA sent an in-house newsletter encouraging employees to participate in "Meatless Mondays" while dining in USDA cafeterias. The newsletter went on to attack the production of meat in the U.S., saying that meat production has "a large environmental impact," and that an employee should "help yourself and the environment" by not eating meat.

It is hard to believe that the very agency tasked with promoting agriculture would encourage people not to eat meat. From the short-lived Meatless Mondays, to misguided dietary guidelines, farmers and ranchers deserve more of an ally in USDA, rather than an adversary. Misleading dietary guidelines would not only confuse consumers but would also harm South Dakota's livestock industry.

I urge the Obama administration to reconsider the recommendations in the report. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, which oversees USDA, I will continue to closely monitor the guidelines as they move forward. As Kimberley and I continue to do our best to maintain a healthy diet, we'll be supporting the products of farmers and ranchers across the state, including lean red meat, and I encourage South Dakotans to join me.

Groton Area Elementary School Newsletter – Submitted February 20th, 2015
Elementary Principal~ Dan Dalchow

Groton Elementary News

Our Elementary has, and will continue to be, a busy place. That's a good thing! We had our conferences and book fair on the 12th. We also had our Donuts for Dads in kindergarten recently. As always, these events were well attended. It shows the emphasis our families have on education.

There are a couple more upcoming events that will be coming down the road. The Elementary PAC is hosting their annual Elementary Carnival. This will be held on February 28th. There will be Sweet G's Inflatables from 3 PM - 5PM with Carnival games, raffles, and supper to follow from 5 PM – 7 PM. This is always a fun time. The Elementary PAC puts on this carnival every year and it requires a lot of volunteers (over 50 people) to make it successful. If you are willing to help out for an hour or two, please contact the office. They would appreciate your volunteer help.

The Children's Theater is coming to town the Week of March 22nd. Elementary students, up to 50 of them, will have an opportunity to perform a play for the Groton Community. The Elementary PAC sponsors this great experience every other year for our students. These plays are always great entertainment and I encourage you to come out and watch their performance on Friday, March 27th.

The Elementary PAC recently purchased a banner that will hang in our elementary gym. The banner honors our super readers that attain lofty goals for reading each year. It is the hope that in the future, we will continue to add more and more names to this banner. If you are at the elementary, come check it out.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me during school hours using the contact information listed below.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dan Dalchow ~ Principal, Groton Area Elementary School

Elementary Phone # 397-2317 E-mail: dan.dalchow@k12.sd.us

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.

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Junior Kindergarten – Kayla Krause

It is amazing how fast our time together in Junior Kindergarten is flying by. I'm so happy with the progress we are making as we are almost through the entire alphabet and numbers 1-10. We are also enjoying our new calendar time, which we incorporated right after Christmas. We love our days of the week song and our months of the year song. During this time, we are also discussing and recording our weather daily. Junior Kindergarten students are becoming quite the meteorologists.

We have had a ton of fun celebrating Valentine's Day. Students in Junior Kindergarten have had the chance to visit centers around our classroom with a Valentine's theme. We shopped and worked at Mr. Valentine's Flower and Candy Shoppe set up in our dramatic play center, we made Valentine's Day cards for our loved ones and cut out hearts in our writing center, and we even played a few Valentine's Day games to help us work on our fine motor skills. As February will soon be coming to a close, we are looking forward to talking about St. Patrick's Day, the colors green and gold, and making rainbows!

1st Grade ~ Emily Eichler & Julie Milbrandt

Another month is flying by and the first graders are learning so much before our eyes! We have had a very eventful year and are excited to share what we have been learning since our last update.

Reading class consists of skill practice and reading amazing stories by awesome authors and illustrators. Our daily skill practice has helped us learn about the long vowel sounds. There are about four or five ways to make these sounds through different letter combinations, which makes it very difficult! We have learned 115 new high-frequency words so far this year. That is a lot of new words, especially since we still have about three more months of school left! We have been reading a wide array of stories in our reading textbooks. We work on making predictions, finding the main idea and details, drawing conclusions, comparing and contrasting, and retelling every time we read a story. Discussing all of this helps us become great readers!

Math class has proved fun and challenging for us as we solve story problems, finish patterns, and count dimes, nickels, and pennies. We have even learned about graphs. It is fun to make and compare graphs.

Science and social studies have been a blast for us! The students are learning about food chains in science. This is a great follow up after previously learning about life cycles. In social studies we are learning about US presidents. Along with this, students will learn about our countries symbols. The students sure enjoy science and social studies class!

3rd Grade ~ Kristi Anderson & Deb Winburn

School is much like life – you get out of it what you put into it. This is the time of the year when students start to reap the rewards of their efforts. Third graders should feel quite comfortable utilizing a variety of tools from their belts of knowledge. We welcome senior helpers, Ashley Gibbs and Danielle Schinkel. They assist us in a myriad of ways, and the students enjoy having them in our room.

We have been doing a variety of area and perimeter problems in math. Students have become very adept at writing equations, fact family sentences for multiply and divide, and attacking multi-step word problems. Knowing our math facts quickly and accurately becomes more important every day. We will continue on with more work regarding fractions and measurement.

Between shared reading, reading class, and RtI, students have completed several novels. We want our students reading a book every spare minute they have. These minutes add up incredibly fast, and reading for enjoyment is the best thing students can do to become better readers. On an interesting

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note, a recent study released reinforces the importance of family dinners for increasing vocabulary, so it pays to take time to have meals together. Conversations with adults helps reinforce connections for all students.

Students recently completed weather posters in science, and now they will begin studying rocks and minerals. Social studies finds us doing Washington and Lincoln activities. We are working hard in all areas to use text evidence to support our answers. This is also known as finding the "proof in the passage".

As the outside temperatures remain cold, our classroom continues to be a blooming greenhouse of growing minds.

5th Grade ~ Shelby Hendrickson & Janel Lone

Time flies when you're having fun. It is hard to believe that we are already into the third quarter. With that, brings new materials and even higher expectations of our students as the 5th grade will become the catalyst grade for middle school. We have been working hard on preparing the kids for the changes that will be coming as they venture out of the secure nest into the world of middle school. I'm not sure all of them understand the changes that will come at them with the "big move". We as teachers are excited for them and look forward to the advances our school district is making. Third and Fourth quarter we will continue to groom them toward being prepared for middle school.

Reading has had us focusing on many different skills such as, main idea, theme, compare and contrast, drawing conclusions and many more. We have also been working really hard on providing evidence to prove our answers. The kids are seeming to get better and better with this as the year progresses.

Our math class has been busy crunching numbers and expanding our math foundations. We are currently working with adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions in class. We will soon start getting into dividing fractions and geometry.

In Science, we are now racing through our material, literally. In January we were lucky enough to have Becca Tullar come in and teach us all about robotics. This was a 4 day program allowing the kids learn how to build and program a robot. Once they learned that, they had the chance to program them so that they would make it through a maze. The students loved the program and did very well!

In Social Studies, we are working on learning who the early explorers are and what they had to go through in order to set up colonies. We are also learning the 50 states by labeling them region by region and quizzing over them. This will help them to be able to know where we are talking about when referring to the United States. We will soon be moving into the start of colonies and fighting.

We will be starting our D.A.R.E. program in the 4th quarter which will take place in the classroom at the end of the day. This is a great program for the students to go through and understand all the different effects of drugs and alcohol and also how to handle peer pressure.

With everything going on at this period of the year, we will continue working hard to pump our kids and prepare them for the Smarter Balance test coming in April. We have a great group of kids in the fifth grade class and are excited to see how they test again this year. Bring it on!!!

Speech Pathologist~ Mary Hempel & Jennifer Deutsch

Did You Know?

Pragmatics:

Pragmatic Language is the language used during social interactions. For some children these social language skills do not develop automatically, and they require lots of coaching and practice with these

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skills at home and at school.

Problem Solving:

Children learn to understand 'wh' questions in the following sequence--what, who, where, when, and why--with when and why being the most difficult. Answering 'wh' questions is a critical skill at school.

Please find some activities below, that families can talk about to enhance language development during the month of March:

Describe a Leprechaun/kite, shamrock.

Name three things that are green.

Name two spring flowers.

Name three things you can do outside in the Spring.

Name three things you might see in a St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Physical Education – Lynette Grieve

We finished our Basketball unit just after Christmas break. We then started a Tumbling unit. We learned and/or practiced log rolls, forward rolls, backward rolls, the crab walk, the bridge, sit-ups, push-ups, and had wheel barrel races. We also learned and practiced how to do cart-wheels and head stands.

We are now in the middle of a dance unit. We have learned and practiced the Twist, the Chicken Dance, the Hokey Pokey, the Conga, and the Bunny Hop. Other dances we have yet to learn are; the Limbo, Cotton Eyed Joe, the Macarena, YMCA, and the Cha Cha Slide.

Following the dance unit we will play Floor Hockey, then have a variety of station games. Before too long, we will be back outside and getting ready for Track and Field day.

GRASP/OST (Before and After School Program) – Rose Long

The GRASP program recently participated in activities to celebrate Valentine's Day. We colored a friendship picture for our bulletin board and along with doing a Valentines picture for someone that is special for us. We have also been playing games that involve a lot of cooperative play and teamwork and building with the different block sets, which the students absolutely love to do.

Looking ahead, the students will be participating in activities relating to spring, and St. Patrick's Day, among other things that will remind us nicer weather is around the corner. We are hoping the weather starts to become nicer so that we can spend time doing some of our favorite activities outside.

Middle School/High School News

Remember to attend the spring Family Night which will be held on Monday, March 9th from 5:00-7:00 pm. Supper will be provided. See what's happening in the classrooms this time of year, answer a trivia question or two, and maybe walk away with a prize. We're so proud of our school; please be sure to stop by and show your support for our students and teachers!

Physical Science—Kristen Gonsoir

Physical science is just transitioning to the study of chemistry after completing the physics' units. The first area of chemistry we will study is the classification of matter. Matter is classified according to its chemical composition. Following the study of matter classification we will study what matter is made of, specifically atoms, and then look at how they may interact. The fourth nine weeks will look at the

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formation of solutions and acids and bases. Students will have the opportunity to do several chemistry laboratory exercises, too.

Chemistry I—Kristen Gonsoir

Chemistry I is just finishing its study of chemical equations and chemical equation writing which is an important part of chemistry. Following this unit we will begin our unit on quantifying chemical matter through the use of the mole and stoichiometry. The mole is the unit used to quantify matter and it is equal to 6.02×10^{23} particles. This unit in chemistry was first introduced in the early 1900s. Stoichiometry is the study of the quantities of matter involved in chemical reactions. These next few chapters will seem a lot like a second math class.

Organic Chemistry—Kristen Gonsoir

Organic Chemistry is just beginning its study of carboxylic acids and their derivatives such as esters and anhydrides. Carboxylic acids are a biologically important group as they are one of the parts of amino acids. The other part of an amino acid is the amine group which we will study in the next chapter. Organic chemistry also has several interesting labs coming up including the isolation of carvone and limonene from caraway seeds and orange oil and the synthesis of isoamyl acetate which is an artificial banana flavoring.

Debate- Kristen Gonsoir

The public forum and Lincoln Douglas debate season is winding down as students approach the state contest on March 6th and 7th. Unfortunately the region Destination Imagination contest conflicts with the state debate contest so only a few Groton debaters will be attending state debate which makes a shot at the overall state title a long shot, but our small team will give it their best and I feel they have a great shot at doing well. Overall the team has had a great year which was illustrated by the 2nd place sweepstakes placing at the Yankton invitational contest and the 3rd place sweepstakes placing at the Brookings invitational. Individually several students have earned awards, too.

Congressional debate will begin soon after the state public forum and LD contest. Congressional debate will conclude with the state contest on April 10, 2015 at the State Capitol building in Pierre.

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING ACTIVITIES - Jodi Sternhagen

OFFICE ACTIVITIES - Jodi Sternhagen

January and February have been a very busy months in the School Counseling Office. During this time, I have talked to numerous students about careers, tests, and scholarships. The juniors recently researched careers, budgets and the ACT. The sophomores took an aptitude test and researched careers. It is exciting to see the results. Students also just registered for fall 2015. My favorite activities are working in the classroom with students to plan their futures.

By the end of the year, all students in grades 8-12 will have been introduced to the online career exploration program SDMyLife (also called Career Cruising). This program used along with other online resources is a great way to prepare for the future. The ninth graders will be next to use these tools and will also continue to work on a Career Planning Portfolio, a file that will hold cumulative career inventories and course plans. All students in grades 9-12 will receive updated information on GPA's, class rank, scholarships, and courses required for graduation, college entrance, and the Regents' Scholar Diploma/SD Opportunity Curriculum.

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SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE - Jodi Sternhagen

The next two months are the prime time for scholarships. All seniors have received a packet of detailed information on available scholarships and every few weeks I hand out scholarship applications to the senior class. Everyone is encouraged to look at the opportunities!

There are many scholarships that have February and March deadlines including the local scholarships. Local scholarships that all students should consider include: Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Scholarships, Community Service Volunteer Scholarship, Hopps-Dow, John Westby Memorial, Kiwanis, Eastern Star, Masonic Lodge, Lions, Alumni Scholarships (Darlene Raap Memorial, Class of 1969, Irvin and Janice Flihs Family, Edna Bugner Memorial, Groton Foundation, Sammuli Rix Memorial, Wilfred and Lucille Heinz Memorial, Don Bartz), Lisa Sippel Memorial, David and Kay Donovan Memorial, Beck Memorial, Rob Luecke Memorial Scholarship, Barry Schuring Memorial, Groton Area School Employee Teaching Scholarship, PEO Local, Vicki Strom Memorial, Brenda Harms Memorial, Renee McKiver Memorial, Susan Weismantel and Shawn Weismantel Kramer Memorial, Groton Chamber of Commerce, and Phyllis J. Jark Memorial Scholarship.

If a student is interested in obtaining more scholarship information, the free internet scholarship searches are a great place to start. All students have been given the web sites of free scholarship searches. If you have any questions about scholarships, please contact me in the GO.

FINANCIAL AID - Jodi Sternhagen

Financial Aid Information Night was held on December 8th in the Groton Area High School library at 5:30 pm. If you did not yet submit your free application for federal student aid (FAFSA), it is not too late. Federal student aid applications are accepted by the federal government for many months. However, each school has its own priority deadline. If you do not submit your FAFSA by the stated deadline, the amount of money the school has left to allocate may be limited. Most of the deadlines for the South Dakota schools are March 1. If you have questions, please feel free to call me at (605) 397-8381.

TESTING INFORMATION - Jodi Sternhagen

ACT Testing

Groton is a test site for the ACT in April and October. The school felt it was a nice option for students to be able to test in a familiar location and to not have to travel a long distance. The next ACT tests are scheduled for April 18 and June 13. On Wednesday, December 3rd, all juniors were able to take a practice ACT test during school and then look at the test preparation section of SDMyLife called Method Test Prep. The computerized program will generate a study plan designed to increase student ACT scores based on the results from short test sections. Hopefully, the juniors have been working on this personalized study plan.

Dakota STEP/Smarter Balanced Testing

Dakota STEP/Smarter Balanced testing for students in grades 3-8 and 11 will be held in early April. The Dakota State Test of Educational Progress is South Dakota's annual statewide assessment of student progress for science, administered each spring. Smarter Balanced is the new statewide test which covers the areas of English-Language Arts and Mathematics. Public school districts are required to administer the Dakota STEP/Smarter Balanced. The Dakota STEP/Smarter Balanced Test is the assessment system for accountability used in South Dakota as required by federal and South Dakota state law.

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The assessment provides critical feedback to educators, students, and parents regarding students' academic achievement and mastery of South Dakota's and Common Core academic content standards. Dakota STEP/Smarter Balanced test results are not used in making grade promotion decisions or high school graduation decisions. The Dakota STEP/Smarter Balanced assessment is composed of a battery of different kinds of test questions including multiple-choice, short answer, and essay subtests. Questions are based on state content standards in science and Common Core Standards in English-Language Arts and Mathematics.

The Dakota STEP/Smarter Balanced tests were developed to improve the accountability of the state's educational system. They also serve as one benchmark to measure student achievement. The test was designed to establish high expectations, identify students who may need extra help, help school identify ways to improve curriculum, help monitor achievement, and improve accountability.

The Dakota STEP/Smarter Balanced results provide one piece of information about your child's achievement. To obtain a more complete picture, daily class work, homework, and other learning activities should be considered. Parents and schools share the responsibility for educating children. Everyone concerned, especially the student, benefits when there is a partnership for learning. Students learn best when they know that their efforts are supported at home and at school. Some of the ways you can help your child do his or her best in school include being a model, providing support, and staying informed.

The following contains a list of suggestions on how to prepare your child to take a test:

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD TO TAKE A TEST

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD TO TAKE A TEST

Here are some things your child can do:

Here are some things you can do:

REST

Get a good night's sleep before a test.

DISCUSS

Help your child understand that a test provides a chance to show what a student knows about a subject and how the teacher can best help the child to learn.

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- EAT** A good breakfast on the morning of a test is important. Test-taking uses lots of energy.
- SUPPORT** See that your child maintains regular study habits, but don't ask for extra study time for this test. It covers more schoolwork than can be learned in a few extra hours.
- LISTEN** Listen carefully to the directions that are given for the test and follow them exactly. If the directions are not clear, ask the teacher to repeat them or to explain the directions again.
- RELAX** Reassure your child about the test-taking experience. Students who are calm and sure of themselves do better on a test.
- TRY** Do your best. Even if some parts of the test seem hard, keep trying, and don't give up.

Biology II - Jodi Sternhagen

The Biology II students have been studying the different systems of the body and began the year with a detailed study of anatomical terms. Each week the students have learned a new set of health science vocabulary terms and at the end of each quarter have a cumulative test. After learning about the endocrine system, we moved on to a study of the blood. We will continue with the circulatory, respiratory, digestive, and reproductive systems this year. Each chapter has labs that supplement the chapter curriculum and students have learned how to complete a formal lab write up. Students will continue to learn the health sciences vocabulary and to practice for standardized testing in the sciences. Students will conclude the year with a dissection of a fetal pig.

Physics - Jodi Sternhagen

Physics students have been learning about momentum, energy, work and force. During the past few months, students have worked with a variety of content related problems and have also completed core science study problems. Labs are included with physics topics and include working with velocity, acceleration, center of mass, power, and force. Writing formal lab reports helps reinforce laboratory knowledge and helps students prepare for college level science courses. In future units, physics students will learn about thermal energy, wave motion, and electricity.

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6th Math - Mr. Hawkins

It has been a busy year with a lot of work in 6th grade math. Thus far we have been through number operations with adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. We have worked these operations with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and integers. We have also worked with algebraic expressions and equations. We will now take a break from the numbers as we enter into the geometry portion of the curriculum.

6th Science – Mr. Hawkins

In Science, we have already completed the life science portion of our curriculum. We are now just wrapping up the earth science segment as well. In the last quarter, we will be studying physical science. We will start out with "matter" and what it is made up of with atoms, elements, compounds, etc. We will then learn some about forces, motion, and energy.

8th Science – Mr. Hawkins

For the 8th graders, the whole year's curriculum is earth science. If it has to do with the Earth...you name it, and we have talked about it or studied it. Resources, weathering and erosion, earthquakes, volcanoes, weather, the ocean...are just to name a few. We still have to get into "space" yet, and will finish up with how we as humans have impacted our air, land, and water here on Earth.

7th Grade Reading - Mrs. Seibel

My seventh grade class is reading the novel, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred Taylor. The story is set in Mississippi during the Great Depression. The location and time period of the story has a major effect on the plot because the Logan family is black, and Mississippi is racially divided. The Logan family, unlike many of the black families near them, own their own land. This gives them some security, but it also leads some people to begrudge them that security. The story begins with Cassie and her brothers learning that "night men" have burned two black men. As the story progresses, Cassie's mother attempts to boycott a local store whose white owners are purported to be responsible for the heinous crime. With the land to hold them together, will anything be able to tear them apart? During this time, we will also be reviewing for the Smarter Balance Assessment Test.

8th Grade Reading – Mrs. Seibel

The eight grade Reading classes have just finished reading the play version of The Diary of Anne Frank. The students then watched a movie titled, The Attic, which was written from the view point of Miep Gies, who was one of the people who helped them survive in the attic for two years. Presently we are writing a personal narrative story.

7th grade Health – Mrs. Seibel

This nine weeks we have covered information about tobacco, alcohol, and other types of drugs. The students have prepared skits to help them say "no" to using drugs or other types of pressures. We are currently talking about smoking cessation and benefits of not using drugs. I will teach a nutrition unit next. During Health class, I will also be teaching Harvest of the Month which are activities to encourage eating more fruits and vegetables.

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9th grade Health – Mrs. Seibel

This nine weeks we have focused on first aid, CPR, child labor laws, SD accident records, responsible relationships, and human reproduction. We are currently leaning about nine different STDS and HIV/AIDS. While learning about those topics we are covering abstinence, myths, and how to break the chain of infections. Students in ninth grade also learn about Harvest of the Month.

High School Band – Mr. Johnson

The high school band just finished with the Region IV Solo & Ensemble Contest in Aberdeen. Every student in the band participated in at least one ensemble. This year, every band ensemble received a superior rating from the judge! These ensembles included the brass choir, brass sextet, trombone trio, trumpet quartet, percussion ensemble, mallet duet, saxophone ensemble, clarinet ensemble, woodwind duet, and flute choir. Several students also performed a solo on their instrument and received superior ratings on those as well. Although Superior is the highest rating given, students still realized that there is room for growth in their performances. Perfection may never be attained in music, but the pursuit of it continues to make us better musicians.

Back on January 22nd the jazz band gave an excellent performance at the South Dakota Jazz Festival in Aberdeen, a non-competitive festival held by NSU. The jazz band continues to rehearse on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in preparation for another festival and the POPS Concert on April 12th.

Our pep band is perhaps one of our most visible and appreciated ensembles in the community. We recently played our final home game of the athletic year. However, we just found out we have been selected to play at the Girls State A Basketball Tournament in Watertown on Thursday, March 12th. We are excited for the exposure that performance will bring to our band!

Our concert band is now sight-reading music in preparation for Large Group Contest which will be held in Aberdeen on April 1st.

Over spring break, the high school band will be taking a trip to Chicago to attend a musical, listen to live jazz, and see other landmarks in the city. We are very excited for this musical and cultural experience!

6th Grade General Music – Mr. Johnson

This semester, the 6th grade general music class has been learning to read music using the solfege system, or "do, re, mi." Learning this skill will help students learn to read music and sing more effectively, especially those students who have had no training in piano or band. Hopefully learning this skill will empower them to participate in choir and feel more comfortable reading music as they enter the junior high and high school. Reading music is like learning a whole new language! In class we also have many interesting conversations about music history, music in different cultures, and instruments. We listen to examples of different music occasionally as well. The 6th grade music class will sing at the Middle School/High School Spring Concert in May.

MathCounts - Mrs. Johnson

On Wednesday, February 4, 2015, the Groton Area MathCounts team was awarded the third place trophy at the Northeastern South Dakota Chapter MathCounts Competition on the campus of Presentation College in Aberdeen. Third place team members were Jennie Doeden, Micah Poor, AnneMarie Smith, and Isaac Smith. Mickelson Middle School of Brookings won the team competition, and Milbank placed second. The top two teams advance to the South Dakota State MathCounts Competition at the Kings Inn Hotel in Pierre on Saturday, March 14.

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One Groton student also received individual recognition. Micah Poor earned eighth place in the individual/countdown portion of the competition and advances to the state competition. Besides the team, six individuals also participated in the event: Ashley Garduno, Tylan Glover, Kayla Jensen, Alexis Simon, Emily Thompson, and Cassandra Townsend.

The top four highest scoring individuals and the coach of the winning team at the state level will represent South Dakota at the National MathCounts Competition in Boston, Massachusetts, May 7-10, 2015.

8th Grade Tech. - Don Donley

My first half of the 8th grade class is in session for this 9 weeks, the other half will start at the next 9 weeks. We studied basic tool safety and have split into 5 groups. These groups include;

- Welding
- Woodworking
- Electronics
- Drafting
- Wood lathe

The students are working in rotating pods on various exercises for several days in their respective areas prior to switching to a new area.

Intro. to Tech. - Don Donley

This is a freshman class and they are split into two groups: welding and woodworking. They are working on various projects in these areas.

Tech. 2 - Don Donley

This is the sophomore class and the students are rotating through several modules:

- Basic house wiring on a computer program
- Basic house wiring, hands on in the shop
- Engineering
- Drafting
- House planning
- Gas welding
- MIG welding
- Plasma cam
- Metal lathe
- Wood lathe
- Scroll saw
- Shop work
- Plumbing

Construction Tech. - Don Donley

This is the junior class and at this time they are working on building a storage shed. The next nine weeks will be spent on individual projects of their choosing.

Tech. 4 - Don Donley

This is the senior class and they are working on individual projects of their choosing.

The Life of 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, Groton.

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

Ralph died February 18, 2015 at the Spearfish Hospital.

Ralph Dale Breitreutz was born to Alfred and Irene (Henry) Breitreutz in Dustin, Oklahoma on August 16, 1929. At the age of 2, the family moved to Groton, South Dakota. He graduated From Groton High School in 1947. Farming was his true passion in life and he took over the family farm in 1959.

He married Paula Jylynn Erdmann in Groton, South Dakota, on June 3, 1958. To this union, two children were born: Tamra Lee and Kalli Kay.



They lived on their farm northeast of Groton. They worked side by side on the farm and enjoyed many weekends at Pickeral Lake with friends and family. They enjoyed snowmobiling, card club, traveling, and were very involved with their children's school activities. In 1982, Paula passed away from cancer. He married Virginia Alexander on December 31, 1987. Ralph retired from farming in 1990 and they moved to reside at Mina Lake. They loved to travel and spent many winters in their motor home traveling throughout the United States. Alaska was one of their favorite vacation destinations having visited multiple times. In 1993, they moved to Chandler, Arizona, where they enjoyed living in a golf community. In 2008, they moved to Spearfish, South Dakota where he resided at the time of his death.

Ralph was very involved with the Northern Electric Cooperative and was recognized for his many years of distinguished service to the rural electrification program in September of 1985. He was a director from 1972-1975. From 1968 - 1984, Ralph was a member of the Groton Farmers Elevator board of directors He was a long-time member of the Groton United Methodist Church.

Ralph was preceded in death by his first wife, Paula, his parents, and his brother, Alfred Leonard.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia; his sister, Mary (Jeff) Loll; children, Tamra (Steve) Ward, Kalli Saland, Gloria (Dick) Pluimer, Gregg (Phyllis) Werger, Ginger Humprey, Gaylene Schwalen; grandchildren, Shaina (John) Rogers, Samantha Saland, Jenna (Matthew) King, Carly Ward, Jack Ward, Angela (Steph) Schukei, Lucas (Sarah) Schukei, Kade Welfl, Peter (Rachael) Pluimer, Chris (Shalan) Pluimer, Ben Pluimer, Boone Werger; great-grandchildren, Tyler Schold, Mason King, Landen Schukei; Nephew, David Loll, Niece, Laura (James) Lovato.

Casket bearers will be Steve Ward, David Loll, Dick Pluimer, Kade Welfl, Peter Pluimer, Gregg Werger, Jeff Howard and Dewayne Docken.

Memorials are preferred to Groton United Methodist Church, 906 North 1st Street, Groton, South Dakota, 57445.

Today in Weather History

February 21, 1918: An amazing warm-up of 83 degrees in just 12 hours at Granville, North Dakota from Chinook winds. The temperature soared from an early morning low of 33 degrees below zero to an afternoon temperature of 50 degrees. Chinook winds are caused by the compression of Pacific air descending the Rockies. Compressing the air causes it to heat up resulting in the dramatic temperature rises.

February 21, 1969: Heavy snow along with winds of 15 to 25 mph caused blowing and drifting snow which closed many roads. Snowfall amounts of 5 to 12 inches were common across eastern South Dakota from the 20th into the 22nd. Some snowfall amounts included, 5 inches at Clear Lake and Brookings, 6 inches at Wilmot, 7 inches at Milbank, Redfield and Mitchell, 8 inches at Conde, 9 inches at Webster, Sioux Falls, and Huron.

1971 – A massive tornado outbreak occurred in the Delta region of northeastern Louisiana and Mississippi. The first major tornado touched down at about 2:50 p.m. in Louisiana and crossed into Mississippi. 46 were killed by this twister, which struck the towns of Dehli and Inverness. 121 people lost their lives that day, including 110 in Mississippi. A total of 1600 people were injured, 900 homes badly damaged or destroyed. The total damage was around 19 million dollars.

1918 - A spectacular chinook wind at Granville, ND, caused the temperature to spurt from a morning low of 33 degrees below zero to an afternoon high of 50 degrees above zero. (David Ludlum)

1935 - Frequent duststorms occurred in eastern Colorado during the month, forcing schools to close and people to stay indoors. A fatality occurred on this date when two section cars collided on the railroad near Arriba CO, due to poor visibility. (The Weather Channel)

1936 - The temperature at Langdon, ND, climbed above zero for the first time in six weeks. Readings never got above freezing during all three winter months. (David Ludlum)

1971 - An outbreak of tornadoes hit northeastern Louisiana and northern and central Mississippi. The tornadoes claimed 121 lives, including 110 in Mississippi. Three tornadoes accounted for 118 of the deaths. There are 1600 persons injured, 900 homes were destroyed or badly damaged, and total damage was 19 million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1971 - Elk City, OK, was buried under 36 inches of snow to establish a 24 hour snowfall record for the state. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Low pressure over central California produced gale force winds along the coast, and produced thunderstorms which pelted Stockton, Oakland and San Jose with small hail. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






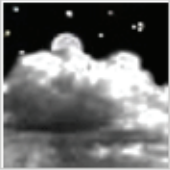

1988 - A storm tracking across southern Canada produced high winds in the north central U.S., with gusted to 90 mph reported at Boulder CO. The high winds snapped trees and power lines, and ripped shingles off roofs. The Kentucky Fried Chicken Bucket was blown off their store in Havre MT. An eighteen foot fiberglass bear was blown off its stand along a store front in west Cody WY, and sailed east into downtown Cody before the owners were able to transport their wandering bear back home in a horse trailer. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing during the morning hours spread severe weather across Georgia and the Carolinas. Strong thunderstorm winds caused one death and thirteen injuries in North Carolina, and another four injuries in South Carolina. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Overnight thunderstorms produced heavy rain in central Texas. Rainfall totals ranged up to 2.80 inches at Camp Verde, with 2.20 inches reported at Leakey. Thunderstorms early in the day produced high winds in southern Texas, with wind gusts to 60 mph reported at Alice. Daytime thunderstorms in eastern Texas drenched Rosenberg with four inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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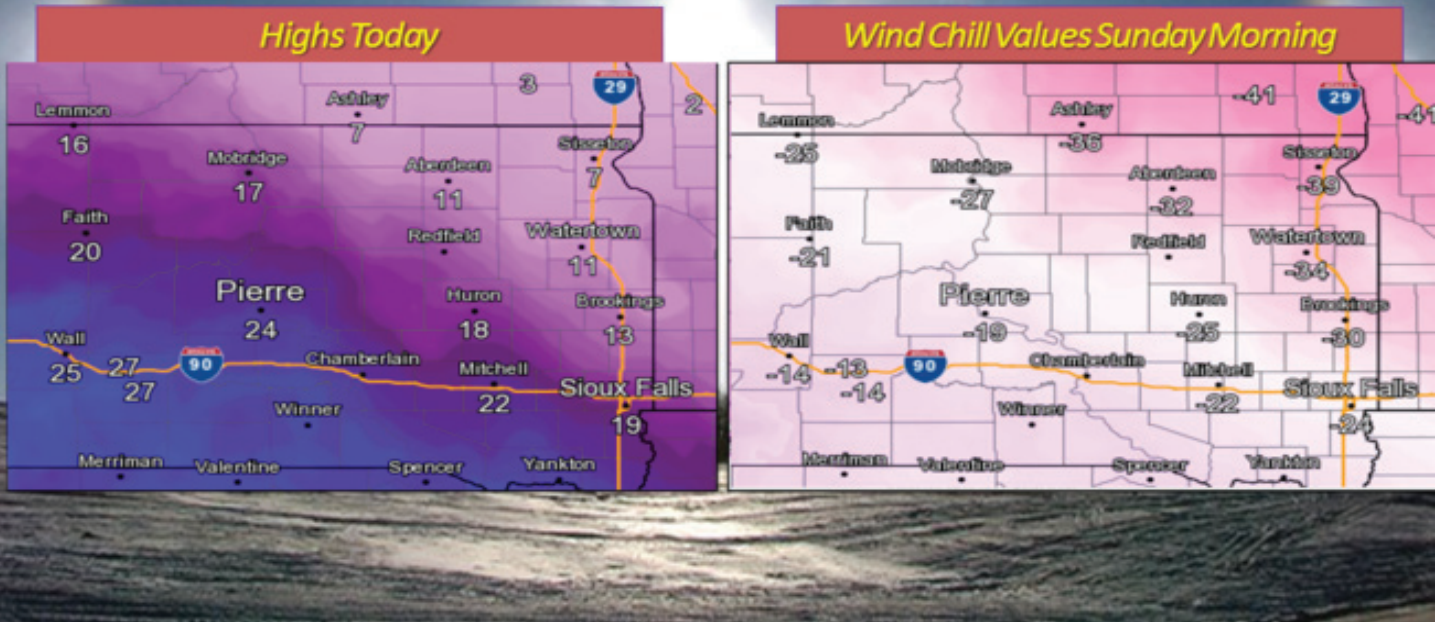
TODAY	TONIGHT	SUNDAY	SUNDAY NIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY
						
Blustery	Mostly Clear	Cold	Mostly Clear	Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 11 °F	Low: -13 °F	High: 3 °F	Low: -10 °F	High: 31 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 29 °F



Bitter Cold on the Way

Wind chill values of 20 below to 40 below zero tonight / Sunday morning

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



Published on: 02/21/2015 at 5:27AM

An arctic air mass will sink southward across the region today through Sunday. This air mass will bring light snow to most of the area through mid-morning before ending. Highs today will range from the single above zero in far northeastern South Dakota, to the mid-20s, in central South Dakota. Lows tonight will range from the single digits below, to the teens below zero. These cold temperatures, in combination with northerly winds of 10 to 15 mph will cause bitterly cold wind chills through Sunday morning.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 33.9 at 3:11 PM

Low: 18.0 at 2:12 AM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 24 at 12:03 AM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 61° in 1977

Record Low: -30° in 1918

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 10°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.35

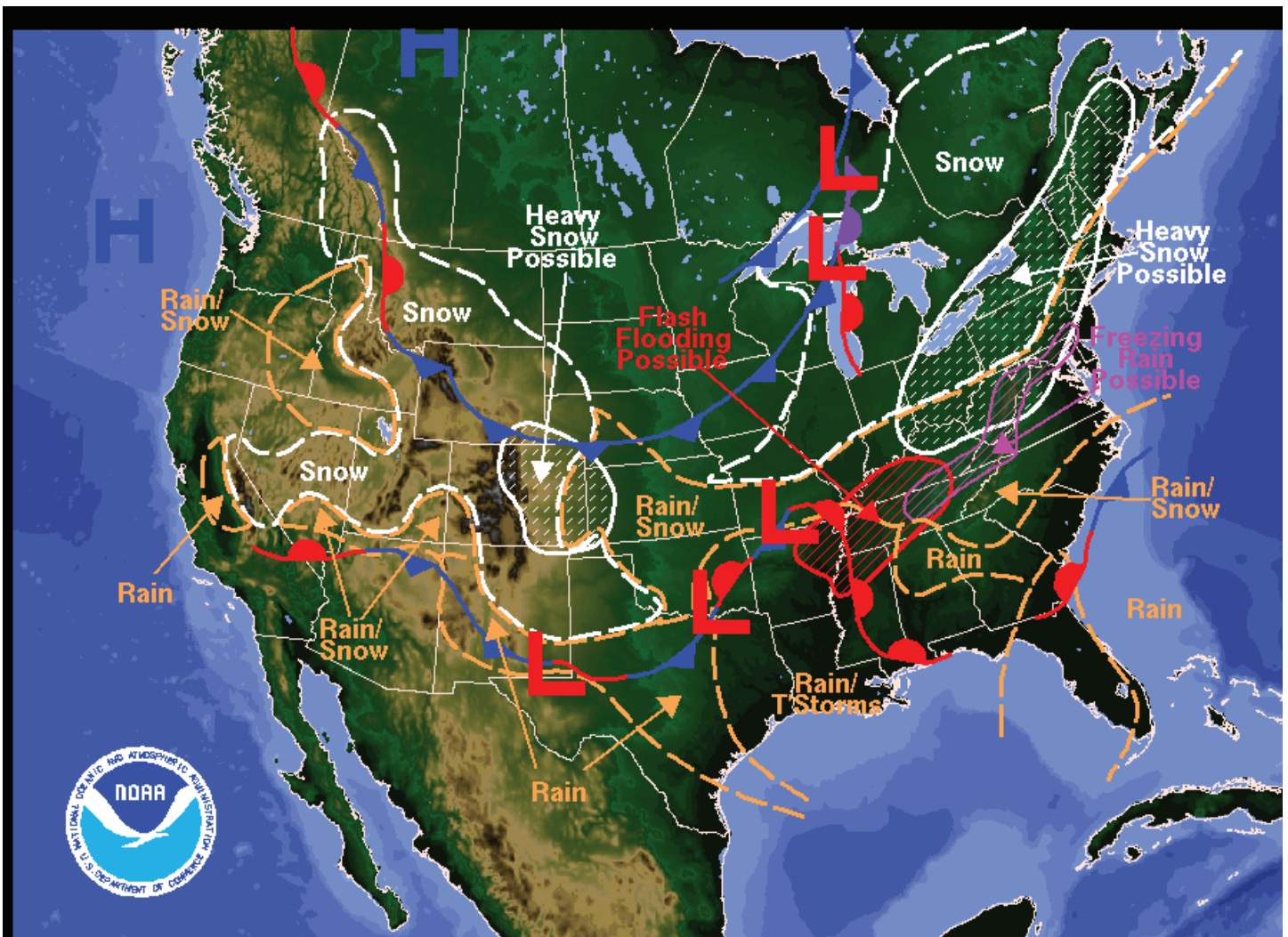
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.82

Precip Year to Date: 0.40

Sunset Tonight: 6:09 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:24 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Feb 21, 2015, issued 4:12 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



HEART DISEASE

Many live marginalized lives when all of us can be blest of God and have His favor. Many look for secrets to His blessings and gifts. Many become angry at those who are enjoying life more than they are and become resentful at two levels: at God for His blessings to others and those who may have more than they do.

God has no secrets and no favorites. All of us have equal access to Him and His word. It is our choice as to whether or not we will take advantage of what He has to offer us. And, furthermore, it is our responsibility – if we choose – to seek his grace and goodness.

But there certainly are conditions. For example: "A man of perverse heart does not prosper, he whose tongue is deceitful falls into trouble." Here is a good starting point: is my heart clean and pure or perverse and deceitful?

God gives one reminder that we must never forget. What is in the heart inevitably comes out of our mouths. There is no way around that God given admonition. Our hearts are the center of our universe and what is in our heart is what we build our lives around; it is what drives us. So, if we bow to and worship money we will do whatever it takes to get it – even if it is a deceitful or perverse mind. The same would go for fame or power or prestige.

If God is not at the center of our heart something else is and that is what we will live and die for. There are many who want to have it both ways: do whatever to get whatever I want and give God his due – whatever we think it might be. That's a perverse and deceitful mind.

Prayer: This day, Lord, is the day of the year when we focus on "hearts." May we look "inside" ours carefully. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 17:20 One whose heart is corrupt does not prosper; one whose tongue is perverse falls into trouble.

News from the Associated Press

Judge allows SD museum to print ads to find guitar donor

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has allowed a South Dakota museum to begin to print ads in a Tennessee newspaper in hopes of finding the donor of a guitar played by Elvis Presley that's now the subject of a custody battle.

Robert A. Johnson has yet to answer a lawsuit filed in July in Sioux Falls by the National Music Museum to settle whether he had the legal right to donate the guitar.

U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier allowed the publication of the ads in the Memphis Daily News at the museum's request. The ads will be notifying Johnson of his obligation to answer the lawsuit.

Johnson's last known address is in Memphis, Tennessee. But in an interview with The Associated Press earlier this month he said he was in Washington state.

South Dakota state parks taking Memorial Day reservations

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Memorial Day reservations for campsites and cabins at South Dakota state parks can be made starting Saturday.

Bookings will be accepting after 7 a.m. Central time through the www.CampSD.com website or by calling 800-710-CAMP (2267).

Saturday is the first day to make arrangements for a May 22 arrival, which is the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. As a holiday weekend, reservations that include any of the dates of May 22-24 require at least a three-night stay.

South Dakota allows campers to make reservations for campsites and cabins as many as 90 days before arrival, though Custer State Park accepts reservations beginning one year out.

National Guard exhibit to offer history of women's uniforms

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota National Guard is celebrating the contribution of women in the U.S. Armed Forces by bringing a military uniform exhibit to college campuses in the state.

The Women's History Month military uniform exhibit will feature service uniforms from several time periods. The free exhibit at several of the state's public universities will offer the history of the uniforms on display and of the women who wore them.

The exhibit begins March 2 at Black Hills State University and wraps up at the South Dakota National Guard Museum in Pierre on April 3.

Friday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Arlington 58, Chester 55

Bennett County 64, Jones County 56

Canton 63, Alcester-Hudson 55

Castlewood 69, Estelline 64

Centerville 72, Canistota 53

Chamberlain 62, McLaughlin 41

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Clark/Willow Lake 83, Webster 26
Colome 60, Dakota Christian 54
Dell Rapids 67, Lennox 59
Dell Rapids St. Mary 58, Baltic 46
Ethan 65, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 51
Faith 68, McIntosh 40
Flandreau Indian 56, Colman-Egan 55
Garretson 61, Sioux Valley 51
Gregory 52, Bon Homme 37
Harding County 75, Lemmon 68
Herreid/Selby Area 65, Leola/Frederick 47
James Valley Christian 71, Wessington Springs 47
Lake Preston 65, Iroquois 39
Langford 47, Warner 45
Lead-Deadwood 42, Custer 36
Lyman 73, Kadoka Area 65
Madison 94, Dakota Valley 76
McCook Central/Montrose 52, West Central 39
Menno 53, Scotland 44
Milbank Area 51, Deuel 44
Pierre 57, Watertown 55
Potter County 53, Highmore-Harrold 33
Rapid City Christian 85, Takini 44
Sioux County, Neb. 64, Edgemont 42
Sisseton 38, Britton-Hecla 36
Spearfish 59, Harrisburg 51
Sully Buttes 41, Faulkton 32
Timber Lake 74, Wakpala 48
Waverly-South Shore 72, Great Plains Lutheran 32
White River 92, New Underwood 51
Wilmot 40, Florence/Henry 33
Winner 66, Mobridge-Pollock 53

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Deubrook 60, Chester 50
Gayville-Volin 63, Bon Homme 49
Groton Area 54, Redfield/Doland 49
Harrisburg 65, Spearfish 44
Lead-Deadwood 55, Custer 50
Madison 54, Dakota Valley 51
McLaughlin 63, Chamberlain 38
Philip 63, White River 30
Rapid City Christian 61, Takini 26
Red Cloud 68, Hot Springs 26
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 54, Sioux Falls Washington 52
Sioux Valley 70, Deuel 34

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Sully Buttes 77, Faulkton 39
Wall 58, Hill City 50
Watertown 48, Mitchell 40
Winner 66, Mobridge-Pollock 32
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS
Huron vs. Brookings, ppd. to Feb 21.

'Siberian Express' in eastern US continues into next week

The Associated Press

The deep freeze that broke records in hundreds of cities across the eastern half of the United States on Friday will last most of next week.

Another widespread round of ice, snow or freezing rain is set to start falling Saturday from Missouri to the mid-Atlantic and as far south as Alabama and Georgia.

"Higher amounts over the next two days will probably be across southern Indiana and Illinois and eastward through Ohio into western Pennsylvania," said Bruce Sullivan, a senior meteorologist with the National Weather Service. "That's where it looks like the jackpot will be."

But even before the latest snowstorm, residents had to deal with school cancellations, power outages, road hazards and water main breaks from the punishing cold.

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

SIBERIAN EXPRESS?

"Polar vortex" is so last year. Forecasters are calling the record-setting bout of icy air the "Siberian Express" because winds coming from Russia are traveling over the Arctic Circle and pushing into Canada and the United States.

"We can almost show the trajectory from Siberia all the way to the U.S.," Sullivan said, noting meteorologists began using the term long ago.

Despite being the buzzword of winter 2014, polar vortex also has been used for decades in meteorology. It is a pocket of very cold air that typically swirls around the North Pole.

"Sometimes little pieces break off," Sullivan said. That has also happened this week, meaning a frosty one-two punch.

NASA SHIVERS

Schools in Alabama sent students home early and NASA shut down its Huntsville facility Friday as a storm began unloading ice, sleet and snow.

The weather service said roads were impassable in at least seven counties.

Dozens of school systems dismissed students early or canceled classes altogether. NASA closed early at its Marshall Space Flight Center because of deteriorating road conditions.

Huntsville and the rest of the state's northeastern corner is under a winter storm warning through early Saturday, and forecasters say much of northern Alabama and Georgia could get snow and sleet, including metro Atlanta.

BONE-CHILLING AND RECORD-BREAKING

Bitter cold temperatures have shattered decades-old records from Cincinnati to Washington to New York.

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The National Weather Service said the low Friday got down to 6 degrees at Reagan National Airport, just across the Potomac River from Washington. At Baltimore's airport, the temperature dipped to a record low 2 degrees.

In western Pennsylvania, temperatures dipped to minus 18 in New Castle, minus 15 in Butler and 6 below zero in Pittsburgh — all records.

Records also were set at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey (1 degree); Trenton, N.J. (zero degrees); New York's Central Park (2 degrees); and Cincinnati (12 degrees below zero).

FROZEN FERRIES

A Boston-bound commuter ferry carrying more than 100 passengers had trouble steering in the ice and had to be towed to port.

The ferry Massachusetts departed Hingham at about 8:30 a.m. Friday right behind an ice breaker, said Alison Nolan, an official with Boston Harbor Cruises. After the ferry went off course, the ice breaker towed it to Boston, arriving about 45 minutes later than normal. No one was hurt and the boat was not damaged.

Ferry service was canceled elsewhere in the Northeast. The Cape May-Lewes Ferry, which connects Delaware and New Jersey, halted operations because of ice and wind. Ferries on New York's East River also were canceled.

BUSTED PIPES

A 12-inch water main break in the Rhode Island town of Johnston, which interrupted service to about 1,000 customers, took about 16 hours for crews to repair. They battled through snow and frozen ground in below-zero temperatures to get to the broken pipe after using leak detection equipment to pinpoint the exact location.

And after a 6-inch water main broke in Rutland, Vermont, and workers "braved the elements and were willing to get soaked to the skin" in brutally cold temperatures to fix it, the city's Public Works Department declared: "Mission accomplished" on its Facebook page. The Friday morning break in the city of some 16,000 residents spilled water onto the streets for hours, contributing to icy driving conditions.

ANOTHER KIND OF ISLAND LIVING

The Virginia National Guard flew in food, medicine and mail to an ice-bound fishing and tourism outpost in the middle of Chesapeake Bay, 14 miles from the mainland.

The mayor of Tangier Island, Mayor James "Ooker" Eskridge, played down its plight but said medicines were essential for those who could not get off the island. Tangier has no drugstore.

"But you know, we're not starving out here," he said. "This happens when you live in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay."

NIAGARA FALLS SPECTACLE DRAWS TOURISTS

The deep freeze transformed Niagara Falls into an icy spectacle, encasing the trees around it into crystal shells and drawing tourists who are braving below-zero temperatures.

The Niagara River is flowing below the ice cover, so the falls aren't completely frozen.

But days of subzero temperatures have created a thick coating of ice and snow on every surface near the falls, including railings, trees and boulders. The massive ice buildup has become a tourist magnet.

House committee reviews religious freedom court standard

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The fate of a measure to create a state-level standard for courts to use when considering whether the government has infringed upon South Dakotan's religious beliefs will likely get decided next week.

The House State Affairs Committee on Friday reviewed the plan, which the Department of Corrections and Board of Regents opposed. House Majority Leader Brian Gosch said the proposal would likely get a vote on Tuesday.

Rep. Scott Craig, a Republican from Rapid City, said his proposal puts in place a standard that matches federal law for courts considering claims that the government has infringed upon a person's ability to practice their religious beliefs. He said the bill would require that if a court finds a compelling reason to force somebody to go against their religion, it would be required to use the least restrictive means possible.

"We don't have in South Dakota law something that tells them: If you're going to force me to do something against my conscience, man, it's got to be as small as you can make it," Scott said.

Concerns about the proposal's potential effects appeared alarmist, Scott said.

Opponents argued that the proposal is poorly written and overly broad. Pat Pardy, an attorney with the state Department of Corrections, said it would put a significant burden on state and local governments to defend against claims of religious infringement at the expense of taxpayers.

Pardy said people could claim paying taxes was a burden they should be exempted from for religious reasons.

"It's a litigation machine is what it is," Pardy said. "It becomes a weapon more than a tool that protects freedom."

House panel passes plan allowing unilateral no-fault divorce

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A measure to allow unilateral no-fault divorce in South Dakota that's aimed at helping domestic violence victims escape abusive marriages narrowly passed a legislative committee on Friday.

The House Judiciary Committee voted 7-5 to approve the plan against the protests of opponents who said lawmakers shouldn't make it easier to get a divorce in the state.

Democratic Rep. Ray Ring, of Vermillion, said his measure would allow one spouse to get a divorce without the consent of the other spouse. South Dakota and Mississippi are the only states where unilateral no-fault divorce isn't available, said Roger Baron, a law professor at the University of South Dakota.

But Ring said the proposal is specifically aimed at addressing domestic abuse and that he would likely try to narrow the scope of the bill for the House floor vote.

Kristian Ellendorf, a law student at the University of South Dakota who testified, said she has been in a physically abusive relationship and was speaking for another victim who died as a result of abuse from her husband.

"The laws as they are today are completely failing us," Ellendorf said after the hearing, noting she was not married to her abuser.

She said current law requires domestic violence victims to testify in court if their spouses won't agree to a divorce. She said she wouldn't be able to talk about the violence she endured if her abuser was in the room during the testimony.

Ellendorf said she was able to start on her path of escaping the abuse after joining the Army National Guard.

Rep. Roger Hunt, a Republican from Brandon, said he's concerned that the bill isn't limited to violent situations. He said it would open up unilateral no-fault divorce to anyone in the state.

"When we make it easier for people to get divorced, we're weakening our society," Hunt said.

Avera to manage cancer program focused on Native Americans

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Avera Health will now handle a research program that for years has worked to improve cancer cure rates and treatment among South Dakota's Native American population through access to clinical trials, palliative care and screening for colorectal, cervical, breast and prostate cancer.

The announcement regarding the transfer of the 12-year Walking Forward program from Rapid City Regional Hospital to Avera came Friday in Sioux Falls. The program assists Native Americans who live in Rapid City and surrounding communities as well as the Pine Ridge, Rosebud and Cheyenne River Reservations.

The program was created to address the disparities in cancer care and prevention between Natives and non-Natives living in the Northern Plains, said Dr. Daniel Petereit, a radiation oncologist and the program's principal investigator.

"Cancer for cancer, American Indians present with more advanced stages of disease, and therefore, experience lower cure rates," Petereit said. "There are barriers that exist through lack of information or cultural difference that prevent individuals from getting preventable screening or from seeing the doctors soon after they notice a suspicious symptom such as a lump in the breast or persistent cough."

The program has enrolled at least 4,000 Native Americans in clinical studies — the highest percentage of American Indians to participate in clinical trials in the U.S., according to the National Cancer Institute.

Petereit will continue to practice at Regional Hospital, but will work with Avera specifically on this program. The decision to move the program was primarily based on the access that participants will have to Avera's growing molecular and experimental medicine program at the hospital's cancer center in Sioux Falls. Both health systems, however, will collaborate on the treatment of patients.

The program's most recent project focuses on smoking cessation with the ultimate goal of preventing lung cancer deaths. The project provides cellphones to participants who then receive tailored text messages, as well pre- and post-cessation counseling, and nicotine replacement therapy.

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show 21.8 percent of American Indian and Alaska Natives smoked cigarettes in 2012, compared with 18.1 percent of U.S. adults overall. In the Northern Plains, where the average age of smoking a first cigarette is 14, the rate increases to 44 percent among Native Americans.

Avera will now handle the \$1.8 million grant from the National Cancer Institute that the program has received for the smoking cessation project. The study hopes to enroll up to 256 individuals interested in quitting smoking who live in Rosebud, Pine Ridge and Rapid City. About 140 people are currently enrolled.

Federal Highway Trust Fund spending for SD down 10 percent

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Federal funding has fallen, but South Dakota lawmakers are debating a plan to increase state spending on roads and bridges.

Figures compiled by The Associated Press show total per-capita spending available to the state from

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the Federal Highway Trust Fund declined 10 percent in the five years before 2013, the latest year for which numbers were available.

The fund provided \$278.9 million to South Dakota in 2013, or \$330 per person — well over twice the \$126 per capita national average.

The legislative plan advanced by Gov. Dennis Daugaard would increase state spending on roads and bridges roughly \$50 million in its first year through fuel taxes, fees and other assessments.

The Senate has passed its version and a House committee plans to vote on its version Tuesday.

Police identify body of 57-year-old man found in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police have identified a 57-year-old man who they say was killed this week.

Police say they found the body of Rapid City resident Farrel Phelps around 12:20 a.m. Thursday morning.

Anthony 'Tayshawn' Moses Smith, of Rapid City, was charged with second-degree murder Thursday evening.

Officers responded to a report of a disturbance shortly after midnight at a home on Signal Drive and found Phelps' body inside. Authorities say Phelps and Smith both lived at 50 Signal Drive.

Preliminary autopsy results indicate that Phelps died of blunt force trauma to the head.

Meeting to hear concerns of compound's water request delayed

PRINGLE, S.D. (AP) — A hearing to address concerns over a religious group's request to triple the amount of water it can use at its Black Hills compound has been postponed.

The state Water Management Board was scheduled to discuss the request from the United Order of South Dakota at its March 5 meeting. An adjacent landowner has requested the meeting be delayed until the board's following meeting in May.

The brother of imprisoned polygamous sect leader Warren Jeffs is seeking the state permit to increase the amount of water the compound near Pringle may draw from the Madison aquifer. Seth Jeffs has declined to say why the compound needs more water.

Several area landowners and two federal agencies are petitioning the state to deny or alter the group's request.

Cold weather forecast to return to the Dakotas this weekend

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Dakotas are getting a brief break from bitter cold before it settles in again for the weekend.

High temperatures Friday were forecast to reach from the teens in northeastern North Dakota to the 40s throughout much of South Dakota.

The warm spell is just a few days after overnight temperatures plunged to as low as minus 40 degrees in the northeastern North Dakota city of Grand Forks.

The National Weather Service forecast calls for a return to colder weather this weekend. Highs in northeastern North Dakota are not expected to rise above 10 degrees below zero. Northeastern South Dakota also could see high temperatures below zero on Sunday.

AP News in Brief

In first trip abroad as Pentagon chief, Carter visits Afghanistan to meet with US commanders

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter made his international debut Saturday with a visit to Afghanistan to see American troops and commanders, meet with Afghan leaders and assess whether U.S. withdrawal plans are too risky to Afghan security.

"We're looking for success in Afghanistan that is lasting," Carter told reporters traveling with him on his first trip since being sworn in as Pentagon chief on Tuesday.

Carter, an experienced defense strategist, revealed little about his thinking on current trends and future prospects for Afghanistan, saying he was using his trip to gather information that will enable him to formulate advice for President Barack Obama. Consulting is his way of "getting my own thinking together," he said.

Carter is Obama's fourth Pentagon chief. He served as the Pentagon's No. 2 official earlier in Obama's tenure and is seen as a technocrat largely untested on the international stage.

Afghanistan's security forces have improved greatly, but the country is still struggling with a resilient insurgency 13 years after U.S. troops invaded and toppled the Taliban regime. Many Afghans worry that Obama is risking an Iraq-like relapse in security by cutting American troop totals in half this year, from the current 10,000, and ending the military mission entirely at the end of 2016.

High-rise tower in Dubai's Marina district catches fire, no reports of casualties

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — One of the world's tallest residential towers caught fire early Saturday in Dubai's Marina district, sending bright yellow flames several stories high, but there were no reports of casualties, civil defense officials said.

The fire broke out at about 2 a.m. in the 86-story Torch tower on the northeast end of the densely populated district, which is packed with multi-story skyscrapers. High winds whipped through the area and debris from the fire cluttered nearby streets after the blaze appeared to be extinguished.

The civil defense officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said there were no reports of deaths or injuries.

The cause of the fire was not immediately clear.

The Marina area is home to dozens of towering apartment blocks and hotels, many of them built over the past decade. The apartments are popular with Dubai's large number of expatriate professionals.

Few veterans make appointments for private medical care under VA's new 'choice card' program

WASHINGTON (AP) — Far fewer veterans than expected are taking advantage of a new law aimed at making it easier for them to get private health care and avoid the long waits that have plagued Department of Veterans Affairs facilities nationwide.

Only 27,000 veterans have made appointments for private medical care since the VA started mailing out "Choice Cards" in November, the VA said in a report to Congress this month. The number is so small, compared to the 8.6 million cards that have been mailed out, that VA Secretary Robert McDonald wants authority to redirect some of the \$10 billion Congress allocated for the program to boost care for

veterans at the VA's 970 hospitals and clinics.

Republicans and Democrats insist the problem is the department and that it needs to do a better job promoting the choice program. They also want to change a quirk in the law that makes it hard for some veterans in rural areas to prove they live at least 40 miles from a VA health site.

The government measures the distance as the crow flies, rather than by driving miles, leaving thousands of veterans ineligible.

"Veterans put their lives on the line to defend this country. The very least we can do is ensure they don't have to jump through hoops to receive the care they need and have earned," said Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., whose vast state has just one VA hospital.

Former Yemen president flees capital after international pressure on Shiite rebels to free him

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Yemen's former president left the capital after Shiite rebels who surrounded his house let him go under international and local pressure, aides close to him said Saturday.

The aides said former President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi left Sanaa and later arrived in Aden. They say Hadi later plans to leave the country to receive medical treatment.

Hadi has been under house arrest for several weeks following a coup by Shiite Houthi rebels. The rebels earlier captured the capital, Sanaa, in September.

The aides say the rebels let Hadi go after pressure from the United Nations, the U.S., Russia and local political parties.

The aides spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to speak to journalists.

Mike Huckabee's task for 2016: Capitalizing on cultural conservatives, but reaching beyond

WOODSTOCK, Ga. (AP) — Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee travels the country in a bus adorned with his smiling face and the cover of his latest book. But the ordained Baptist minister and potential 2016 presidential candidate makes it clear that he's interested in more than best-seller lists.

"I think everyone understands where this is headed," Huckabee said after signing books in metro Atlanta. After all, he joked, he didn't recently leave his own Fox News Channel show "because I want to spend Saturdays at home."

No, Mike Huckabee wants to spend his time in the Oval Office.

The man who won the Iowa caucuses and seven other states in 2008 has reassembled key players from his first presidential campaign. They're working at his not-for-profit organization, America Takes Action, poised to transition from exploring a run to a formal campaign. He's spent months courting potential donors and mixing speaking engagements into his book tour. Huckabee, 59, told The Associated Press he expects to decide in April or May.

Along the way, he's fine-tuned his pitch for aggressive foreign policy, economic populism and social-conservative orthodoxy, a mix designed to attract Republican primary voters as well as independents in a general election. But this time, he's carefully ordered those priorities.

Denmark shootings highlight links between gangs and Islamic extremists

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — The shooting spree in Copenhagen by a radicalized former gang member has highlighted an overlap between Islamic extremists and the criminal underworld.

Danish police say gang members with Muslim backgrounds are being radicalized both in prison and outside, and some have joined the ranks of foreign fighters in Syria.

"We know that some of the fundamentalist groups are fishing in that pond," said Michael Ask, head of Denmark's National Center of Investigation. "Because they know that they have some young people who are vulnerable and rootless, who lack a sense of belonging, a community."

Born in Denmark to Palestinian parents, Omar Abdel Hamid El-Hussein had a long history of violence and crime before he went on a rampage last weekend, killing two people and wounding five in attacks on a free-speech event and a synagogue.

The 22-year-old, who was killed in a shootout with police, had been member of "Brothas," an inner-city immigrant gang in Copenhagen, but was reportedly kicked out because of his temper.

Police report raises questions whether killing of Las Vegas mom stemmed from road rage

LAS VEGAS (AP) — It initially sounded like horrific fatal road rage: A Las Vegas mother of four who just finished giving her 15-year-old daughter a driving lesson followed by a driver they encountered on their way home, shot to death in front of their house.

But a police report released Friday gave a more detailed account of the late Feb. 12 incident, and raised new questions about whether the slaying of 44-year-old Tammy Meyers was truly a case of road rage or a neighborhood dispute that spiraled out of control.

The suspected gunman turned out to be a 19-year-old, who lived less than a block away and attended a nearby high school with two of Tammy Meyers' sons in 2011-2012.

Meyers' husband, Robert Meyers, said his wife even tried to counsel Erich Milton Nowsch Jr. after his father committed suicide five years ago.

Nowsch wasn't driving, and didn't tell his friends he was angry about a traffic encounter. He said he thought someone was after him, according to the police report.

French minister asks Google, Facebook, Twitter to work directly with France's government

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The French interior minister said he asked Google, Facebook and Twitter to work directly with French officials during investigations and to immediately remove terrorist propaganda when authorities alert them to it.

"We emphasized that when an investigation is underway we don't want to go through the usual government to government channels, which can take so long," French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said after a meeting Friday with representatives from the U.S. tech giants.

"It's important to have full cooperation and quick reaction" he added.

Cazeneuve's one-day visit to San Francisco and Silicon Valley comes weeks after terrorist attacks in Paris left 20 people dead, including three gunmen.

On Jan. 7, two gunmen killed 12 people and injured 11 more during an attack on the satirical news-

paper Charlie Hebdo in Paris. A third gunman killed a policewoman Jan. 8 and then killed four more people a day later after taking hostages at a kosher supermarket in Paris. Police killed the three gunmen.

50th anniversary observance of Malcolm X death to be held at New York site where he was killed

NEW YORK (AP) — Activists, actors, and politicians will remember civil rights leader Malcolm X with a ceremony at the New York site in Harlem where he was killed 50 years ago.

About 300 people are expected to hear remarks Saturday from one of Malcolm X's six daughters, Ilyasah Shabazz, as well as U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel and other elected officials.

The ceremony is being held at the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in Harlem, formerly known as the Audubon Ballroom. Malcolm X was shot to death there Feb. 21, 1965, as he was preparing to address several hundred of his followers.

By the time he died, the Muslim leader had moderated his militant message of black separatism and pride but was still very much a passionate advocate of black unity, self-respect and self-reliance. Three members of the Nation of Islam were convicted of murder in his death. He had repudiated the Nation of Islam less than a year earlier.

In an interview with The Associated Press on the eve of the anniversary observance, Ilyasah Shabazz said she was pleased that the site is now a place for people to get a sense of empowerment.

Hollywood superstars flock to Tom Ford as designer and director stages rare LA show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood took its collective gaze off itself and shifted it to fashion Friday night as designer and director Tom Ford staged an eye-popping show rivaled by the starry makeup of the audience.

In a display of celebrity that gave a hint at what is to come on Sunday's Oscar red carpet, the staging of Ford's autumn/winter womenswear collection drew superstars from every genre: There was Beyonce and Jay Z, Jennifer Lopez, Anna Wintour, Gwyneth Paltrow, Scarlett Johansson, Amy Adams, Julianne Moore, Elton John, Aaron Rogers with girlfriend Olivia Munn, Magic Johnson, Naomi Campbell . and that was just for starters.

"It was beautiful and it was so nice that he brought his presentation to Los Angeles because he has so many fans here and he's about to start his next movie and we're just thrilled to have him as part of our community," Reese Witherspoon told The Associated Press after the show.

The Oscar-winner, up for another on Sunday for "Wild," added: "He's a huge part of Hollywood and it influences fashion, and fashion influences Hollywood so it's great to have someone of his stature in the fashion world presenting."

Ford, a fashion titan who made his directorial debut in 2009 with the film "A Single Man," hadn't done a show in Los Angeles before; he normally shows in London during their fashion week but decided to present in the city he calls home. It was his first show for his own label (he used to be the chief designer for Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent).

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Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2015. There are 313 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 21, 1965, black Muslim leader and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam. (Three men - Talmadge X. Hayer, Norman 3X Butler and Thomas 15X Johnson - were convicted of murder and imprisoned; all three were eventually paroled.)

On this date:

In 1437, James I, King of Scots, was assassinated; his 6-year-old son succeeded him as James II.

In 1513, Pope Julius II, who'd commissioned Michelangelo to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, died nearly four months after the project was completed.

In 1613, Mikhail Romanov, 16, was unanimously chosen by Russia's national assembly to be czar, beginning a dynasty that would last three centuries.

In 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

In 1912, the Great Fifth Ward Fire broke out in Houston, Texas; although property losses topped \$3 million, no one was killed in the blaze.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France as German forces attacked; the French were able to prevail after 10 months of fighting.

In 1945, during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, the escort carrier USS Bismarck Sea was sunk by kamikazes with the loss of 318 men.

In 1964, the first shipment of U.S. wheat purchased by the Soviet Union arrived in the port of Odessa.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Beijing.

In 1975, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 1/2 to 8 years prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up (each ended up serving a year and a-half).

In 1989, the future president of Czechoslovakia, playwright Vaclav Havel (VATS'-lahv HAH'-vel), was convicted for his role in a banned rally and sentenced to nine months in jail (he was released in May 1989).

In 1995, Chicago adventurer Steve Fossett became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean by balloon, landing in Leader, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, in Belgium for a NATO summit, scolded Russia for backsliding on democracy and urged Mideast allies to take difficult steps for peace. Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton wrapped up their tour of tsunami-ravaged nations with a visit to the Maldives. Israel freed 500 Palestinian prisoners in a goodwill gesture.

Five years ago: A mistaken U.S. missile attack killed 23 civilians in Afghanistan. (Four American officers were later reprimanded.) The United States stunned Canada 5-3 to advance to the Olympic men's hockey quarterfinals in Vancouver. Bode (BOH'-dee) Miller finally captured his elusive gold medal, winning the super-combined for his third medal in three events. Spectator Susan Zimmer, 52, was killed at the NHRA Arizona Nationals at Firebird International Raceway in Chandler when a tire flew off a crashing dragster and struck her.

One year ago: President Barack Obama granted an audience to Tibet's Dalai Lama over the strong objections from China that the U.S. was meddling in its affairs. Matteo Renzi formed a coalition govern-

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ment in Italy; at 39, he became the country's youngest premier ever. At age 18, Mikaela Shiffrin of the U.S. made Alpine skiing history as the youngest ever winner of an Olympic slalom gold medal, finishing 0.53 seconds faster than Austrian Marlies Schild.

Today's Birthdays: Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is 91. Fashion designer Hubert de Givenchy is 88. Movie director Bob Rafelson is 82. Actor Gary Lockwood is 78. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 76. Actor Peter McEnery is 75. U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., is 75. Film/music company executive David Geffen is 72. Actor Alan Rickman is 69. Actress Tyne Daly is 69. Actor Anthony Daniels is 69. Tricia Nixon Cox is 69. Former Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 68. Rock musician Jerry Harrison (The Heads) is 66. Actress Christine Ebersole is 62. Actor William Petersen is 62. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 60. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 57. Actor Kim Coates (TV: "Sons of Anarchy") is 57. Actor Jack Coleman is 57. Actor Christopher Atkins is 54. Rock singer Ranking Roger is 54. Actor William Baldwin is 52. Rock musician Michael Ward is 48. Actress Aunjanue Ellis is 46. Blues musician Corey Harris is 46. Country singer Eric Heatherly is 45. Rock musician Eric Wilson is 45. Rock musician Tad Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 42. Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt is 36. Singer Charlotte Church is 29. Actress Ashley Greene is 28. Actress Ellen Page is 28. Actor Corbin Bleu is 26. Actress Hayley Orrantia (TV: "The Goldbergs") is 21. Actress Sophie Turner (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 19.

Thought for Today: "You owe it to us all to get on with what you're good at." - W.H. Auden, Anglo-American poet (born this date in 1907, died 1973).