

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 1 of 31

- 1- Groton Chiropractic ad
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Annual Dunker Christmas Party
- 2- ABC Meeting
- 2- Doug Abeln Seed New Years Ad
- 2- Dakota Brush New Years Ad
- 3- Krueger wins calf contest
- 3- Full Circle Ag New Years Ad
- 3- Golden Living Center New Years Ad
- 4- Third Ballot Measure Certified
- 4- Hanlon Brothers New Years Ad
- 4- Harr Motors New Years Ad
- 5- Schwan's to give to SD Destination Imagination
- 6 - Today in Weather History
- 6- City Dog License Ad
- 7- Local Weather Forecast
- 8- National Weather Map
- 8- Local Weather
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 9- Olde Bank Floral Ad
- 10 - News from the Associated Press

Tuesday, December 29

No School

Senior Menu: Roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, squash, molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Adam Herman, Barbara Stauch • Connie Stauch • Nicole Osterman • Delbert Hinkelman • Brady Keith • Melissa Locke
10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 30

No School

Senior Menu: Hearty vegetable beef soup, chicken salad sandwich, mandarin oranges, oatmeal raisin cookie.

Birthdays: Alec Oleson, Alex Graf, Breslyn Hinman
7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study
12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

Thursday, December 31

No School

New Year's Eve

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, frosted brownie, whole wheat bread.

Anniversaries: Paul & Tina Kosel, Jake & Tiffany Unzen, Ralph & Virginia Breitzkreutz

Birthdays: Jill Cutler • Braiden Craig • Brian Koens

Friday, January 1, 2016

No School

New Year's Day

Anniv: Kevin & Sharolyn Jondahl

Birthdays: Lauren Harrison, Patricia Larson, Stephen Duncan, Tyler Kolb.

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 2 of 31

Annual Dunker Christmas Party

The annual Dunker Christmas party was held on Dec. 26, 2015, at the Groton American Legion Club Room. Members of the Sager family served as hosts for the evening.

The 38 family members who attended were Gordon and Dorene Nelson, Groton, SD; JoAnn Russ, Pueblo, CO; Gary and Carmel Willett and Nicholas, Carver, MN; Corey and Brenda Nelson, Hope and Isaac, Rochester, MN; and Christopher Willett and Cassie Kanzenbach, Coon Rapids, MN (Hazel Sager family); Mick and Carol Osterman, Groton, SD (Inez Knickrehm family); Francis and Phyllis Halvorson, Aberdeen; Ralph and Jan Borge, Aberdeen, SD; (Evelyn Clausen family); Carol Dunker, Aberdeen, SD; Darlyne Johnson, Stratford, SD; Buzz and Linda Anderson, Eagan, MN; Chad and Beth Winterfeldt and Quentin, St. Peter, MN; Joshua and Ann Lies, Washington, D. C.; and Reid Johnson, Groton, SD; (Ray Dunker family); Sandy Strom, Groton, SD; Nancy Larsen, Groton, SD; Steve and Betty Dunker, Groton, SD; and Terry and Susan Ellingson, Aberdeen, SD (Dale Dunker family); and Max and Heidi Williams, Brentford, SD; and Jenna Williams and Jack, Warner, SD (Millie Williams family).

Following a potluck dinner, Dorene Nelson served as the MC for the program, and JoAnn Russ provided the musical accompaniment for the Christmas carols. JoAnn Russ and Carmel Willett presented additional entertainment with a Dunker family history quiz. Up-to-date information was presented by the family members present.

ABC Meeting

The Adult Birthday Club met in Groton for the month of December with Marian Raines as hostess. Prizes were awarded to Ruby Donovan, Darlene Fischer and Lorraine Sippel. The honors were awarded to Ruby Donovan and everyone received a crocheted hot pad. The guests were Ruby Donovan and Penny Stolle. The January 5 meeting will be held at the Dairy Queen at 1 p.m. with Ella Johnson as hostess.



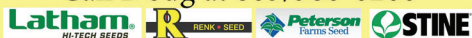
**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

**Enjoy The New
Year of 2016!**

This year is a new chance, to start over, make mistakes, love new people, and try harder not to take life for granted because you don't know how long you'll have it.

Doug Abeln Seed Company

Call Doug at 605/380-0200



Don't weep for yesterday
it is over. Smile from your
heart, for God has given
you a brand new year.
Make the most of it.

Happy New Year!



TOPPER TASTAD
DAKOTA BRUSH
FedEx & SpeeDee Shipping
104 N Main Street
397-9337 or Cell 397-7337

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 3 of 31



Liza Krueger won the name the calf contest at Professional Management Services. She chose the name "Black Cheeto." Thanks to all the kids that entered, there were some unique names.

*Happy
New Year*

Wishing you and your loved ones peace, health, happiness and prosperity in the coming New Year.



Lance Frohling
Groton Location Manager
605-397-2671
frohlingl@fullcircleag.com



*Happy New Year to our dear friends.
The staff and residents of the
Golden Living Center in Groton
wish the new year brings you
lots of happiness and joy.
May God shower His abundant blessings
upon you all year round.*

Happy New Year!

golden
living

1106 N 2nd St.
(605) 397-2365
Physical Therapy
Services Also Available

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 4 of 31

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs Certifies Third Ballot Measure

Pierre, SD – Today, Secretary of State Shantel Krebs announced that an Initiated Measure To Set A Maximum Finance Charge for Certain Lenders (36% rate cap) was validated and certified to be on the November 2016 general election ballot as a ballot measure the citizens will vote on. The sponsor turned in 19,936 signatures to the Secretary of state's office. An initiated measure requires a minimum of 13,871 signatures from South Dakota registered voters. Once the signatures were delivered to the Secretary of State's office, a 5% random sampling was conducted. It was determined that 86.4% or 17,222 of 19,936 signatures were in good standing. This will be Initiated Measure 21.

Secretary Krebs stated that "South Dakota has a long and rich history of citizens taking issues directly to the voters. After serving 10 years in the legislature it is an enjoyable role for me to act as an impartial official in the initiated measure process and ensure that the citizens of South Dakota have a chance to voice their concern in regards to the ballot measures that meet the signature threshold."

This is the third initiated measure to be approved by Secretary of State. A total of 8 measures were submitted for review. This office will continue the signature validation process of the remaining 5 measures in the order they were submitted to the Secretary of State. A total of 275,000 signatures were submitted among all petitions.



**HERE'S TO THE BRIGHT NEW YEAR,
AND A FOND FAREWELL TO THE
OLD; HERE'S TO THE THINGS THAT
ARE YET TO COME, AND TO THE
MEMORIES THAT WE HOLD.**

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



The road to the future leads to Harr Motors in Aberdeen. We strive to give you the best service and we look forward to serving you in 2016. Happy New Year!



www.harrmotors.com ~ 605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 5 of 31

Here is how the Schwan's fundraiser works.

Customers phone in the order or order online
They use the code. 25179

If they regularly order online they are asked if they want to contribute to a fundraiser

That is when they put the code in.

Between Dec 2 and Jan 16, we will earn 20% of sales
If a customer orders an ecertificate-and online gift card we get \$10 for the \$25 ecertificate.

When you get an ecertificate, you can go in and purchase right away or you can print it out
if you want to give it as a gift or save it for later.

Customers are limited to one ecertificate...BUT if you use an alternate email address you can purchase more than one

If you are not a regular Schwan's customer, when you place your order they will tell you what day
And approximate (2 hour) time they plan to deliver.

You can be a one time customer and support us.

If you order online you must give them a credit card number, however you can switch payment at the door.

It took me a few fundraisers to realize that if I purchase during the first 45 days I contribute 20% and save my ecertificates for after the Jan 16 date, duh! Before that I was purchasing ecertificates and using them right away.

Our greatest income will be during this 45 day period.
After that we will earn 5% until April 16.

Schwan's
Cares™
A Fundraising Network



Support Us

*Giving back to your community
never tasted so delicious.*

Schwan's Home Delivery offers over 350 delicious foods, flash-frozen at the peak of freshness and conveniently delivered to your door. Through Schwans-Cares.com, you can order from Schwan's Home Delivery and help our organization meet its fundraising goals. When you order by **January 16th, 2016**, 20% of product and 40% of eGift Card sales will go back to the organization.

Here are two ways to support us!

Order Online:

1. Visit Schwans-Cares.com
2. Enter Campaign ID: **25179** into the search box located in the upper right hand corner then click to open campaign.
3. Click "Shop to Give" and then select either the "Buy Now" or "Shop Now" option.
4. Select team member, if applicable
5. Start shopping!

Order by Phone:

Call 1-855-870-7208 and provide Campaign ID: **25179**

Thank you for your support!

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Shop online at Schwans-Cares.com
or call 1-855-870-7208



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 6 of 31

Today in Weather History

December 29, 2005: Heavy snow of 6 to 14 inches fell across parts of north central and most of northeast South Dakota from the morning of the 29th through the early afternoon of the 30th, with 7 to 8 inches of snow across Big Stone and Traverse counties in west central Minnesota from the evening of the 29th through the early afternoon of the 30th. Light rain and freezing rain fell before the snow, creating some slick roads which resulted in some accidents. Some snowfall amounts included 7 inches at Watertown, Big Stone City, and Artichoke Lake; 8 inches at Waubay, Browns Valley, and Wheaton; 9 inches northeast of Isabel and Hecla; 10 inches at Wilmot and Clear Lake; 12 inches at Milbank; and 14 inches at Summit.

1830 - A very heavy snowstorm ushered in the "winter of the deep snow." The storm produced 30 inches of snow at Peoria IL and 36 inches at Kansas City MO. Cold and snow continued until the middle of February causing great suffering among pioneers. (David Ludlum)

1894 - A severe freeze hit Florida destroying fruit and causing considerable damage to trees. (David Ludlum)

1954 - Fort Scott, KS, was buried under 26 inches of snow in 24 hours to establish a state record. (28th-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1984 - One hundred cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures. Kansas City, MO, experienced its warmest December day of record with a morning low of 60 degrees and an afternoon high of 71 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - A storm off the Middle Atlantic Coast produced heavy snow in the Appalachians and the northeastern U.S. Snow and high winds created blizzard conditions in southeastern Massachusetts. Cape Cod received thirteen inches of snow, and snow drifts three feet deep were reported around Chatham MA. Strong winds produced wind chill readings as cold as 60 degrees below zero in southwestern New England. In the western U.S., a Pacific coast storm produced heavy snow in the Sierra Nevada Range of California, with 24 inches reported at Mammoth Mountain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A cold front brought rain and snow to the northwestern U.S. The rainfall total of 2.70 inches at Astoria OR was a record for the date. High winds along the eastern slopes of the Northern Rockies gusted to 81 mph at Livingston MT. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Snow and ice prevailed from the southwestern U.S. to the Great Lakes Region. Flagstaff, AZ, received nine inches of snow in just six hours. Bitter cold weather continued over Maine. Portland ME reported a record twenty-two straight days with highs 32 degrees or colder. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2016 DOG LICENSES

AVAILABLE NOW!!

Licenses due by Dec. 31, 2015

Fines start after Dec. 31, 2015








Dogs CAN NOT be licensed without providing updated rabies shot information, please bring records for each dog to City Hall

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have any dogs

Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 7 of 31

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	New Year's Day
 30%	 30%	 20%				
Chance Snow	Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow then Cloudy	Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 20 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 20 °F	Low: 6 °F	High: 18 °F	Low: 7 °F	High: 24 °F



Light Snow Through Wed Morning

Follow us on Social Media

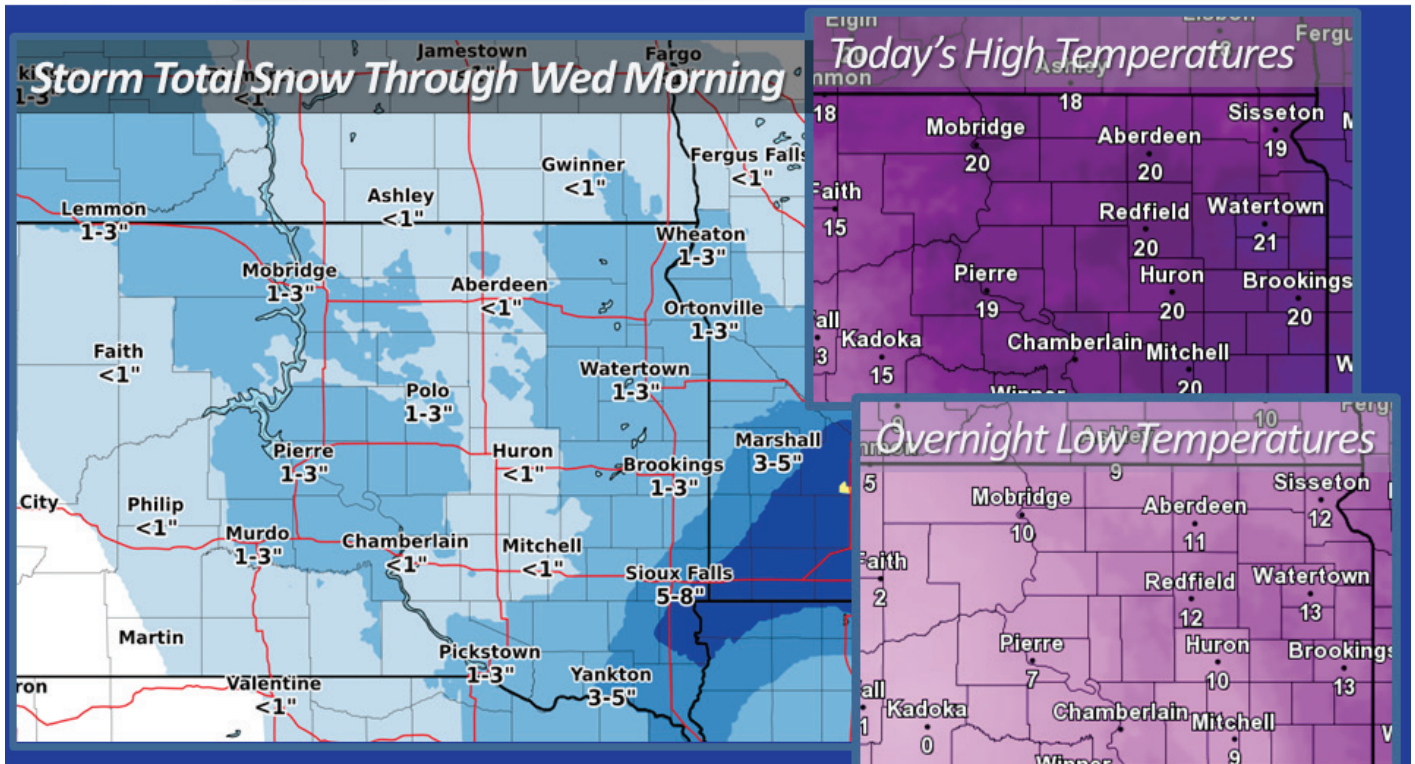
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 12/29/2015 at 5:20AM

Light snow is expected through Wednesday morning, although total snow amounts should remain under 3 inches across the area. The heaviest snow will remain south and east of the region. Otherwise, expect dry conditions and temperatures slightly below normal through the remainder of the workweek.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 8 of 31

Yesterday's Weather

High: 17.1 at 2:06 PM

Low: 1.2 at 1:54 AM

High Gust: 13 at 7:37 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 59° in 1999

Record Low: -35° in 1917

Average High: 23°F

Average Low: 3°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.48

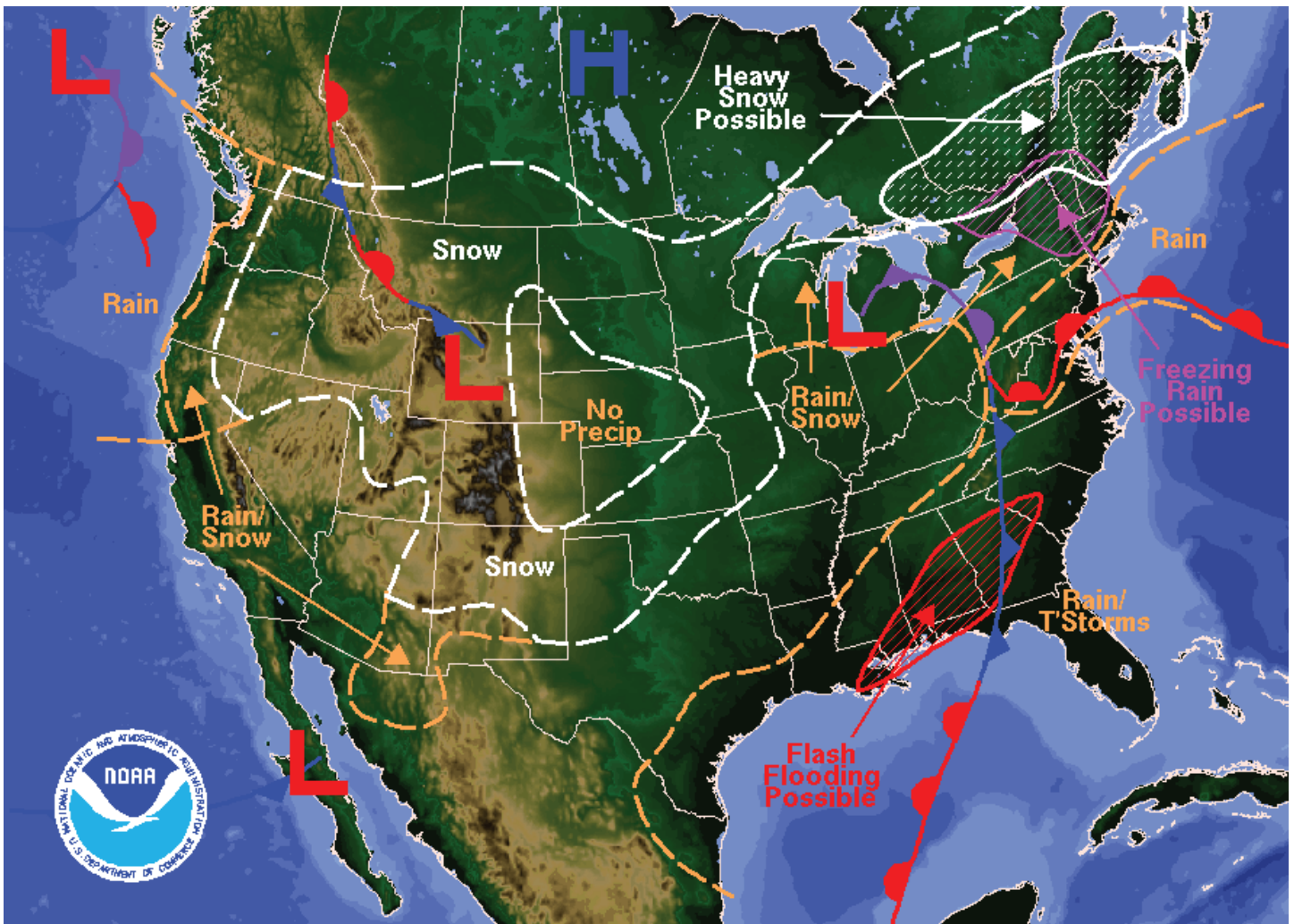
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.55

Average Precip to date: 21.68

Precip Year to Date: 20.37

Sunset Tonight: 4:58 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Dec 29, 2015, issued 2:47 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 9 of 31



WITH GOD, ALL THINGS...

During a family conference, one small son was confused. He did not fully understand the discussion, so in his innocence he asked, "What's going on here?"

Might that same question have been on Mary's mind and in her heart as she looked at the Baby Jesus? Could she completely understand all that God had in His plan for her son, herself and Joseph? Perhaps as she looked in the face of her child, she was filled with questions. No doubt she knew the Scriptures of the Old Testament and was able to catch a glimpse of God at work. Surely she had a faith that would surpass that of most. Indeed her trust was larger than life. But for her to know what God was

planning was something that would have been humanly impossible.

Certainly the question, "What's going on here" would have surfaced. We can begin with the fact of a virgin giving birth to a child, let alone the Messiah, that had been promised and long awaited. But it happened when God was ready for it to happen, as He planned it.

As we come to the end of this year and look forward to the one that is fast approaching, let's pause and review our "impossibilities" that are now miraculous events exposing God's power and plan in our lives.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, give us the faith we lack to see Your presence and protection at work in our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Luke 1:37
For nothing will be impossible with God."

Major Inventory Reduction Sale!

BIG SALE

Going on NOW!

50%

ALL Christmas Decor
ALL Kids Merchandise

30%

ALL Cold Weather Head & Hand
ALL Silk Florals

20%

ALL Everyday Home Decor



Fresh flowers, home decor, Dark Canyon Coffee & so much more
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www.oldebankfloralsd.com



Olde Bank
Floral



News from the Associated Press

Flu season off to a slow start in North Dakota, South Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The flu season is off to a slow start in the Dakotas, but officials say that doesn't mean people shouldn't take precautions against the illness.

Health officials tell The Bismarck Tribune that there have been 67 cases of lab-confirmed influenza in North Dakota, compared with 242 at the same time last year.

The Argus Leader reports that in South Dakota there have been only seven confirmed cases, compared with 1,700 during the 2014 flu season.

South Dakota State Epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger says the flu season peaks at different times each year. And North Dakota Influenza Surveillance Coordinator Jill Baber says a severe outbreak later this season is possible.

Health officials recommend people get a flu vaccine, wash their hands frequently and stay away from public places if they become sick.

University of South Dakota billboard contains grammar error

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — A University of South Dakota billboard with a grammatical error reflects badly on the university and will be replaced, the school's spokeswoman says.

The billboard along Interstate 90 west of Sioux Falls quotes Forbes magazine saying USD is the "Best in the Dakota's," but the apostrophe makes the word "Dakotas" possessive rather than plural.

USD spokeswoman Tena Haraldson told the Argus Leader newspaper and KELO-TV that the mistake was human error — the wrong version of a design got sent to the billboard company.

"We all recognized here when we looked at it that the apostrophe was misplaced," she said. "It was just an oversight that that's the one that was grabbed and put up. It happens."

USD alum Lyndsey Kastein, a strategist at a Sioux Falls marketing firm, told the Argus Leader that she's embarrassed by the sign.

"I didn't even learn proper grammar in college — I learned that in elementary school," she said. "So it's just sort of inexcusable."

After people began talking about the billboard and posting pictures on social media, USD responded with a playful tweet congratulating people who spotted the error and telling them they "passed this grammar quiz."

"Look for our new board soon," the tweet said.

After rain deluge, rare winter floods on Mississippi River

JIM SALTER, Associated Press

JIM SUHR, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Warm and wet weather over the last several weeks followed by storms that brought a deluge of rain in recent days have produced a severe threat of flooding along the Mississippi River, where water could reach record high levels soon in some places. The winter flooding is unusual and could portend even worse problems in the spring depending on weather the rest of the season. Here's a look at what is prompting the concern:

RECORD CRESTS

The sudden flooding along the Mississippi River is both rare and historic.

At a time of the year when both precipitation and the river level typically are well below normal, there could be record crests in some places along the Mississippi.

The river already was high due to an unseasonably warm, wet late fall and early winter. Torrential rains — 6 to 10 inches in parts of eastern Missouri and western Illinois — since Saturday pushed it to the un-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 11 of 31

precedented levels.

The Mississippi is expected to reach 49.9 feet by Friday at Chester, Illinois, south of St. Louis. That would top by two-tenths of a foot the all-time high reached on Aug. 7, 1993. It also is expected to match the highest level ever on Saturday at Cape Girardeau in southeast Missouri. St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay declared a flood emergency. Major flooding is predicted at several other points from just north of St. Louis through the South.

Flood plain buyouts along the Mississippi in recent years may mitigate the damage, but some homes are endangered. The mayor of West Alton, Missouri, 20 miles north of St. Louis, ordered the 520 residents to evacuate because the flood levee isn't high enough for the expected crest.

WHY SO HIGH?

Much of nation has enjoyed an unusually warm late fall and early winter, but it has come with a price. "It has been a lot warmer than normal, and the warmer air can hold more moisture in the atmosphere," said Scott Watson, a hydrologist for the National Weather Service office near Kansas City, Missouri.

The result has been higher than normal rainfall, causing the Mississippi to be unusually high. St. Louis has received nearly 10 inches of rain in December, according to the National Weather Service — four times the normal amount. Around 7 inches of rain have fallen since Saturday.

The warm spell seems to be coming to an end. Highs along the river basin in Missouri and Illinois are expected to be in the 40s for most of this week, with overnight lows in the 20s. But Watson said that's probably not cold enough to cause ice to form on the fast-moving river.

WAITING DOWNRIVER

National Weather Service hydrologist Marty Pope said that flood crests on the Lower Mississippi below the mouth of the Arkansas River won't set overall records, but will probably be the highest ever recorded in winter.

"We're looking at water stretching from levee to levee," Pope told reporters Monday in Pearl, Mississippi.

That means that inhabited areas on the river side of levees, as well as ports and casinos, could be affected.

The river is predicted to crest in Memphis on Jan. 9, with the peak water traveling downstream to Natchez, Mississippi, by Jan. 18.

"It's still raining in parts of the basin," Pope said. There could be a lot of change between now and then."

LEVEE SLIDE

Heavy rainfall has already inundated a levee in northeast Louisiana. Part of the Mississippi River levee near Alsatia, in East Carroll Parish, collapsed. Greg Raimondo, a spokesman for the Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said the district plans to activate its flood-fighting plan on Friday, increasing patrols along levees, looking for sand boils, seepage and landslides.

Raimondo said Corps officials are concerned that a levee collapsed before the river really began rising.

HOW RARE?

While extensive flooding this time of year is unusual, it's not unheard of, according to Bob Holmes, a Rolla, Missouri-based national flood hazard coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey.

He points to January and February of 1937, when Ohio River flooding was blamed for hundreds of deaths and, when adjusted to today's dollars, billions in damage from Pittsburgh to southern Illinois' tip near Cairo.

Floodwaters in Illinois reached nearly 30 miles inland and nearly destroyed the town of Harrisburg. In southeastern Illinois' Shawneetown, residents were forced to flee before the Ohio wiped out the town, reaching a crest more than 32 feet above flood stage — still a record there. The town ultimately was rebuilt on higher ground, three miles from the river.

The 1937 crest at Cairo still is second only to one reached there in May 2011.

FARMING IMPLICATIONS

Extensive wintertime rains pose a possible agricultural risk, saturating soil with moisture that could be-

come trapped when the season's deep freeze finally sets in. Come spring, when the ground thaws, that moisture — and the likelihood of spring rains — could leave farm fields water-logged, slowing plantings of corn and soybeans and perhaps crimping yields.

Under that scenario, Holmes said, "it will be mushy" for farmers and their heavy machinery, prone to getting mired in the mud.

Seeds planted in wet soil don't develop deep roots and they run the risk of rotting if they're subjected to prolonged wet soil.

But Holmes cautions that it's still early, with winter still yet to play out.

"It will all depend on what the weather will do in February and March," he said. "It's so far out, we're all talking about the possibilities."

Sioux Falls surpasses snowfall total for last winter

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — It's not quite the new year, and Sioux Falls already has more snow than it had all of last winter.

The National Weather Service says the latest storm has dropped about 5 inches of snow on the city, pushing the season total to about 34.5 inches. Last winter's total in the city was 32 inches.

A winter weather advisory remains in place for southeastern South Dakota, but meteorologist Matt Dux (doox) says the snow is winding down and only about another inch is expected to accumulate.

The city of Sioux Falls has issued its fourth snow alert of the season, telling residents to get vehicles off the streets so they can be plowed. City Street-Fleet Manager Galynn (GAY'-lihn) Huber says there are 3,000 miles of street lanes that need clearing.

Board of Regents meeting to move on SDSU presidential search

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Board of Regents is moving forward in its search for the new president of South Dakota State University.

The board is meeting Tuesday to discuss campus and community representatives for the presidential search committee.

President David Chicoine is set to leave the post around July 2016 or sooner if a replacement is found.

Chicoine oversaw the completion of the school's transition to Division I athletics. The board has said the largest fundraising campaign for education in state history was completed during his tenure.

Chicoine has said the school is moving in a good direction.

NY municipalities getting foam trailers in case of emergency

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The federal government is giving 19 New York communities located along major rail lines an extra dose of security.

Emergency response trailers equipped with a foam substance that firefighters and hazardous materials teams can use to suppress fires caused by oil or other flammable liquids are being handed out by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga County, Guilderland and Newburgh are among the areas that will start deploying the trailers early next year. Homeland Security will maintain the trailers and train emergency personnel in how to use them.

The foam concentrate requires a mix of water to disperse. When sprayed, it resembles bath soap that forms a blanket over fire.

Train cars carry oil daily from North Dakota and Canada to the Port of Albany.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 13 of 31

Gas prices in the Dakotas remain lower than national average

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Retail gasoline prices in the Dakotas continue to be lower than the national average.

GasBuddy.com reports that the average price of a gallon of gas is about \$1.92 in both North Dakota and South Dakota. The price is unchanged from the previous week in South Dakota and down about 1 ½ cents in North Dakota.

The national average is unchanged, at \$2 a gallon. GasBuddy.com says a gas price hike in California due to refinery issues is inflating the national average.

Prices are even lower in the Dakotas' two largest cities — the average in Sioux Falls is \$1.76 per gallon and in Fargo it's \$1.69.

Fall River County to count 2014 votes on Edgemont soil farm

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — More than a year after Fall River County residents voted on whether a company should be allowed to take in and clean oil-contaminated soil near Edgemont, their ballots will finally be tallied.

State's Attorney James Sword says if Tuesday's count shows that voters in November 2014 approved the High Plains Resources plan, the company will get to submit its permit application to the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

But if the count shows that Fall River County voters rejected the plan, High Plains will not be able to proceed.

The ballots have been locked away during a court fight over whether the county's ordinances approving the farm were properly passed. The state Supreme Court ruled earlier this month ruled that the ballots should be counted.

2 South Dakota men get 1 year in prison in assault case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota men who admitted assaulting a man on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation have been sentenced to one year in prison.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange sentenced 34-year-old Elton Lone Eagle Sr., of Dupree, and 31-year-old Zachary Brown Thunder, of Eagle Butte, after they pleaded guilty to assault by striking, beating and wounding.

Authorities accuse the men of assaulting a man in January. Authorities say the victim was walking down the stairs of a home, when Lone Eagle grabbed him, pushed him to the ground and held him down while Brown Thunder held a heated butter knife to his upper right arm.

Lange also ordered Lone Eagle and Brown Thunder to spend one year on supervised release.

The men are under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Monday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 64, Elk Point-Jefferson 53
DeLaSalle, Minn. 59, Sioux Falls Washington 53, OT
Eureka/Bowdle 50, Timber Lake 42
Herreid/Selby Area 74, Bison 40
Langford 46, Platte-Geddes 32
Little Wound 60, Mobridge-Pollock 52
McLaughlin 59, Standing Rock, N.D. 57
MUS, Tenn. 65, Bridgewater-Emery 44
Oakland, Calif. 67, Parker 61

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 14 of 31

Prairie Seeds Academy, Minn. 68, Mitchell Christian 52
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 59, Minneapolis Henry, Minn. 53
Sisseton 50, St. Thomas More 47
Stanley County 72, Kadoka Area 32
Warner 60, Harding County 38
Woodinville, Wash. 81, Mitchell 54
Swiftel Classic
Florence/Henry 67, Iroquois 32

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Ethan 56, Dell Rapids 46
Irene-Wakonda 54, Chester 48
Little Wound 46, Herreid/Selby Area 36
McLaughlin 73, St. Francis Indian 48
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 46, Clark/Willow Lake 26
Northwestern 47, Sisseton 43, OT
Redfield/Doland 53, Parkston 47
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 68, Gayville-Volin 47
Scotland 42, Corsica/Stickney 33
St. Thomas More 51, Aberdeen Roncalli 17
Stanley County 72, Kadoka Area 32
Sully Buttes 55, Hanson 51
McLaughlin Shootout
Pine Ridge 60, Standing Rock, N.D. 57
Mobridge Classic
Mobridge-Pollock 58, Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D. 27
Mobridge Rotary Classic
Timber Lake 40, South Border, N.D. 37
Southwest Minnesota State University Tournament
Elkton-Lake Benton 69, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton, Minn. 60
Swiftel Classic
Arlington 45, Canistota 33
Deuel 40, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 36
Estelline 55, Tiospa Zina Tribal 40
Florence/Henry 74, Lake Preston 16

South Dakota takes down Florida Gulf Coast 89-81 in OT

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Casey Kasperbauer scored a career-high 31 points on 11-for-20 shooting to lead South Dakota past Florida Gulf Coast 89-81 in overtime Monday night.

Tied at 71 at the end of regulation, Eric Robertson started overtime with a 3-point play to give South Dakota (7-6) the lead for good.

Marc-Eddy Norelia's two free throws cut the deficit to one, but Robertson gathered an offensive rebound and laid it in for a 76-73 lead with 3:43 left.

FGCU led 71-68 at the end of regulation after a Norelia jumper with 46 seconds left. But Tre Burnette's 3-point play tied it with 33 seconds left.

FGCU (6-6) turned it over, but Burnette missed a 3 as time expired.

Kasperbauer was 7 of 14 from 3-point range against a Florida Gulf Coast team that entered the contest leading the nation defending the 3, holding opponents to 23.7 percent.

Christian Terrell led the Eagles with 25 points.

Texas cleans up after twisters, snow and ice pelt Midwest

DAVID WARREN, Associated Press

GARLAND, Texas (AP) — Jacqui Gordon spent Monday sifting through the debris that had been her home, searching for old family photographs — especially of her father, who died two years ago.

She and nine others were enjoying a holiday gathering when winds began to rattle her home in suburban Dallas. They all dashed into closets and suffered only bumps and bruises, but Gordon's roof was torn away and her house destroyed.

"I just got divorced, and this is all I had," she said.

With rain all day Sunday keeping people away, residents worked on a dreary and frigid Monday to salvage what they could, with the American Red Cross distributing items like tarps, rakes and work gloves to help them.

At least 11 people died and dozens were injured in the tornadoes that swept through the Dallas area Saturday. Snow from New Mexico through the Midwest, plus flooding in Arkansas, Missouri and Illinois, added to the succession of severe weather events across the country in the last week that led to about four dozen deaths.

The storm system brought heavy snow, ice and blustery winds to several states in the nation's midsection, as well as heavy rain in already-waterlogged areas.

More than 2,800 flights across the U.S. were canceled Monday — more than half of them at Chicago's two main airports — and around 4,800 were delayed, according to flight-tracking service FlightAware. A typical day sees about 150 cancellations and 4,000 delays.

Highways turned icy and treacherous in New Mexico, while Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin declared a state of emergency after blizzard conditions affected parts of the state and heavy rains fell.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said the body of a 22-year-old man was recovered in northern Oklahoma but a second man, the lead singer of the country-rock band Backroad Anthem, was still missing after the two went duck hunting and their boat capsized. The body of a 36-year-old man who tried to cross a creek in his pickup near the town of Arpelar was also recovered Monday afternoon, the patrol said.

Officials in Arkansas said a 31-year-old man died in a storm-related drowning.

Several inches of rain caused flooding in Illinois and Missouri, where Gov. Jay Nixon also declared a state of emergency. Nixon says the state's death toll from days of pounding rainfall has risen to 10, and he expects that number to grow.

The Mississippi River neared a potential record crest, after an unusual amount of late-fall rain had the river already high before torrential downpours that began Saturday.

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant said Monday the state is seeking a federal disaster declaration for some or all of the seven counties hit by a tornado last week. Authorities in Georgia said they recovered the body of a man whose car was swept away when floodwaters overtook it.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott made disaster declarations Sunday for four counties — Dallas, Collin, Rockwall and Ellis. Officials estimated as many as 1,450 homes in North Texas were damaged or destroyed by at least nine tornadoes.

The National Weather Service has said an EF-4 tornado, which is the second-most powerful with winds up to more than 200 mph, hit Garland. Eight people died there, 15 were injured and more than 600 structures, mostly single-family homes, were damaged.

"I've never seen anything like this, with this scale of destruction," Police Chief Mitch Bates said Monday.

He said authorities believe all eight of the tornado victims there, which included a 1-year-old, died when their vehicles were thrown from overpasses in the area of Interstate 30 and the George Bush Turnpike, a major route in the region.

North of Dallas in Collin County, neighbors and emergency responders had tried to save a tiny victim of the powerful storms.

Debralee King said she was in her yard assessing the damage when she heard a neighbor's scream and saw Jose Daniel Santillano appear with his newborn daughter. She said Santillano asked her to take the girl to the hospital, and she headed out with another neighbor.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 16 of 31

"I kept saying, 'Oh, my God. Be OK, baby. Be OK,'" King recalled. "Her little hand was cold. I kept praying." King and local authorities say they found a game warden who performed CPR until an ambulance arrived — but the infant didn't survive.

Both the husband and wife were hospitalized Monday. The family's trailer was blown off its base.

"It's bad enough that the tornado took their home," King said. "But to take the baby, too, that's wrong."

Interstate 40, the main east-west highway across the Panhandle, reopened Monday morning. After a standstill of several hours, traffic began moving slowly where Interstate 10 splits into Interstate 20 in West Texas. Most other roads across West Texas and the Panhandle had also reopened by late Monday, although snow-packed roads and ice made driving hazardous.

Vito Randazzo of California said he sat on I-10 for about 13 hours and people were sleeping in their cars. Around 9 a.m. Monday he was able to see to drive across a median and get onto a service road.

A shopping mall in Lubbock, which got about a foot of snow, was closed after heavy snow collapsed part of the center's roof. No injuries were reported.

Latest: More than 2,800 flights canceled amid winter storm

The Associated Press

The latest developments on the severe storms across the U.S. (all times local):

9 p.m.

More than 2,800 flights into, out of or across the U.S. have been canceled and about 4,800 have been delayed due to the large storm system moving through the Midwest.

Flight-tracking service FlightAware showed that of the 2,855 cancellations, more than 1,600 were at Chicago's two main airports. Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport saw 365 cancellations; several tornadoes touched down Saturday in the Dallas suburbs.

FlightAware reports 4,779 flights were delayed.

A typical day sees about 150 cancellations and 4,000 delays.

Heavy rain and strong winds, seen Monday in parts of Missouri, Illinois and Arkansas, are often more troubling for airlines than snowfall.

6:45 p.m.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol says the body of a 36-year-old man has been recovered after the man was swept away while trying to cross a creek in his pickup.

On Monday, patrolmen identified the victim as Darrell Glen Sennett from McAlester.

Sennett had gone missing Sunday afternoon after trying to drive across the creek near the town of Arpelar. His roommate became stuck in a tree surrounded by swift water while trying to get to Sennett's truck. The roommate was rescued and taken to a local hospital.

Authorities found Sennett's body on the creek bank Monday afternoon.

5 p.m.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol says the body of a 22-year-old man has been recovered and a second man is missing after the two went duck hunting and their boat capsized.

Patrol Capt. Paul Timmons confirmed Monday that rescuers discovered the body of Chase Marland from Kaw Lake in northern Oklahoma. A second man, 29-year-old Craig Strickland of Springdale, Arkansas, was still missing.

Rescue workers found the boat shortly after midnight Monday, after the two were reported missing.

Strickland is the lead singer of the Arkansas-based country-rock band Backroad Anthem, which posted on its Facebook page that he and another man were missing.

Sheriff Joel Kerns in southeast Oklahoma says rescuers also are searching for a man whose vehicle was swept off a flooded county road.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 17 of 31

4:30 p.m.

The White House says President Obama has called Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to get an update on the severe weather there and to offer federal support for recovery efforts.

At least 11 people died and dozens were injured in the tornadoes that swept through the Dallas area on Saturday and caused substantial damage. Other states in the Midwest and South were also hit by severe weather in the past week.

White House spokesman Eric Schultz says Obama offered condolences for those who lost their lives and for those who lost their homes in the tornadoes.

Obama made the call from Hawaii, where he is vacationing during the holidays. Schultz says the president made clear he has directed his team to work closely with the governor's staff to provide whatever assistance may be needed.

3:30 p.m.

Arkansas officials say a 31-year-old man has died in a storm-related drowning.

The Pope County Sheriff's office said Monday deputies located the vehicle the man had been driving after he was reported missing. Rescue workers located his body downstream from there. His name was not released.

The National Weather Service is surveying damage in southern Arkansas after severe storms hit the state on Sunday. Heavy rainfall is causing major flooding in many areas.

3 p.m.

Authorities in Georgia say they have recovered the body of a man whose car was swept away when floodwater overtook it.

Gordon County Chief Deputy Robert Paris said the car was located late Sunday, but it wasn't safe for divers to reach it in the swift-moving waters until Monday.

The man's name wasn't released.

Separately, a body was recovered from a large pond in the southeast part of Gordon County. Authorities say the person was kayaking and didn't appear to be wearing a life jacket.

Authorities were investigating how the person died, but Maj. Stephen Adams with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division said the death didn't appear storm-related.

(Clarifies previous item that attributed second death to severe weather)

2:45 p.m.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon says the state's death toll from days of pounding rainfall has risen to 10, and he expects that number to grow.

Nixon said Monday the majority of the victims drowned after driving into floodwaters.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol says six of the deaths happened in south-central Missouri's Pulaski County. That's where four international soldiers from Fort Leonard Wood drowned, as did two other people when their vehicle was swept away 10 miles from the soldiers.

State officials say there have been more than 200 road closures statewide because of the storms, as well as more than 30 water rescues.

1:30 p.m.

More than 1,400 flights have been canceled across the U.S. and 2,600 have been delayed due to the large storm system moving through the middle part of the country.

Flight-tracking service FlightAware showed that nearly half of the cancellations were at Chicago's two main airports. Another large chunk came from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport; several tornadoes touched down Saturday in the Dallas suburbs.

Other cities with an unusually large number of cancellations included Houston, Denver, Detroit, Milwaukee, Kansas City, St. Louis, Oklahoma City, and Lubbock, Texas.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 18 of 31

A typical day sees about 150 cancelations and 4,000 delays.

Heavy rain and strong winds, like forecast for parts of Missouri, Illinois and Arkansas on Monday, are often more troubling for airlines than snowfall.

1 p.m.

Officials have identified seven of the eight people who died when a tornado hit the Dallas suburb of Garland, including a 1-year-old.

The Dallas County medical examiner's office says those killed were 1-year-old Kamryn Crain, 27-year-old Petra Ruiz, 30-year-old Kimberly Tippett, 32-year-old Lashondra Whitaker, 42-year-old Sharva Sanders, 58-year-old Timothy Harris and 77-year-old Cecil Lowrie.

The National Weather Service has said an EF-4 tornado, which is the second-most powerful with winds up to more than 200 mph, hit the community at about 6:45 p.m. Saturday.

At least 11 died when tornadoes swept through the Dallas area. Three people died in Collin County.

12:30 p.m.

Authorities in Georgia have confirmed two more deaths due to floodwaters.

Gordon County Chief Deputy Robert Paris said they've recovered the body of a man whose car was swept away when water overtook his car. Paris said the car was located late Sunday, but it wasn't safe for divers to reach it in the swift-moving waters until Monday.

The man's name wasn't released. Paris said he was from Chattooga County.

Paris said the second body was recovered Monday at Self Lake, and authorities were investigating how that person died.

Forecasters say more rain was expected Monday in the county about 60 miles northwest of Atlanta.

11:30 a.m.

Texas officials say Interstate 40, the main east-west highway across the Panhandle, has reopened.

Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Cindy Barkley says the interstate reopened Monday morning. She said Texas Department of Transportation crews have been out to clear the roads.

The Texas Department of Transportation says, though, that many roads across West Texas and the Panhandle remain closed with snow-packed and icy conditions.

10:45 a.m.

Texas officials say traffic on part of Interstate 10 in the western part of the state is slowly moving again after coming to a standstill due to icy conditions and multiple accidents.

Texas Department of Transportation spokesman Gene Powell said Monday morning that traffic was moving now, "very slowly" in the area where Interstate 10 splits into Interstate 20. Texas Department of Public Safety Sgt. Elizabeth Carter said traffic had been backed up for about 13 miles.

Powell said traffic became snarled Sunday night and there were people who were "virtually stationary" in their vehicles overnight. He said Monday a fuel truck was patrolling the area.

Vito Randazzo, of Alpine, California, was driving across the country and was among those who got stuck, beginning at about 8 p.m. Sunday. Around 9 a.m. Monday he was able to see where he could drive across a median and get onto a service road.

10:15 a.m.

Oklahoma emergency officials say more than 50 people have been injured and about 175,000 are without power after a powerful winter storm blanketed much of the state with ice and brought flooding to eastern parts of the state.

Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management spokeswoman Keli Cain says there were no immediate reports of weather-related deaths, but the Oklahoma Highway Patrol is searching for two hunters missing in Kay County.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 19 of 31

Patrol spokesman Lt. John Vincent says the men were reportedly in a boat on Kaw Lake. Vincent says rescuers found the capsized boat, but there were no signs of the men. The search resumed at daybreak Monday.

Car accidents from icy roads were reported across mostly central and western Oklahoma.

10:15 a.m.

Eastbound Interstate 40 is being reopened in eastern New Mexico after an extended closure due to the major storm that pummeled parts of the state.

The Department of Transportation says the freeway initially reopened Monday morning in Santa Rosa and Tucumcari. The next stages being reopened by late Monday morning are in Moriarity and Albuquerque.

The department also says its crews worked throughout the night to clear the highway, which was closed in eastern New Mexico over the weekend.

Elsewhere, some highways remain icy and snow-packed and the department is advising drivers to use caution.

10 a.m.

Residents in and around the small St. Louis-area town of West Alton are evacuating as the Mississippi River nears a potential record crest.

An unusual amount of late-fall rain had the river already high before torrential downpours that began Saturday. Some parts of eastern Missouri have received 6 inches of rain or more over the past three days. Heavy rain was falling again Monday.

West Alton officials on Sunday ordered evacuations, saying the expected crest of 38.9 feet on Thursday will top the levee by nearly 5 feet.

West Alton, about 20 miles north of St. Louis, has about 520 residents.

9:35 a.m.

Forecasters at the National Weather Service in Mobile, Alabama, say a tornado has been reported in northwest Florida.

Gene Jacobi says there have been no reports of injuries or property damage in Molino.

Forecasters say the line of severe weather is expected to make its way across the Panhandle on Monday. Some areas have reported local flooding from heavy rains overnight and the previous week.

On Pensacola Beach, the National Park Service closed some flood-prone roads in Gulf Islands National Seashore because of potential flooding.

8:45 a.m.

Nearly 900 flights have been canceled across the U.S. and another 500 have been delayed due to the large storm system moving through the middle part of the country.

Flight-tracking service FlightAware showed that more than a third of the cancellations were at Chicago's two main airports. Another large chunk came from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport; several tornadoes touched down Saturday in the Dallas suburbs.

Other cities with an unusually large number of cancellations included Houston, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City, Missouri, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Lubbock, Texas.

A typical day sees about 150 cancellations and 4,000 delays.

Heavy rain and strong winds, like forecast for parts of Missouri, Illinois and Arkansas on Monday, are often more troubling for airlines than snowfall.

8:35 a.m.

The Texas Department of Transportation says many roadways across West Texas and the Panhandle have been closed due to ice and blizzard conditions, with traffic coming to standstill where Interstate 10 splits into Interstate 20.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 20 of 31

The department said early Monday morning Interstates 40 and 27 were closed and that travelers should expect long delays across the region.

Vito Randazzo, of Alpine, California, is driving across the country and was among those who got stuck on Interstate 10.

He said Monday morning that he'd been sitting on the icy interstate since 8 p.m. Sunday and that "everybody's just sleeping in their cars."

He also said he couldn't believe the "road was left in this condition" — snow-packed and icy — and that he had water, but not food.

National Weather Service officials say that while the snow has stopped across the area, temperatures are to remain near or below freezing.

7:35 a.m.

Authorities say more than 180 Missouri roads are closed because of flooding.

The Missouri State Department of Transportation says the closures include eastbound lanes of Interstate 70 in St. Charles County. Though both lanes closed Sunday because of rising flood waters, the westbound lanes reopened Monday morning.

Several bridges in southeastern Missouri counties also are closed because of flooding.

The National Weather Service said three to six inches of rain fell during the weekend, and up to four inches more is expected through Monday.

7:25 a.m.

Officials in Birmingham, Alabama, say more than 70 structures sustained some type of damage after a tornado touched down on Christmas.

City spokesman April Odom said a preliminary assessment found the storm damaged 72 structures in the Jefferson Avenue area, ranging from minor damage to full destruction.

Other parts of the city saw damage, too, and assessments will be completed this week.

Forecasters more storms are in the forecast for most of Alabama on Monday, and a tornado watch is in effect until noon CST for more than 30 counties.

8 a.m.

Officials in Mississippi are reporting downed trees across a highway and a roof blown off a house from a storm about 20 miles northwest of Hattiesburg.

Covington County Emergency Manager Greg Sanford says the damage happened before dawn Monday near the town of Seminary. The area was under a tornado warning at the time, but no tornado has been confirmed.

Warnings were posted as a squall line moved west to east across Mississippi.

Statewide, more than 6,800 power customers lacked electricity at 6 a.m. Monday.

Northern Mississippi residents are still cleaning up from a tornado that struck Wednesday and killed 10 people in the state.

6:50 a.m.

Oklahoma highway officials say many roads are impassable because of wintry weather, downed power lines or flooding.

Parts of western and central Oklahoma are under a winter storm warning until midday Monday, while flooding is a major concern in the southern and eastern part of the state.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation says roads in northwest Oklahoma and Interstate 35 in central Oklahoma are slick and hazardous.

The National Weather Service says "disastrous" flooding will occur in eastern Oklahoma, where some areas received up to a foot of rain over the weekend. The state DOT says high water has caused the closure of some roads in counties in the southern and eastern part of the state.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 21 of 31

6:30 a.m.

Parts of 11 states in the middle of the country are under a winter storm warning as the weather system that spawned tornadoes in Texas and flooding in Missouri moves on.

Meanwhile, the National Weather Service has issued a flash flood warning for southern and eastern parts of Missouri, including St. Louis, and a small section of northern Arkansas. Most of Arkansas, eastern Oklahoma, central Missouri and central Illinois are under a flood warning.

Forecasters say Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and parts of Minnesota, Illinois, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas will see winter weather conditions ranging from heavy snow to ice, accompanied by gusty winds.

Parts of the Southeast will see rain, while severe weather is possible in Mississippi.

2:30 a.m.

Blizzard-like conditions have led to the closure of most of Interstate 40 from Albuquerque east across the Texas Panhandle.

New Mexico State Police spokeswoman Sgt. Elizabeth Armijo said Sunday night that the stretch of interstate from Albuquerque to the Texas border would be closed through at least Monday afternoon. She urged travelers passing through New Mexico to use Interstate 10 instead.

In Texas, the Texas Department of Public Safety says only a small section of the highway around Amarillo remains open. Texas State Trooper Cindy Barkley says deteriorating conditions forced authorities to indefinitely close the highway for about 100 miles east of Amarillo to Oklahoma.

I-40 is the main east-west highway through the state's Panhandle.

The National Weather Service has issued a blizzard warning until 9 a.m. Monday for the Panhandle and several counties in New Mexico. Authorities say that even in areas where the warning has expired, residual blowing and drifting is expected and will make conditions dangerous.

Packers refocus quickly to Vikings after desert nightmare

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Coach Mike McCarthy had a rough trip home to Green Bay, and it had nothing to do with the snowy weather.

After the Packers watched film of their nightmarish game in Arizona, McCarthy moved on quickly to getting his players ready for a meeting this weekend against Minnesota.

At stake: the NFC North title and a home playoff game.

"So we've had a long, bumpy flight home to grade the tape," McCarthy said Monday. "Just really wanted to get in there and get the team focused on the Vikings."

Forgetting about Arizona quickly might be the way to move forward for a team that failed the test in a 38-8 loss in the desert. A sluggish offense is once again the biggest worry.

Receivers can't get open consistently in press coverage. The Packers have gone two straight weeks without a 100-yard rusher. Penalties bogged down early drives.

Aaron Rodgers got sacked eight times, and the offensive line is battered.

And now, turnovers are a big problem, with six of the team's 15 for the season coming in the last two weeks. Rodgers accounted for three turnovers, including two fumbles off sacks that were returned for touchdowns.

"We played the worst we can possibly play, and we're on to Minnesota," receiver James Jones said.

Getting healthier up front would help. McCarthy said it was too early to tell how much left tackle David Bakhtiari and right tackle Bryan Bulaga, who each have ankle injuries, would be able to practice this week.

"Well, the healthiest team gives you your best option to play on Sunday," McCarthy said.

But the Packers aren't using injuries as an excuse, either. McCarthy said that he can only control the adjustments for every obstacle thrown in his team's way.

"It takes all 11 to have success. It starts from a protection unit, to a route-running detail, to catching the football. It's everyone, coaches included," offensive coordinator Edgar Bennett said.

The coaches aren't worried about the Packers' ability to bounce back. First, McCarthy can point to how the Packers beat Minnesota 30-13 in November. Next, the core of the Packers has been in similar spots

over the previous four years — and won the division each season.

They have to beat the Vikings on Sunday night to claim a fifth straight NFC North title.

"I have faith in the football team regardless of what happened (in Arizona)," McCarthy said.

For Vikings, 'no T-shirts this week' as Packers await

DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The stakes were high enough the last time Minnesota played Green Bay that Vikings coach Mike Zimmer, one of the least-gimmicky guys in his profession, ordered clothing for the organization to commemorate the occasion.

The NFC North logo adorned the front of the all-black T-shirts. Beat Green Bay was the message on the back.

Minnesota didn't achieve that goal. Not even close.

This time, the game means even more than it did on Nov. 22, when the Packers brought their three-game losing streak, uncharacteristic struggles on offense and second-place status to Minnesota. They left with a 30-13 victory, some badly needed confidence, and control of the division.

The Vikings will take the unsettling memory of their performance that afternoon to Green Bay on Sunday night for the last game of the NFL's 2015 regular season. It will decide the NFC North title.

Yes, the loser will still keep playing as a wild-card team, but the Vikings have seen enough of their fiercest rival dominate the division. They're more than eager to beat the Packers for the first time in seven matchups and be NFC North champions with at least one home game in the playoffs for the first time since 2009.

"This is what it's all about this time of the year. It's time to buckle up and keep grinding. We know the opportunity is there in front of us," said linebacker Chad Greenway, one of three players on the active roster who were around for that last division title.

So don't expect to see any souvenirs around Winter Park this week. The motivational display that probably wasn't necessary in November sure won't be now.

"No T-shirts this week," Zimmer said after the Vikings beat the New York Giants 49-17 to clinch their place in the postseason after a two-season absence.

There will be plenty of video, though, of that performance against the Packers six weeks ago.

"I'm going to talk to them about the things we didn't do good in the last ballgame, and the things we have to improve on in order to win," Zimmer said on Monday. "I don't know that this is a big motivational kind of week. It's more about preparation and doing things right and performing under pressure."

If the Vikings (10-5) weren't grounded enough after losing to Green Bay, they were thoroughly humbled Dec. 6 during a 38-7 loss to Seattle. Their response to the lopsided defeat by the Seahawks resulted in a loss, too, but they showed plenty of resilience in falling 23-20 at Arizona on Dec. 10. Since then, the Vikings have won twice by a combined score of 87-34.

"I think that we've learned the kind of mentality that we have to have these last four weeks," Zimmer said.

Belief in an ability to win is part of that. So is the underdog mindset the demanding 59-year-old, who was passed over so many times for head coach positions in the past, has unabashedly tried to instill in his players.

"I don't think anybody is really worried about us," Zimmer said, assessing the daunting field that was set for the NFC playoffs on Sunday.

Why not, coach?

"There's Arizona and Seattle and Green Bay and Carolina. There's a lot of pretty good teams out there," Zimmer said, matter-of-factly as usual. "They're probably not really worried about us."

Before they get there, of course, the Vikings have this rivalry rematch to focus on. Just what they would have hoped for when the season started.

"I kind of figured that the last game would always mean something with the Packers," cornerback Captain Munneryn said.

Man ordered to pay over \$279K in unemployment fraud case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has ordered a South Dakota man to pay back more than \$279,000 for having claimed and received unemployment benefits that he wasn't entitled to.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange has ordered 43-year-old John Dewayne Ford, of Pierre, to repay \$220,000 for the forty false claims he submitted to the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board and more than \$59,000 in damages.

Ford last year pleaded guilty to theft of government property and was sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay more than \$19,000 restitution.

Federal law allows the government to ask for triple the amount of damages, and civil penalties of not less than \$5,500 per violation.

Ford was a conductor and engineer for the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad from May 2010 through April 2012. He submitted the fraudulent claims during that period.

Secretary of State certifies lending interest rate measure

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A measure that would cap money lenders' interest rates in South Dakota is on its way to the ballot for the 2016 election.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said Monday that her office validated the measure. Krebs' certification can be challenged through Jan. 27.

The office looks at signatures and petition completeness as part of its review before the measures can appear on the ballot.

The proposal would limit interest rates from money lenders licensed in South Dakota to 36 percent annually. Supporters say the proposal is aimed at protecting consumers from predatory lending.

Opponents have said that short-term lenders would be forced out of business in the state if the measure passes.

The ballot measure would have to receive a majority of votes cast to be approved.

Police: Man tries to hide meth while being booked at jail

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City Police say a man arrested over the weekend tried to hide baggies with methamphetamine while he was being booked at the Pennington County Jail.

Police say 32-year-old Rapid City resident Trevor Chipps was arrested Saturday after police responded to a report of a disturbance.

Police say Chipps was taken to the county jail, where officers observed him trying to hide something between his seat and the wall while he was in the booking area. Police say it was then that three baggies that later tested positive for meth were confiscated from Chipps.

Records show Chipps was arrested on various charges including possession of a controlled substance.

Chipps is being held without bond. It wasn't immediately clear Monday if he has an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

Police: Man driving stolen SUV rifled through mailboxes

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls Police are accusing a transient of driving a stolen sport utility vehicle and rifling at least 50 mailboxes.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says 24-year-old Kyle Lynne Stalder is charged with possession of stolen property.

Authorities say the SUV was stolen from a Hartford home Christmas morning. Around 2:30 a.m. the following day, authorities received a report of an SUV driving across the lawns of a Sioux Falls neighborhood. The SUV matched the description of the one stolen in Hartford.

Clemens says Stalder lost control of the SUV and jumped out after an officer began to follow him. He was arrested at a friend's home minutes later.

Clemens says tracks in the snow led police to at least 50 mailboxes that had items taken. It wasn't immediately clear if Stalder has an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

Sioux Falls convenience store robbed in weekend holdup

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are investigating an armed robbery at a convenience store over the weekend.

Authorities say two men wearing bandannas over their faces and wielding a handgun and an object that might have been a baton demanded money from the clerk at the Cubby's store just after 2 a.m. Sunday. The clerk gave the men an undisclosed amount of cash and wasn't hurt.

Childhood obesity rate in South Dakota remains stable

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The percentage of children in South Dakota considered overweight or obese remains stable.

The Health Department says about one-third of children fall into the two categories — a rate that hasn't changed much for four straight years.

Chronic Disease Epidemiologist Ashley Miller says it's good that the rate has leveled off, but officials want to see it come down. She says the Health Department offers a variety of resources to help encourage healthy diets and increase physical activity for kids.

A total of 181 schools submitted student data for the 2014-15 School Height and Weight Report, accounting for about 37 percent of students in the state.

Officials: 'Affluenza' teen, mother detained in Mexico

DALLAS (AP) — Authorities said a Texas teenager serving probation for killing four people in a drunken-driving wreck after invoking an "affluenza" defense was in custody in Mexico, weeks after he and his mother disappeared.

Mexico's Jalisco state prosecutors' office said in a statement that its agents had been working with American authorities via the U.S. Consulate in Guadalajara since Dec. 26 to track down and capture 18-year-old Ethan Couch and his mother, Tonya Couch. The office said the two were located and detained Monday evening in a beachside neighborhood of the Pacific Coast resort city of Puerto Vallarta.

After their detention, they were handed over to Mexican immigration authorities for deportation, the statement said.

During the sentencing phase of Couch's trial, a defense expert argued that Couch's wealthy parents coddled him into a sense of irresponsibility — a condition the expert termed "affluenza." The condition is not recognized as a medical diagnosis by the American Psychiatric Association, and its invocation drew widespread ridicule.

The Tarrant County District Attorney's office also told local media outlets that the two had been taken into custody. A spokeswoman for the office could not immediately be reached by The Associated Press for further comment.

Authorities began searching for the pair after Ethan Couch failed to keep a mandatory appointment with his probation officer on Dec. 10, leading authorities to issue the juvenile equivalent of an arrest warrant for him.

Tarrant County Sheriff Dee Anderson has said he believes the two fled in late November after a video surfaced that appears to show Couch at a party where people were drinking. If found to be drinking, Couch's probation could be revoked and he could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

A spokesman for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department has declined to say whether Tonya Couch is facing any charges.

There was no immediate comment Monday night from the U.S. Marshals Service, which had issued a wanted poster promising a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to Ethan Couch's whereabouts.

and capture.

In June 2013 at age 16, Ethan Couch was driving drunk and speeding on a dark two-lane road south of Fort Worth when he crashed into a disabled SUV off to the side, killing four people and injuring several others, including passengers in Couch's pickup truck.

Couch pleaded guilty to four counts of intoxication manslaughter and two counts of intoxication assault causing serious bodily injury. Because of his age, he wasn't certified as an adult for trial and a judge sentenced him in juvenile court to 10 years' probation and a stint in a rehabilitation center.

Anderson was among those critical of the judge's decision not to incarcerate Couch. The sheriff said that the teen has never expressed remorse for his actions and that his case sparked more outrage than any other Anderson has encountered in his law enforcement career.

Taste test: Next generation of fake meats, vegan mayo **CANDICE CHOI, AP Food Industry Writer**

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — How far have vegan alternatives come to tasting like the real thing? Not far enough, according to a panel that tasted some options for The Associated Press.

"Noxious" and "kind of not natural" were among the reactions to some of the meatless alternatives being pushed by a new generation of vegan food makers that want to revolutionize the way Americans eat.

"If I were to eat this thinking it is a regular hamburger, I might think it's spoiled," said Byron Champlin, a city councilor in Concord, New Hampshire, after taking a bit of a "beefless" burger patty made by Gardein.

Gardein, Beyond Meat and Hampton Creek are among the companies trying to bring energy to a category that has long been defined by brands like Morningstar Foods (founded in 1970), Nasoya (1978) and Quorn (1985). The thinking is that more Americans will embrace plant-based alternatives to beef, chicken and mayonnaise if there are better-tasting options.

The idea is attracting millions of dollars in investments and media fanfare, with the newer companies saying their products also are healthier and gentler on the environment. But the recipes they're cooking up might not be ready for prime time just yet.

A panel of taste testers at The Associated Press test kitchen in Concord, New Hampshire had mixed reactions to the offerings, and in some cases preferred the more established vegetarian options. The three panelists were meat eaters, but said they'd go for vegetarian foods, as long as they taste good.

Dan St. Jean, executive chef for The Common Man restaurants in New Hampshire, thought the Gardein patty had a strange smell.

"It almost tastes like someone tried to make a meatball into a hamburger, but did something wrong," agreed Sarah Kinney, a community news editor for The Concord Monitor.

The reaction was worse for Beyond Meat's Beast Burger, which was introduced this year. Unlike Gardein, Beyond Meat says it wants to replicate the taste of real meat, rather than just offer vegetarian alternatives. But Champlin spit out the Beast Burger after one bite and called it "noxious" and "non-recognizable."

All three taste testers found the "original griller" made by Morningstar Foods the least offensive. It wasn't exactly a hit either, though; Champlin said he would eat it if there was nothing else around.

The fake chicken didn't fare much better.

"It's just kind of rubbery. It didn't really taste like chicken," said Kinney of Beyond Meat's Southwestern-flavored strips of chicken, which has been on shelves since 2013.

Champlin thought there was a bad aftertaste, but couldn't place what it was.

He also thought the Gardein "chick'n scallopini" was tasteless. But that's why St. Jean liked it — he thought his kids wouldn't notice if he covered it in cheese and marinara sauce.

Champlin and Kinney preferred the chicken breast look-alike made by Quorn, although they agreed with St. Jean that it looked like "a grilled baguette."

The panelists also noted the lack of aromas in the kitchen, where a chef was preparing the products on a stovetop. Meat, by contrast, would have filled the space with mouthwatering smells.

"If your back was to the stove, you couldn't tell what she was cooking," said St. Jean.

The panel was also given a meatless breakfast sausage patty made by Morningstar, and vegetarian bacon

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 26 of 31

by Lightlife, another company that has been around since the 1970s. The sausage was the winner of the day, with everyone praising its texture for closely resembling the grind-like consistency of real sausage.

The bacon, by contrast, was given a thumbs-down, with Champlin likening it to a "leather chew." St. Jean agreed, and said they reminded him of Beggin' Strips, the pet treats made by Purina. The taste fell short, too.

"The saltiness isn't there, the crunch isn't there," St. Jean said.

Although the fake meats didn't go over well, the panel generally liked Just Mayo, the eggless mayonnaise introduced by Hampton Creek in late 2012. The spread now sells at major retailers, including Target and Wal-Mart. Everyone was able to identify it as vegan in a lineup of mayonnaises, but thought it came close to tasting like Hellmann's.

"I wouldn't have a problem with this," Champlin said. St. Jean and Kinney agreed.

On the other hand, Nasoya's mayonnaise was described as having a taste that is "funky" and "kind of pasty."

Ultimately, the panel said they would buy Just Mayo and the Morningstar breakfast sausages. But they agreed there was no "wow" factor in any of the products they sampled.

"Nothing stood out as being better than the real thing," Kinney said.

Asian shares mixed, but gains capped by falling oil prices

ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mixed after opening lower on Tuesday following Tuesday's losses on Wall Street. Worries over China's slowdown and tumbling oil prices are overshadowing year-end trading.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index was flat at 18,873.92 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng was also little changed at 21,923.95. South Korea's Kospi fell 0.2 percent to 1,960.85 and the Shanghai Composite Index dropped 0.2 percent to 3,526.79. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.5 percent to 5,234.40. Shares in New Zealand were higher, Taiwan fell and Southeast Asian shares were mixed.

OIL SUPPLY WORRIES: After recovering a bit last week, U.S. crude oil fell 3 percent on Monday in New York amid reports that Iran intends to increase exports by 500,000 barrels per day once economic sanctions are removed. That would add to excess global supplies that have been sapping oil prices.

THE QUOTE: "Iran has ... made it clear that it plans to cut prices to restore export market share promptly. If events unfold this way there is not likely to be much relief for oil prices until US producers cut production," Henry Ea of CMC Markets said in a commentary.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks closed modestly lower on Monday as a deepening slump in crude oil prices pulled down energy and mining stocks on a lighter than usual day of trading. The Dow lost 23.90 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,528.27. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 4.49 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,056.50. The Nasdaq composite shed 7.51 points, or 0.2 percent, to 5,040.99.

CHINA CHILL: Chinese shares extended losses following Monday's 2.6 percent drop in the Shanghai Composite index after data showed industrial profits falling in November from the year before. Worries over China's outlook and resulting weak demand are rippling into commodities markets.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude shed 5 cents to \$36.76 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell \$1.29, or 3.4 percent, to close at \$36.81 per barrel on Monday. Brent crude, which is used to price international oils, gained 3 cents to \$36.65 a barrel. On Monday, it lost \$1.27, or 3.4 percent, to close at \$36.62 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar was slightly higher at 120.31 yen, up from 120.26 yen on Monday. The euro slipped to \$1.0978 from \$1.0985 in the previous session.

Holiday spending up 8 percent; online sales surge

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans spent more on items like furniture during the holidays this year, with online shopping in particular seeing a big spike, according to a report released Monday.

Overall spending rose 7.9 percent from a year ago, according to the MasterCard SpendingPulse report, which tracks retail sales across cards, cash and checks from Black Friday to Christmas Eve. The uptick

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 27 of 31

was driven by people sitting in the comfort of their homes or at work, with online shopping up 20 percent.

Shopping at physical stores still accounts for the majority of spending during the holidays. But the continuing shift to online shopping is forcing retailers to improve their websites, or offer perks like faster or free delivery. Earlier this month, another report by First Data also found that online sales growth was outpacing sales growth at physical stores. That report was based on payments from Oct. 31 to Dec. 14.

The SpendingPulse report does not include spending by dollar amounts. But the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, expects sales for November and December to rise 3.7 percent to \$630.5 billion from a year ago.

For the traditional holiday shopping period from Black Friday to Christmas Eve, the MasterCard SpendingPulse report found that furniture sales rose in the double-digit percentages, indicating that people are "willing and able" to spend on big-ticket items.

Sales of women's clothing also rose double-digits, while men's apparel declined. The report noted that the warm weather this fall pushed back sales of clothing, leading to some pent-up demand during the holiday shopping period. Retailers such as Macy's had said the unseasonably warm temperatures would force it to slash prices on items like coats and boots during the holidays.

The SpendingPulse report is based on sales activity on the MasterCard payments network, along with estimates for cash and check spending based on surveys.

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. CLEVELAND OFFICIALS URGE CALM

The city braces for protests after a grand jury votes not to indict a white Cleveland police officer for fatally shooting a 12-year-old black boy who was carrying what turned out to be a pellet gun.

2. 'AFFLUENZA' TEEN DETAINED IN MEXICO

Ethan Couch, 18, had disappeared with his mother after a video surfaced online showing he may have violated his probation for causing a drunken wreck that killed four people in Texas.

3. EX-ISRAELI PM HANDED 18-MONTH JAIL SENTENCE

Ehud Olmert, caught up in a bribery scandal, will be the first Israeli leader ever to spend time behind bars.

4. WHERE MARCO RUBIO FACES KEY TEST

The candidate is beginning a swing through Iowa, where he must beat Jeb Bush and Chris Christie to remain the clear choice for so-called establishment Republicans.

5. UNUSUAL THREAT OF FLOODING ALONG MISSISSIPPI RIVER

At a time of year when both precipitation and the river level typically are well below normal, recent warm and wet weather could result in record crests.

6. 2 ARRESTED IN ALLEGED PLOTS IN BELGIUM

The arrests follow an investigation that revealed "the threat of serious attacks" in Brussels during the holidays, the prosecutor's office says.

7. 69 JOURNALISTS KILLED ON JOB IN 2015

Twenty-eight of those who died around the world were slain by Islamic militant groups, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

8. US COAL DEATHS ON TRACK FOR RECORD LOW

There were 11 deaths in coal mines nationwide for the year by late December, putting the industry, which is mired in a period of layoffs and idled operations, on track to best the record low of 16 set in 2014.

9. HARD-ROCKIN' MOTORHEAD FRONTMAN DIES AT 70

Ian "Lemmy" Kilmister was as famous for his mustache, mutton chops and the mole on his face as he was for his music.

10. HOW DENVER CLINCHED POSTSEASON BERTH

Linebacker DeMarcus Ware beats quarterback AJ McCarron to a fumbled snap in overtime, sealing the Broncos' 20-17 win over the Cincinnati Bengals.

Rubio in Iowa as questions grow about early-state efforts

CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — With a nationally focused campaign that leans on strong debate performances and television advertising, Marco Rubio isn't going all out in any one of the early voting states.

That's raised eyebrows among Republicans in states such as Iowa, where people are used to being lavished with attention in a presidential campaign.

As 2015 wanes, the Florida senator is back in Iowa on Tuesday for a multi-day swing, hoping to shore up support and finish in the top tier of candidates in the Feb. 1 caucuses.

But he is continuing to spread his time and money across the early states, showing no indication he will choose just one to make his mark.

That's unlike Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who has set his sights on Iowa, and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who is pushing hard in New Hampshire.

While supporters say Rubio just needs to stay in the top cluster in the first few states, some see the approach as risky.

"The caucuses are about organize, organize, organize and get hot at the end," said Iowa Republican strategist Doug Gross, who has not endorsed a candidate. But as for Rubio and his people, "I think they've intentionally tried to run a different campaign."

In another early voting state, South Carolina, former Republican Party chair Karen Floyd described Rubio's approach as "curious," saying his organization there has not been as visible as several of his rivals.

Rubio spokesman Alex Conant said the campaign has no plans to "give up on states we can win."

But it is risky to be seen as having to win a particular state a month before the voting, he said. "We see four states where Marco can succeed," Conant said, referring to the four earliest ones — Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

In Iowa, recent polls have found Cruz and Donald Trump battling for first, with Rubio usually a distant third. He's seen as competing most directly with others considered part of the GOP establishment — Bush, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Most agree he doesn't actually need to win the caucuses, but must emerge as the leader of that group.

"As 2016 starts, Iowa feels it's Cruz's to lose," said Matt Strawn, a former Iowa Republican Party chairman. "A lot of Senator Rubio's success will be determined by whether he can blunt the momentum or not allow any of his New Hampshire competitors to build momentum."

A good organization is important in Iowa because caucuses take more effort than a primary, requiring voters to show up at a fixed time on a winter night. The Republican caucuses drew about 120,000 voters in 2008 and 2012 — roughly 20 percent of registered Republicans.

Cruz has perhaps the strongest traditional organization in Iowa, with backing from churches, an active volunteer network and some key endorsements.

Rival Ben Carson has been wooing churches and Bush and Rand Paul have had staff in the state for months. The biggest wild card remains Trump, who has been drawing massive crowds, but must translate that into caucus voters.

Rubio has less paid staff than some competitors and his state director hails from Arkansas.

He draws large, enthusiastic crowds and has done at least 49 public events in the state this year — more than Bush or Christie, but significantly fewer than Cruz, who has done at least 80. Iowa Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, who is backing Rubio, said the pace will pick up in the next month with "a more traditional Iowa campaign."

Iowans have been exposed to more commercials promoting Rubio than they have almost any other candidate.

Rubio's campaign and two outside groups helping him, including one that keeps its donors secret, together aired about 4,000 ads on broadcast TV in 2015, according to advertising tracker Kantar Media's CMAG. That's second only to Right to Rise, a super political action committee backing Bush, which had about 5,600 ads up this year. Bush's own campaign didn't do any Iowa broadcast advertising, CMAG shows.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 29 of 31

Cruz broadcast only about 800 commercials in the state, and groups helping him have put just a few more on Iowa TV. Trump hasn't had any local commercials.

There's much more to come.

Information from CMAG shows some \$18 million in commercials already on deck for January. Rubio's campaign, so far, plans to spend the most in the state, with the Bush super PAC close behind. But because the ad rates are so much higher for outside groups than for the candidates themselves, Rubio will probably get much more airtime for his money.

Questions about Rubio's organization efforts are being echoed in other early voting states, including New Hampshire and South Carolina.

Christie, Bush and Kasich have spent far more time in New Hampshire than Rubio.

Rubio has taken one major step in South Carolina, picking up the endorsement from Rep. Trey Gowdy, nationally known among conservative activists and the lead congressional figure on the murders of four Americans at the U.S. diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya in September 2012. Gowdy is scheduled to appear with Rubio in Iowa this week.

Elephant seal repeatedly tries to cross California highway

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Wildlife experts and law enforcement officials on Monday worked to keep a determined elephant seal off a Northern California highway that it has repeatedly tried to cross, snarling traffic in the area.

California Highway Patrol spokesman Officer Andrew Barclay said callers first reported the 500-pound mammal was trying to climb the divider wall of Highway 37 near Sears Point in Sonoma.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service crews and CHP officers managed to usher the adult seal back into the San Francisco Bay. But instead of swimming away, the animal got back on land at least twice, Barclay said.

"Every time we got her in the water, she circled back and tried to climb out again," he said.

Most of those trying to help the seal left the area Monday evening after she got back in the water and the tide got lower, decreasing her chances of reaching land.

Barclay said some CHP personnel would patrol the area overnight in case the mammal again attempts to reach land.

Crews with the Sausalito-based Marine Mammal Center and the San Pablo Bay National Marine Sanctuary also helped with the rescue.

Marine Mammal Center spokeswoman Laura Sherr said the seal doesn't seem injured and that she probably got lost and confused after swimming up the wrong waterway.

AP Exclusive: Schools ease athlete penalties for marijuana

ERIC OLSON, AP College Football Writer

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — At least one-third of the Power Five conference schools are not punishing athletes as harshly as they were 10 years ago for testing positive for marijuana and other so-called recreational drugs, according to an investigation by The Associated Press.

The NCAA last year cut in half the penalty for athletes who fail screenings for substances like marijuana at its championship events, and its chief medical officer is pushing for college sports' governing body to get out of the business of testing for rec drugs altogether. The AP found that some of the nation's biggest universities, from Oregon to Auburn, have already eased their punishments as society's views on marijuana use have changed. Marijuana use among U.S. adults has doubled over a decade, according to government surveys, and recreational use is now legal in four states.

The AP analyzed policies for 57 of the 65 schools in the Southeastern, Atlantic Coast, Big 12, Big Ten and Pac-12 conferences, plus Notre Dame.

Of the 57 schools, 23 since 2005 have either reduced penalties or allowed an athlete to test positive more times before being suspended or dismissed. Ten schools have separate, less stringent policies addressing only marijuana infractions.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 30 of 31

In the Pac-12, five schools do not suspend athletes for as long as they once did. At Utah, for example, a third failed test used to mean dismissal; now it's a half-season suspension.

"It's a moving target, and we have to find that balance between being too punitive and not punitive enough, and making sure that we help people that have a problem," Utah athletic director Chris Hill said.

Recreational use of pot is allowed for adults in Oregon and Washington but is against the rules at Pac-12 schools in those states. At Oregon, an athlete doesn't lose playing time until a third failed test; at Oregon State, a third failed test used to mean dismissal, but athletes are now given one more chance.

At Washington, a third failed test used to be a one-year suspension but is now just 30 days.

"The change was intended to make the policy more rehabilitative," Washington spokesman Carter Henderson said.

Northwestern, Penn State, Pittsburgh, Southern California, Syracuse, Vanderbilt and Wake Forest did not provide copies of their drug policies despite repeated requests, citing privacy laws. Stanford does not test its athletes. Illinois has a separate pot policy that has become more strict but isn't as punitive as its policy for drugs like cocaine or heroin.

The Big Ten and Big 12 are the only Power Five conferences that do their own testing in addition to the testing done by the schools and NCAA. Those two conferences punish athletes who test positive for performance-enhancing drugs. The Big 12 is the only conference that screens for recreational drugs, but it does not sanction athletes who test positive. Instead, the Big 12 notifies the school of a positive test and leaves any discipline to the school.

Alcohol remains by far the most abused substance on college campuses, with marijuana ranking second. In the most recent NCAA survey of athletes (2013), 70.9 percent of Division I football players acknowledged using alcohol in the previous 12 months and 19.3 percent acknowledged using marijuana or synthetic marijuana. In men's basketball, reported use was 58.1 percent for alcohol and 11.3 percent for marijuana/synthetic marijuana.

While schools come down hard on athletes caught using performance-enhancing drugs — a first positive test typically results in a one-year suspension — they are much less punitive for marijuana and other so-called street drugs.

Athletes who test positive a first time typically receive counseling but lose no playing time. Also, athletes who come forward and acknowledge drug use before they are tested are offered help under "safe harbor" programs. Second positive tests typically result in some lost playing time. Suspensions generally start kicking in after a second positive, though Kansas, Mississippi, Purdue and Oregon don't mandate a suspension until a third offense.

Football coach Mike Riley, in his first year at Nebraska after 14 years coaching at Oregon State, said he becomes suspicious marijuana is being used when he notices a player who misses or is late for meetings or is not fully engaged on and off the field.

"Through my years in coaching, I can almost pick out the guys who have a marijuana problem," Riley said. "You give me three weeks with a team and, if you've got five guys, I could get three or four of them."

Former Nebraska defensive end Randy Gregory failed a marijuana test at the NFL scouting combine last February and later publicly acknowledged his use in college. Once considered a high first-round draft pick, he wasn't selected until late in the second round by Dallas.

Gregory said he and his Nebraska teammates didn't worry a lot about being tested. Nebraska, under a policy effective since September 2014, suspends an athlete for 10 percent of his or her sport's season after a second failed drug test and 20 percent after a third failed test. A fourth failed test results in dismissal. The previous policy, in place when Gregory initially enrolled, didn't take away playing time until a third failed test.

"I'm not saying that we were kind of like invincible," said Gregory, who played under former Huskers coach Bo Pelini. "But they don't make it a big deal. ... They didn't really test you unless you had failed one and then after that, they test you weekly almost."

Dr. Lonnie Albers, Nebraska's associate athletic director for athletic medicine, declined an interview re-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ♦ Vol. 20 - No. 158 ♦ 31 of 31

quest through the sports information department.

In addition to school testing for a wide range of drugs, Gregory and his teammates were subject to random screening for PEDs by the Big Ten and NCAA.

"Did I know folks that were abusing it? Yeah, on different ends of the spectrum. I think you know what I mean, smoking and other performance-enhancing drugs," Gregory said. "Sometimes guys get lucky. The Big Ten comes in, we're testing steroids, might be a guy on steroids but he may say, 'You know what, I don't think I'll be one of the 12 guys that they're testing out of the 100-and-how-many guys we have on the team.' And they'll get lucky and not get tested. It's kind of hit or miss, I think."

The NCAA has been testing for marijuana and other street drugs at championship events since the 1980s. The NCAA suspends athletes for a full season for a failed PED test. Starting in August 2014, however, the penalty for failing an NCAA street-drug test was reduced from a suspension of one full season to a half season.

NCAA medical chief Dr. Brian Hainline said his organization should concentrate on busting athletes who use PEDs and leave it to the schools to deal with the rest, preferably through treatment rather than punishment.

"The most important thing that I can't emphasize enough is that as a society, we have to make a clear distinction between recreational drug use and cheating," Hainline said. "I really believe that they require two different approaches. One is more nuanced, and one is hard core."

What about marijuana being against the law in most states?

"If we're going to test at championship events for things that are illegal, then we shouldn't just test for pot," Hainline said. "If there are any kids under the age of 18 smoking cigarettes, we should test for that. We certainly should be testing for alcohol for everyone under the age of 21. Then we ask ourselves, 'Where does the moral authority stop?' I'm all for moral authority as long as there is a philosophical consistency to it."