

Groton Daily Independent

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Adam Herman goes up for the shot in last night's boys' basketball game at Northwestern.

Tuesday, January 26

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hamburgers, French fries, romaine salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, au gratin potatoes, peas and carrots, iced honey cookie, whole wheat bread.

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

4:00pm: JHBBB host Warner (7th at 4:00, 8th at 5:00)

6:30pm: BBB host Hitchcock-Tulare

Wednesday, January 27

FFA State Degree Review/Star Interviews at Webster

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

School Lunch: Hot dog wraps, baked beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Lasagna rotini, tossed salad with dressing, ambrosia fruit salad, oatmeal spice cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Jennifer Podoll, Kristie Hawkins, Marcia Blumhardt, Rhonda Millim, Wendy Cooper

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

Thursday, January 28

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

School Lunch: Chicken dumplings, muffin, smile potato, lettuce, fruit.

Senior Menu: Roast beef, potatoes and carrots and onions, gravy, peaches, multi-grain dinner roll.

Birthdays: Audrey Miller, Deanna Hendrickson, Loren Locken, Ruby Luce

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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 Daily
INDEPENDENT

110 N Washington St., Groton
www.397news.com ~ 397-NEWS (6397) Paul: 397-7460

Follow The Groton
Activities On-Line

 **livestream**

Paul Irvin Kosel and Justin Olson
Julianna and Jeslyn Kosel

gdilive.com

Coming up this week at gdilive.com

- Tuesday, Jan. 26: Boys' Basketball hosting Hitchcock-Tulare (Varsity only)
- Thursday, Jan. 28: Girls' Basketball at Sisseton (Varsity only)
- Friday, Jan. 29: Boys' Basketball hosting Sisseton (JV and Varsity)
- Saturday, Jan. 30: Girls' Basketball at Gettysburg (Varsity only)
- Saturday, Jan. 30: Groton Wrestling Tournament
- Sunday, Jan. 31: 2 p.m. Performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates

Ready to bring your heart and expertise to a team that feels more like a family? Bring your passion for patient care to the Golden LivingCenter in Groton. The Groton facility is now hiring for CNAs and Nurses. They have new wages with an excellent benefits package. All shifts are open. Join the team today by calling Jessica at 397-2365. The Golden LivingCenter of Groton is looking for you!

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Groton boys run past Northwestern



Sean Schuring

The Groton boys basketball team went to Mellette Monday night to take on the Northwestern Wildcats and came home with a 70-45 non-conference win.

Four players hit double figures for the Tigers with Hunter Lerew having 17, Bennett Shabazz 11, Sean Schuring and Brandon Keith each had 10, Seric Shabazz eight, Adam Herman six, Anthony Sippel and Marshall Lane each had three and Aaron Severson added two points.

Groton Area made 48 percent of its field goals while the Wildcats made 38 percent. Groton was seven of 11 from the line for 64 percent off of Northwestern's 10 team fouls. Northwestern made six of nine free throws for 67 percent off of Groton's 11 team fouls. Groton controlled the boards, 35-28, with Lerew having seven rebounds for Groton and Logan Schentzel and Derek Boekelheide each having five for the Wildcats. Groton had 13 turnovers with three being steals. Northwestern had 24 turnovers with 18 being steals as Bennett Shabazz had seven and Seric Shabazz had six. Groton had 12 assists with Herman having five. Northwestern had four assists. Lerew had five blocks and Brandon Keith had one.

Northwestern won the C game game, 44-40. There was no junior varsity game.

The Tigers will host Hitchcock-Tulare tonight.

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	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS							MIN			
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO		BK	S	
NO GROTON																		
12 Schuring, Sean	F	4	8	1	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	10	1	1	0	2	16:00	
40 Lerew, Hunter	C	8	11	0	0	1	2	3	4	7	2	17	0	2	5	1	8:00	
4 Shabazz, Bennett	G	4	8	2	3	1	1	0	1	1	11	3	3	0	7	16:00		
5 Shabazz, Seric	G	3	7	0	4	2	3	1	2	3	0	8	1	0	0	6	16:00	
11 Herman, Adam	G	3	6	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	6	5	0	0	1	0:00	
3 Sippel, Anthony		1	4	1	4	0	0	1	1	2	1	3	0	2	0	1	16:00	
10 Lane, Marshall		1	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	16:00	
14 Rogers, Truitt		0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0:00	
20 Keith, Brandon		3	7	2	5	2	3	0	3	3	0	10	0	1	1	0	32:00	
22 Oliver, Jackson		0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	16:00	
24 Wuestewald, Frankie		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	8:00	
50 Severson, Aaron		1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	16:00	
TEAM REBOUNDS									2	7	9				0			
Team Totals		28	59	7	19	7	11	9	26	35	11	70	12	13	6	18	160	

Total FG% - 1st: 15/32 0.469 2nd: 13/27 0.481 Game: 0.475 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 2/10 0.200 2nd: 5/9 0.556 Game: 0.368 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 7/9 0.778 2nd: 0/2 0.000 Game: 0.636 (2,0)

	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS							MIN		
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT	PF	TP	A	TO		BK	S
NO Northwestern																	
4 Lefforge, Cody	*	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	2	0	0	0:00
12 Boekleheide, Derek	*	4	12	1	4	3	4	0	5	5	1	12	1	6	0	3	24:00
23 Schentzel, Caleb	*	3	7	2	4	0	2	1	2	3	0	8	1	3	0	0	24:00
40 Haven, Jarret	*	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	3	4	0	6	0	0	16:00
42 Schentzel, Logan	*	5	12	0	0	3	3	0	5	5	0	13	1	2	0	0	16:00
2 Peterson, Nolan		2	4	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	8:00
3 Lefforge, Andrew		0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	0	0	3	0	0	32:00
5 Bohl, Gavin		1	4	0	1	0	0	0	3	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	16:00
10 Toennies, Zack		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
20 Clemens, Zach		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	8:00
21 Groft, Isaac		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS									1	3	4				0		
Team Totals		17	45	5	14	6	9	4	24	28	10	45	4	24	0	3	160

Total FG% - 1st: 6/15 0.400 2nd: 11/30 0.367 Game: 0.378 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/5 0.000 2nd: 5/9 0.556 Game: 0.357 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 2/3 0.667 2nd: 4/6 0.667 Game: 0.667 (1,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton	18	21	20	11	70
Mobridge	8	6	14	17	45

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Kindergarten News **Ann Gibbs and Renee Swisher**

Happy New Year! We celebrated 2015 by blowing horns, playing musical chairs, eating treats and watching the movie, "Happy New Year, Charlie Brown!" What a fun way to come back to school after a long Christmas break!

In Math, we worked very hard at learning the various coins. We know lots of information about pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters! We can also recognize the coins and tell their value. Our next chapter we will be learning the numbers 11-40. Start practicing these big numbers at home!

Kindergartners love Science! We are learning how animals live in the winter. We studied about hibernation and how bears have their babies in January-right in the middle of their hibernation! After such a strenuous ordeal, they go back to sleep for two more months! If you visit the Kindergarten classroom, please be very quiet! Our bears that we made during art class are sleeping in our classroom caves!

In Literature, we read Chicken Soup with Rice. This is a wonderful story about the months of the year. We also learned a song called "Months of the Year". We have talked about the month we celebrate our birthday. We even tasted chicken soup with rice and most of us loved it! The warm soup helped warm us on these cold winter days.

Mrs. Swisher has an intern in her classroom for three weeks. Kennedy Clark is a student at the University of Sioux Falls majoring in Elementary Education. She is assisting the students as part of her interim class. Thank you, Kennedy! We really appreciate your help!

Stay warm in this South Dakota weather!

Second Grade **Jane Kroll**

Welcome 2016!! Our New School Year began on Monday, Jan. 4, 2016. With the new school year, came a new student, Jillian Cupp joined the fifty 2nd grade students, making our class the largest in the Elementary with 51 students.

Along with the New Year came a new reading book. Our Reading series is divided into 2 big books. The students finished the first book before Christmas break. When they returned to school they found their next new book waiting for them - what a great way to begin the New Year. The first two stories, "Head, Body, Legs: A Story From Liberia" and "Officer Buckle and Gloria", helped our students see how working together is much better than working by yourself. The illustrations were used to help tell the story. What great examples for our beginning authors/illustrators.

We began writing cursive! The students have been waiting "forever" to do this. The series we use begins with the easier letters, giving the students the feel of writing in cursive and then advances to the more complex. With practice and patience, they will develop into excellent writers.

Our second semester began January 10th. The students are learning to become more responsible for their work, staying on task and completing work on time. All skills needed to move on to 3rd grade.

In Math, the students have been working on double digit addition and subtraction, reading and using graphs, and telling time. Once again manipulatives are put to use, giving students a chance to do hands on studying, helping them review and master math skills. The Smart Boards are also used daily to demonstrate and practice these skills.

Our students have participated in two poster contests, one for "Design an Ad" sponsored by the Aberdeen American News and the "Smokey Bear/ Woodsy Owl" poster contest. The students did a great job on both posters and are looking forward to seeing how the judges liked them!

The students are reading the way to their AR goal of 20 points. With each book comes a new adventure or information gained for the student. Many have already reached the 2nd grade goal and are reading on. Some have reached 100 AR points! Way to go!!

Whatever the subject or activity, our second semester 2nd graders are ready for 2016!

January Title I Newsletter

Lynette Grieve

The Impacts of Family Engagement

Research confirms that the more parents are actively engaged in their children's education, there is higher academic performance, improved levels of attendance, and improved behavior. Family engagement is crucial for students' academic success and learning truly begins at home.

One form of involvement is reading aloud to your children. Here are some suggestions offered by Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), a national nonprofit organization that inspires youngsters to read.

- Set aside a special time each day to read aloud to your children. Fifteen minutes a day is an ideal time.
- Vary your selections. For very young children, look for picture books with art work and stories that are simple, clear and colorful.
- Read slowly and with expression. The more you ham it up, the more your children will love it. Try substituting your child's name for a character in the story.
- Have your children sit where they can see the book clearly, especially if it is a picture book.
- Allow time for your children to settle into the story, as well as time afterwards to talk about it.
- As you read aloud, encourage your children to get in on the act. Invite them to describe pictures, read bits of text, or predict what will happen next. It is even fun to dramatize the roles in the story or read lines of dialogue.
- Children like a sense of completion, so finish what you begin. If the book is lengthy, find an appropriate stopping point, such as the end of a chapter.
- Continue to read aloud to your children even after they begin school and are independent readers. There is no age limit to reading to your children.
- Teenagers may enjoy reading aloud to a younger sibling. They often like to revisit some of their old favorites.

Pappas places fourth at Watertown

Junior Keri Pappas placed 4th in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking at the Watertown Speech Fiesta Invitational Debate contest. Students from throughout South Dakota and North Dakota competed at this two day event. Also competing for Groton were the teams of Pappas and Garrett Stene and Kelsey Iverson and Lily Cutler in Varsity Public Forum Debate. Samantha Pappas competed for GHS in Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate and Dramatic Interp. Keri Pappas also competed in Varsity Original Oratory.



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Groton to hold 78th Annual Carnival of Silver Skates

Groton will host the 78th annual Carnival of Silver Skates featuring more than 100 figure skaters on January 31, 2016. Two performances of this unique outdoor ice skating show will be held at the Groton ice rink at 2:00 PM and 6:30 PM. All are invited to attend. The afternoon performance will be broadcast on gdilive.com.

The rink is located on the west side of town, near the baseball complex. This year's theme is "Skating All Through the Year." It celebrates the 78th performance of the Carnival of Silver Skates. The theme features various seasons and holidays throughout the year. It combines the skating skills of many talented youth, the experience and imagination of their instructors, a fun variety of music and the flare of colorful costumes.

The show will feature Groton area figure skaters, from preschool to high school age. Several specialty acts will also perform. With the variety of seasons, comes a variety of costumes, music and entertainment. The youngest skaters, the Snowflakes and Kindergartners, will skate to "Summer," from the popular movie, Frozen, while dressed as the even more popular character, Olaf. The 5th graders will perform an ode to Valentine's Day by dressing in veils and skating to "Dear Future Husband," by Meghan Trainor. The all boys group will showcase Halloween with "Monster Mash." The 4th graders round-out the seasons with "All the Leaves are Brown," by The Mamas & the Papas. Other songs include tributes to the 4th of July with "Born in the USA," St. Patrick's Day with "The Celtic Song," and Thanksgiving with the Thanksgiving Song "Thank You" by Brianna Haynes, just to name a few. Spectators will marvel at the beautiful, professional-looking costumes, thanks to the volunteer costume committee, chaired by Pam Barse.

Following tradition, 2015 Carnival of Silver Skates Queen Allison Weber, daughter of Mike and Lori Weber, of Groton, will crown the 2016 queen during the 2:00 PM performance. This year's candidates include: Seniors Aubray Harry, Jamie Krueger, and Jasmine Schaller, and Juniors Katie Koehler, Gabrielle Kramer and Melanie Schutze.

Plan to attend "Skating All Through the Year" in Groton on January 31st at 2:00 PM or 6:30 PM. Admission for the show is just \$3.00 for those 13 and older, \$2.00 for those ages 6-12, and free for children ages 5 and under. Watch from the comfort of your own vehicle, listening to music and narration from your radio. There will be plenty of parking, with only cars allowed on the ice and larger vehicles allowed on upper tiers. Attendees are asked to please limit vehicles to one per family. Parking on the ice will begin at 10:00 AM on Sunday for the first show and again at 4:30 PM for the evening show. Or dress for the weather of the day and enjoy the show from the bleachers. Don't miss out on this unique, outdoor skating experience! Like our Facebook page – Silver Skates - for updates and information!

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Today in Weather History

1978 - A paralyzing blizzard struck the Midwest. One to three feet of snow fell in Michigan, and 20 to 40 inches was reported across Indiana. Winds reached 70 mph in Michigan, and gusted above 100 mph in Ohio. The high winds produced snow drifts twenty feet high in Michigan and Indiana stranding thousands on the interstate highways. Temperatures in Ohio dropped from the 40s to near zero during the storm. (David Ludlum)

1983 - The California coast was battered by a storm which produced record high tides, thirty-two foot waves, and mudslides, causing millions of dollars damage. The storm then moved east and dumped four feet of snow on Lake Tahoe. (22nd-29th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A winter storm spread heavy snow across the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast States, with 18 inches reported at Vineland NJ, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Chatham MA. Snow cover in Virginia ranged up to thirty inches following this second major storm in just one week. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A snowstorm in the northeastern U.S. produced 19 inches at Austerlitz NY and Stillwater NY. A storm in the Great Lakes Region left 16.5 inches at Marquette MI, for a total of 43 inches in six days. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds created blizzard-like conditions in northwestern Vermont. Winds at Saint Albans gusted to 88 mph. In Alaska, the town of Cold Foot (located north of Fairbanks) reported a morning low of 75 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A winter storm spread high winds from the northwestern U.S. to Wyoming and Colorado, with heavy snow in some of the high elevations. Stevens Pass WA received 17 inches of snow, half of which fell in four hours. In extreme northwest Wyoming, Togwotee Mountain Lodge received 24 inches of snow. Winds in Colorado gusted to 90 mph at Rollinsville. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Scattered Flurries	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Blustery then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance Rain and Breezy
High: 30 °F	Low: 16 °F	High: 39 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 35 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 42 °F



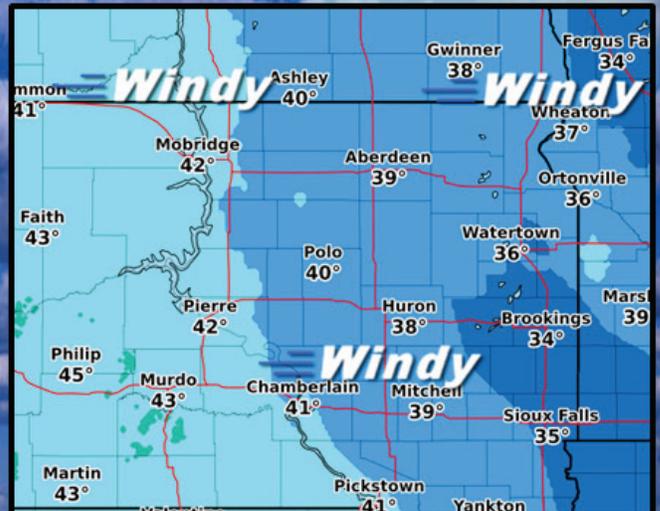
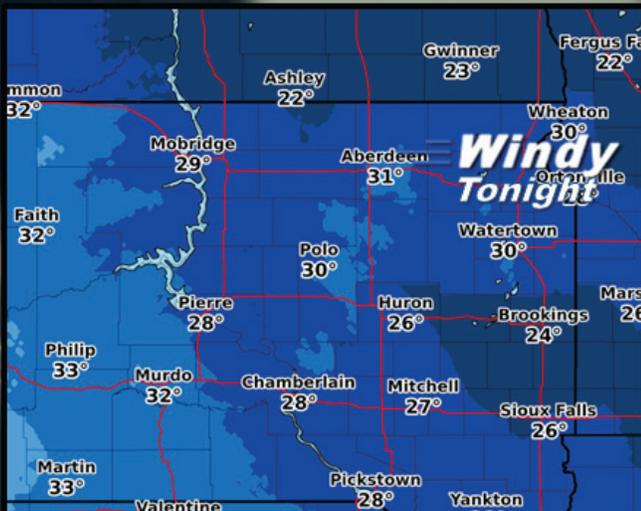
Warmer Temperatures Ahead

Today

Afternoon: Breaks in clouds, slightly above normal temps
After midnight: Gusty winds and drifting snow east of the Sisseton Hills, including I-29 between Summit & Sisseton

Wednesday

Temperature: Unseasonably warm -- highs in the 30s and 40s
Winds: Increasing westerly winds through the afternoon



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 1/26/2016 5:04 AM Central

Published on: 01/26/2016 at 5:06AM

A quiet weather day is expected today. Clouds should begin to break up this afternoon, and slightly above normal temperatures can be anticipated. Tonight through Wednesday morning, expect strong winds east of the Sisseton Hills. Gusty westerly winds will develop across the whole region Wednesday afternoon, along with unseasonably warm temperatures.

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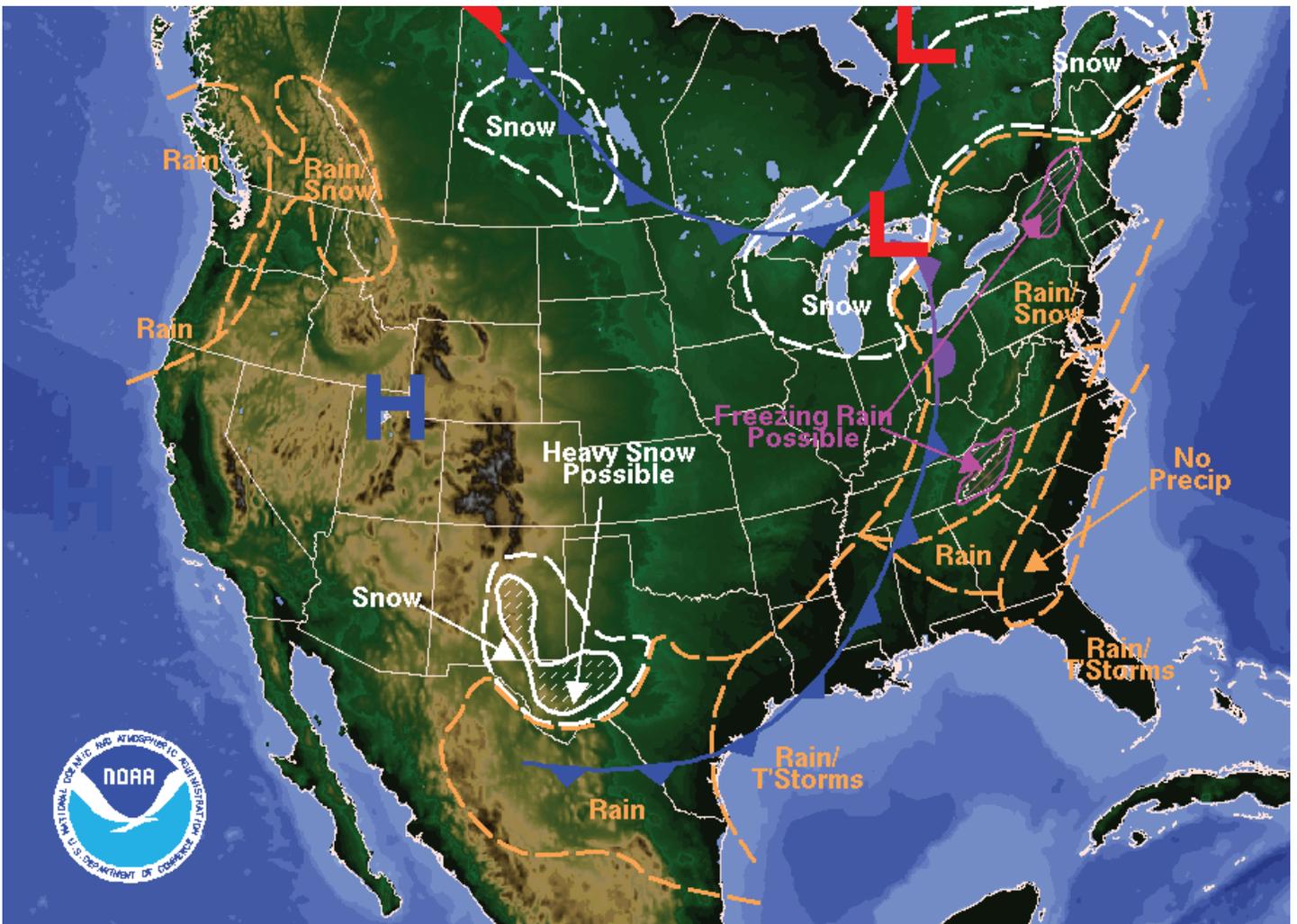
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 27.7 at 2:44 PM
Low: 19.8 at 7:58 AM
High Gust: 23 at 4:44 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 58° in 1947
Record Low: -30° in 1950
Average High: 23°F
Average Low: 2°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.41
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.41
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:31 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:00 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Jan 26, 2016, issued 3:41 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



WHAT TO BELIEVE

Two burglars very proficiently disabled the alarm system and carefully picked the lock of a well-secured home. Just as they were quietly opening the door, a large guard dog suddenly appeared.

"Go in," said one, confidently pushing the thief that was standing before him. "He's OK, he is barking but wagging his tail."

"True," said the other. "But I don't know which to believe."

There are times when some of us struggle with the goodness of God's grace and our salvation. We have questions about what we should really believe.

Someone might say, "You are too bad to be saved; the sins you have committed are beyond God's forgiveness." But the Lord says, "I came to call sinners, not the righteous to repentance."

Another might say, "You are too young to be saved. You don't understand what it means to be born again." But God's Word declares, "Now is the accepted time."

Others say, "I can't hold out." But His Word assures us, "He is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless!"

Prayer: Father, in times of doubt and defeat, may we keep our eyes on You and our faith in You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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News from the Associated Press

Suspect in custody in Sioux Falls death ruled a homicide

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police have a suspect in custody in a death they have ruled a homicide.

Officers who responded to a report of a fight at the Arena Motel about 10:30 p.m. Monday found a male lying unresponsive in the parking lot. The person was taken to a hospital, where he died from his injuries.

Police say officers located the male suspect inside a room in the motel and arrested him on homicide and assault charges. The suspect allegedly assaulted an acquaintance of the victim who had tried to stop the fight.

Feds to work with Rosebud Sioux Tribe on new food initiative

MISSION, S.D. (AP) — The Rosebud Indian Reservation is one of 27 communities nationwide that's been selected to participate in a new federal initiative that aims to increase economic opportunities for local farmers and improve the quality of life in rural communities.

The Local Foods, Local Places initiative is a collaboration among six federal agencies that will work with communities in 22 states. The Rosebud Economic Development Corp. in Mission is the only South Dakota group selected for the state.

The government says the group will receive technical assistance to establish a hub of healthy activity centered on local food. The plan is to use a new trail system that links the local grocery store, community garden, farmers market, creek and wetlands.

Jackley says it's National Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says this week is National Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week.

Jackley said Monday that the scam can target consumers by phone or email. He says tax identity theft can be when a scammer uses a social security number to secure a tax refund.

He says scam artists can also try to get money or personal identifying information while impersonating an Internal Revenue Service agent.

Jackley says potential victims can also receive emails from unscrupulous characters claiming that there were problems with a previous tax filing. The goal is to obtain victims' personal information.

Jackley is reminding South Dakotans that the IRS doesn't communicate with citizens through telephone or email about tax filing problems.

Monday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Alcester-Hudson 53, Scotland 32

Bison 75, Dupree 54

Britton-Hecla 62, Webster 32

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 75, McLaughlin 67

Groton Area 70, Northwestern 45

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Mitchell Christian vs. Howard, ppd.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Baltic 49, Dell Rapids St. Mary 46

Dupree 53, Newell 35
Herreid/Selby Area 55, Linton-HMB, N.D. 44
Lennox 51, Madison 39
Rosholt 67, Richland, N.D. 64
South Border, N.D. 53, Eureka/Bowdle 38
Warner 62, Langford 24

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Hanson vs. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, ppd. to Jan 26.
Chamberlain vs. Kimball/White Lake, ppd. to Jan 26.
Corsica/Stickney vs. Viborg-Hurley, ppd.

GOP lawmaker proposes allowing concealed weapons in Capitol

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Republican lawmaker has introduced a bill that would allow concealed weapon permit holders to bring guns into the South Dakota state Capitol.

The measure was introduced Monday. It removes a prohibition from carrying in the Capitol from state law.

The proposal would allow state officials including the governor, constitutional officers, legislative leaders and Supreme Court justices to post signs barring concealed weapons in galleries or offices.

Republican Sen. Betty Olson says her proposal would deter potential attackers at the Capitol. The bill would also allow legislators to inform Capitol security that they're carrying weapons and volunteer to assist if necessary.

Olson says lawmakers are "sitting ducks" in the House and Senate chambers. She says she "certainly will" carry a concealed weapon if allowed.

A similar proposal failed last session.

State judicial officials warning residents of phone scam

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota judicial officials are warning the state's residents of a phone scam in which callers try to collect money by threatening people with legal action.

Officials with the Unified Judicial System say callers identify themselves as court employees and tell people that they can avoid immediate legal action by paying them.

The callers may seem legitimate by making it appear as if they're calling from a clerk of courts office.

Anyone receiving these calls can contact South Dakota's Consumer Protection Division or else call a local court to verify an outstanding court debt.

House GOP leader looking for alternate teacher pay plan

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Predicting that Gov. Dennis Daugaard's proposed half-cent sales tax increase to help raise teacher pay is unlikely to succeed, the state House Republican leader said he's looking for a way to boost those salaries without raising taxes.

Majority Leader Brian Gosch told The Associated Press that a group of Republicans may have a rough contingency plan by Friday. It's "prudent" to have an alternative ready if the governor's plan is defeated, he said.

"I don't want to get caught behind the eight ball and scramble if the plan falls apart raising taxes," said Gosch, who opposes the half-cent increase. "I think it's going to fail, and then you've got an alternative plan in place."

It takes a two-thirds vote in each chamber to pass a tax increase. Daugaard's office is "optimistic" that his pay measure will pass, said Tony Venhuizen, the governor's chief of staff. He said many lawmakers are still learning about the plan, which hasn't yet been introduced as legislation.

"Nobody can see the future, but we've talked to almost every legislator and there is a consensus that we need to take action this year and do something," Venhuizen said, noting that it's still early in the session.

Senate Majority Leader Corey Brown said it's too soon to be looking for an alternative.

Pressure has increased for South Dakota to raise teacher pay, which a state task force said is the lowest of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. South Dakota's average teacher salary of \$40,023 in 2013-14 lagged an average of six states that border it by \$11,888 a year and was \$8,643 behind the next lowest neighbor, North Dakota, the group found.

Daugaard's budget for the upcoming fiscal year calls for just a 0.3 percent increase for education because he is banking on the sales tax increase to shore up funding for teacher pay. If approved, it would be the first permanent increase to South Dakota's sales tax rate of 4 percent in nearly half a century, and it would raise more than \$100 million in the upcoming budget year.

About \$62.4 million of that total would go toward teacher salaries, and about \$40 million in additional revenue from the increase would go to property tax relief, according to the governor's office.

Daugaard's plan would raise the state's target average teacher salary to \$48,500 per year. He has also proposed reinstating caps on school reserve funds and limiting the growth of revenue schools use to pay for facilities and maintenance.

Gosch said schools have been holding on to more money in reserves over the last several years, and said districts have more than \$400 million in the bank.

"I think there's money there now if the school districts would choose to spend it that way to pay teachers more," Gosch said. "There's a better way to do it. I don't think we need to raise taxes to give teachers more."

Gosch declined to identify the four House Republicans he tasked with identifying an alternative, to spare them from lobbying. If the group decides to keep the same education funding formula, Gosch said they would at least try to increase state aid for schools by 2.7 percent.

It would take about \$12.5 million more than what the governor proposed in his budget to boost the increase to that level, Gosch said. The group would also look at doing more for teachers if possible, he said.

Jackley: Taxicab killer 'likely' to get resentencing hearing

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley says a South Dakota man who was 14 when he was charged with killing a taxicab driver in Pierre will likely get a new resentencing hearing.

Jackley told The Associated Press that it appears a ruling Monday from the U.S. Supreme Court means Paul Dean Jensen will get a chance at freedom. The Supreme Court justices voted to extend a ruling from 2012 that struck down automatic life terms with no chance of parole for teenage killers.

Jensen was convicted in 1996 for shooting and killing cab driver Michael Hare earlier that year.

Jackley says Jensen is the only inmate in the state to be affected by the ruling. He says a court will still have the discretion to resentence Jensen up to life imprisonment.

State Senate votes to approve retirement system changes

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Senate has approved a measure to create a new retirement plan for future public employees that includes a two-year increase in the normal retirement age to 67 for many new workers.

The chamber approved the plan Monday. It now heads to the state House of Representatives.

Advocates say the measure is intended to maintain the sustainability of the retirement system. Republican Sen. Larry Tidemann says that life expectancy is increasing.

The changes would remove subsidies for early retirement to pay for an increase in base benefits for public employees such as teachers and city and county workers.

The normal retirement age for new public safety officials would jump two years to 57.

The changes would apply to people hired after June 30, 2017.

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State Senate approves bill to increase funding for counties

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Senate has approved a measure that would distribute a share of alcohol tax revenue from the state to the counties.

Senate lawmakers approved the bill Monday. It now heads to the House.

Counties are looking to lawmakers to help keep pace with rising costs, frequently for courts and jails.

Republican Sen. Bob Ewing says counties need the funds that they would receive under his proposal.

Advocates say counties frequently deal with alcohol-related criminal costs, so they should get a quarter of the alcohol revenue. It raised about \$14.4 million last fiscal year.

Opponents say the proposal would shift funding from state priorities such as education. A spokeswoman for Gov. Dennis Daugaard has said he opposes the plan.

A House committee voted down a sales tax for counties last week.

House panel approves bill governing student bathroom use

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Students in South Dakota public schools would be required to use the bathrooms and locker rooms that match their biological sex under a measure a state legislative panel approved Monday.

The House State Affairs committee sent the plan to the full chamber. If passed, it would then head to the Senate. The bill also requires schools to provide “reasonable accommodations” for transgender students’ bathroom, showering and changing needs upon request, said Republican Rep. Fred Deutsch, who is sponsoring the measure.

Accommodations in the legislation include a single-occupancy bathroom or the “controlled use” of a staff-designated restroom, locker room or shower room.

Deutsch said the plan is a response the Obama administration’s overreach in interpretation of federal anti-discrimination law related to education. He said the bill is meant to protect the privacy of students “in the most private places in our schools.”

Federal officials have said that barring students from restrooms that match their gender identity is prohibited under Title IX anti-discrimination law.

“This is obviously not an easy social issue to discuss or to try to provide solutions to,” Deutsch said. “My bill is my best attempt doing my best due diligence to provide a solution that maintains our values as a state and provides common sense.”

Libby Skarin, policy director at the American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota, said the measure could create “a messy conflict” between state and federal law that would leave schools vulnerable to legal proceedings and the potential loss of federal funds for education.

“This bill would not only place significant harm on actual transgender kids, but it would create a legal mess,” she said.

There have been two offers for pro bono legal representation in the case of litigation if the measure becomes law, said Dale Bartscher, who was lobbying for the conservative group Family Heritage Alliance.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in an email that he hasn’t yet taken a position on the proposal. Kelsey Pritchard said the governor will be monitoring the bill.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association has a policy allowing transgender student athletes to request playing on the team of their choice. Opposing lawmakers’ attempts to void that policy last session failed.

Deutsch said his plan has “nothing to do” with the activities association.

Rapid City students advance to National Science Bowl finals

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A team of students from Rapid City Stevens High School has advanced to the National Science Bowl finals in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz says the Rapid City students won their regional competition over the weekend.

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Moniz says the National Science Bowl pits thousands of middle school and high school students. The format is a fast-paced question-and-answer format where they solve technical problems and answer questions regarding biology, chemistry, Earth and space science, physics and math.

The national finals are April 28 to May 2. The top 16 high school teams and the top 16 middle school teams will win \$1,000 for their schools' science departments. The top two high school teams will get special prizes that will be announced later. Last year, the top teams won trips.

2,000 people lose power after electrical fire in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — More than 2,000 people in Sioux Falls lost power Monday after an electrical pole caught fire.

Xcel Energy spokesman Eric Pauli told the Argus Leader on Monday afternoon that the company was working to fix power outages in the northeast portion of the city. The pole that caught fire was in the 2800 block of East Rice Street.

KELO-TV reports that as of 1:20 p.m., 500 people were still without power. The company expected to have power restored to everyone by 2:30 p.m.

Xcel Energy serves almost 75,000 customers in Sioux Falls.

Wild Card 2 lottery ticket sold in Dell Rapids worth \$6,000

DELL RAPIDS, S.D. (AP) — A Wild Card 2 ticket sold in Dell Rapids is worth \$6,000 in the latest drawing. State lottery officials say the ticket matched all five white ball numbers but missed the Wild Card in Saturday's drawing to win the game's second prize. The odds are 1 in about 127,000.

The winner has about six months to claim the prize.

Wild Card 2 is played in the Dakotas, Montana and Idaho. The jackpot sits at \$285,000 for the next drawing, on Wednesday.

Grand jury indicts producers of Planned Parenthood videos

PAUL J. WEBER, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A grand jury has indicted two anti-abortion activists who made undercover videos alleging Planned Parenthood illegally sold fetal tissue to researchers for a profit, and said the abortion provider committed no wrong.

The grand jury in Houston, which investigated Planned Parenthood after the Center for Medical Progress released its undercover footage last year, indicted the center's founder and another activist on Monday — the first criminal charges against anyone in the anti-abortion group since the videos surfaced last year.

The videos provoked outrage among Republican leaders nationwide and prompted investigations by Republican-led committees in Congress and by GOP-led state governments. Planned Parenthood officials have denied any wrongdoing and say the videos are misleading.

Center for Medical Progress CEO David Daleiden and activist Sandra Merritt each face a felony charge of tampering with a governmental record, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Daleiden also faces a misdemeanor count related to purchasing human organs.

The center's footage from the Planned Parenthood clinic in Houston showed people pretending to be from a company called BioMax that procures fetal tissue for research touring the facility. Planned Parenthood has said that the fake company sent an agreement offering to pay the "astronomical amount" of \$1,600 for organs from a fetus. The clinic said it never entered into the agreement and ceased contact with BioMax because it was "disturbed" by the overtures.

In a statement announcing the indictment, Harris County District Attorney Devon Anderson did not provide details on the charges, including which records were allegedly tampered with. Her office said it could not disclose more information, and it was unclear when the indictments would be made public.

"We were called upon to investigate allegations of criminal conduct by Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast," Anderson, an elected Republican, said in her statement. "As I stated at the outset of this investigation,

we must go where the evidence leads us.”

Daleiden issued a statement saying his group “uses the same undercover techniques” as investigative journalists and follows all applicable laws.

“We respect the processes of the Harris County District Attorney, and note that buying fetal tissue requires a seller as well,” he said.

Planned Parenthood has said a few clinics in two states used to accept legally allowed reimbursement for the costs of providing tissue donated by some of its abortion clients. In October, Planned Parenthood announced that it would no longer accept reimbursement and would cover the costs itself.

The group called Monday’s indictments the latest in a string of victories since the videos were released, saying 11 state investigations have cleared the nation’s largest abortion provider of claims that it profited from fetal tissue donation.

“This is absolutely great news because it is a demonstration of what Planned Parenthood has said from the very beginning: We follow every law and regulation and these anti-abortion activists broke multiple laws to try and spread lies,” said spokeswoman Rochelle Tafolla of Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast.

The Texas video was the fifth released by the Center for Medical Progress.

Despite the center’s lofty name, public filings suggest only a small number of people are affiliated with the nonprofit, none of whom are scientists or physicians engaged in advancing medical treatments. The people named as its top officers are longtime anti-abortion activists with a history of generating headlines.

Earlier this month, Planned Parenthood sued the center in a California federal court, alleging extensive criminal misconduct. The lawsuit says the center’s videos were the result of numerous illegalities, including making recordings without consent, registering false identities with state agencies and violating nondisclosure agreements.

After the lawsuit was filed, Daleiden told The Associated Press he looked forward to confronting Planned Parenthood in court.

Michigan appoints ex-prosecutor to lead Flint water probe

DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

MIKE HOUSEHOLDER, Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Michigan’s Republican attorney general has named a former prosecutor to spearhead an investigation into the process that left Flint’s drinking water tainted with lead, though Democrats questioned whether the special counsel would be impartial.

Attorney General Bill Schuette said Monday that Todd Flood, a former assistant prosecutor for Wayne County, which includes Detroit, will lead the probe and be joined by Andy Arena, a retired head of Detroit’s FBI office.

Schuette said the two would play key roles in the investigation and prevent conflicts of interest since the attorney general’s office also defends the state. Both will report to Schuette, who promised they would provide an “experienced and independent review of all the facts and circumstances.”

He dismissed any concerns about Flood, who is now in private practice and has donated to candidates from both parties, including the maximum allowable amount to Schuette.

“I don’t care who he (Flood) has given money to, Republican (or) Democrat. It doesn’t matter,” Schuette said. “This is about conducting a thorough, exhaustive, complete investigation. That’s what we’re doing.”

It is unclear at this point if the probe could result in criminal or civil charges. The investigation could focus on whether environmental laws were broken or if there was official misconduct in the process that left Flint’s drinking water contaminated.

Flood declined to discuss which laws may have been broken, except to note that “a plethora of laws” could be used and that there are prohibitions against misconduct by public officials.

Schuette gave no timetable for the investigation.

Flint switched from Detroit’s municipal water system while under emergency state financial management and began drawing from the Flint River in 2014 to save money, but the water was not properly treated.

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Residents have been urged to use bottled water and to put filters on faucets.

Republican Gov. Rick Snyder has been a focus of criticism, but Schuette said political affiliations would not be a factor there either.

Democrats noted state records show Flood gave \$3,000 to Snyder's campaigns and the maximum \$10,200 to Schuette over the 2010 and 2014 election cycles. Flood also gave \$1,200 to former Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm and donated to various judicial candidates.

State Rep. LaTanya Garrett, D-Detroit, is asking U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch to open a federal investigation instead. She noted that Schuette denied a Democratic legislator's September request for a state investigation.

"I am not confident that he can serve in the best interest of the Flint citizens," Garrett said.

Schuette declined to investigate in December but later reversed course and announced the inquiry Jan. 15. That came more than four months after a Virginia Tech researcher said the Flint River was leaching lead from pipes into people's homes because the water was not treated for corrosion.

The attorney general said he continually reviews information that comes his way, and that a mass of new data that came to light around New Year's prompted him to open a probe.

The attorney general's office represents the people of Michigan and the state government, so Schuette said having the special counsel will help prevent conflicts between Schuette's team and those defending the governor and state departments against water-related lawsuits.

Lawsuits against Snyder and the state will be supervised by Chief Deputy Attorney General Carol Isaacs and Chief Legal Counsel Matthew Schneider. Schuette noted there was a similar effort during Detroit's bankruptcy case to avoid conflicts of interest.

Flood represented former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick in state court in 2013 when Kilpatrick was accused of violating parole in a case that forced him out of office. Arena heads the Detroit Crime Commission, a nonprofit aimed at reducing criminal activity.

Schuette declined to say how much the outside investigators will be paid.

"This is going to be a 'Joe Friday' investigation," Arena said, referencing the detective from the TV show "Dragnet" known for his factual approach, "so I'm Joe Friday."

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. TIGHT DEMOCRAT RACE HIGHLIGHTS DIFFERING VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT ROLE

Clinton and Sanders often share the same goals, but have different policy prescriptions and preferred tactics for achieving them.

2. IRAN LEADER IN ROME BOASTS NATION NOW MOST STABLE IN REGION

Hassan Rouhani is using the first state visit by an Iranian president to Europe in nearly two decades to boost his country's economy, now that a nuclear deal has led to the lifting of sanctions.

3. PAIR BEHIND PLANNED PARENTHOOD VIDEOS INDICTED IN TEXAS

The indictment is the first time anyone with the anti-abortion group has been charged criminally since the undercover footage began surfacing last year.

4. SLOW RETURN TO NORMAL ROUTINES FOR CITIES HIT BY SNOWSTORM

In the Washington area, the Metro subway system is scheduled to be close to fully operational Tuesday morning, while New York City's subway and bus service were fully operational Monday.

5. SEARCH UNDERWAY FOR 3 ESCAPEES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The investigation is focused on suburban communities where the men could be hiding among friends, family or fellow gang members.

6. WHAT WWII SURVIVOR REVEALS IN HER BOOK

Mirjam Bolle's memoir sheds new light on one of the Holocaust's most controversial legacies — Jewish Councils — the dark bureaucracy of intermediaries responsible for implementing Nazi orders.

7. WHO IS DEPORTED FROM CHINA

The Chinese government releases a Swedish man it accused of training and funding unlicensed lawyers in the country, leading to an extraordinary taped confession.

8. SCIENTISTS TO ANNOUNCE "DOOMSDAY CLOCK" TIME

It reportedly reflects how vulnerable the world is to catastrophe from nuclear weapons, climate change and new technologies.

9. WHY HOT YOGA FOUNDER FACES COMPENSATORY DAMAGES

Bikram Choudhury is ordered to pay attorney Minakshi Jafa-Bodden \$924,500 after finding he has subjected her to harassment and retaliation.

10. SERENA WILLIAMS BEATS SHARAPOVA

The victory brings the six-time Australian Open champion a place in the semifinals.

Tight Democrat race highlights differing views of gov't role

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — For months, the tumultuous Republican presidential primary has masked a brewing debate among Democrats about their own party's future.

Now, with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders chipping away at Hillary Clinton's grip on the Democratic nomination, the differences are spilling out into the open as the candidates campaign across snow-covered Iowa.

At its core, the divide between Clinton and Sanders is about just how much to change current economic, health care and education systems, and what the federal government's role in those areas should be. The candidates often share the same goals, but have different policy prescriptions and preferred tactics for achieving them.

Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Democrats on Capitol Hill, has been unabashed in his calls for a "political revolution," energizing his crowds as he urges them to join him in leading the country in a "new direction." Reflecting the views of liberal Democrats, he sees the government as a vehicle that supplies Americans with the basic tools they need to achieve economic security.

If health care coverage is one of those rights, Sanders believes the government should provide it through a single-payer system, even if that means raising taxes. If higher education is now a requirement for jobs in a modern economy, Sanders says the government must guarantee free tuition at public colleges and universities.

Sanders touted his education plan this week through the prism of a young person who may be seeking to become the first in their family to go to college.

"If that kids studies hard and does well in school, he or she will be able to get an education regardless of the income of the family," Sanders said. "That is revolutionary."

Clinton, a former senator and secretary of state, prefers to talk about "achievable" outcomes and douses her campaign remarks with reminders about how difficult nearly every fight a president takes on will be to achieve. With Sanders growing stronger, she's taken to outlining his proposals during her remarks, only to explain to voters why they're unfeasible.

"I think my way — a hard, patient, persistent way — is the best," Clinton said Monday during a town hall in Knoxville, Iowa.

Like Sanders, Clinton believes in universal health care coverage and college affordability. But he talks about health care and college education as basic rights that the federal government should provide to all, while Clinton is more focused on how to lift up people who are getting left behind.

Scarred by her own failed efforts to push through comprehensive health care reform in the 1990s, Clinton is unwilling to dive back into another sweeping legislative debate now that President Barack Obama's overhaul is in place. Instead, she's called for building on what's in place to address costs that are still too high for many Americans.

And when asked about Sanders' plan to make college free, Clinton spoke of the ways that setup could be abused.

"I don't think it's right to give me and my husband free college for our child. If you can afford to pay, you should pay," Clinton said Monday. "But I also think it's an open invitation for colleges and universities to keep raising their costs."

Clinton's campaign was built in part on the theory that Democratic voters who backed Obama's calls for hope and change would be more in the mood for a pragmatist after eight years of Washington gridlock. Indeed, she has broad support within the party and leads Sanders nationally.

But with the Iowa campaign now in its final week, it's Sanders' message that's generating enthusiasm in the states that kick off the primary contests. His crowds frequently double or triple the size of Clinton's, and he's particularly energized voters with his call to break up the Wall Street banks.

There, too, the gulf between Clinton and Sanders is on clear display. While both have warned about allowing big banks to grow so large that their collapse would damage the U.S. economy, Sanders views financial institutions as perhaps the biggest driver of inequality, while Clinton has stopped well short of challenging the banks' basic functions.

Sanders has also seized on the large speaking fees Clinton has accepted from Goldman Sachs, generating some of the most biting attacks in the Democratic contest.

Yet even as the race between Sanders and Clinton becomes more contentious, Democrats say they're encouraged that the battles have stayed largely focused on substance, giving the race a seriousness they believe portends party unity in the general election.

"There have been a few elbows, but it has been relatively civil," said Mo Elleithee, who worked on Clinton's 2008 campaign and is now executive director of Georgetown University's Institute of Politics and Public Service.

In New York village, a trail of cancer leads to tap water

MARY ESCH, Associated Press

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. (AP) — After his factory worker father died a painful death from kidney cancer at age 68 in 2013, Michael Hickey made it his mission to find out why so many people in his hometown along the Hoosic River were getting sick.

Two years later, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has warned residents of Hoosick Falls not to drink or cook with water from municipal wells, and a plastics plant has agreed to install a \$2 million carbon filtration system at the village water treatment plant.

Hickey's campaign began with suspicion about industrial pollution in the factory village near the Vermont border. His father had worked for 35 years at a plant that made high-performance plastics similar to Teflon, so Hickey searched online for "cancer" and "Teflon."

What he found: PFOA.

Perfluorooctanoic acid, a water and oil repellent, had been used since the 1940s in products including non-stick cookware, stain-resistant carpeting and microwave popcorn bags. Manufacturers agreed to phase it out by the end of 2015 shortly after DuPont reached a \$16.5 million settlement with the EPA over the company's failure to report possible health risks associated with PFOA.

A scientific panel that conducted health studies as part of a DuPont settlement of a West Virginia class-action lawsuit concluded there was a "probable link" between PFOA exposure and kidney cancer, testicular cancer, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, ulcerative colitis and pregnancy-induced hypertension.

In Hoosick Falls, nobody has ever scientifically documented that the village has an unusually high cancer rate, but Hickey and a local doctor had heard enough anecdotal evidence that they felt it should be addressed.

"There's always been talk around town about how there's a lot of cancer," Hickey said. "When my dad, who didn't drink or smoke, was diagnosed with kidney cancer, that made it more personal."

Dr. Marcus Martinez, the family doctor for many of the village's 3,500 residents, added there certainly seemed to be a high rate of cancer there, particularly rare, aggressive forms. The 44-year-old Martinez himself is in remission from aggressive prostate cancer.

When the two men suggested testing the village water supply, part-time Mayor David Borge at first

refused, citing state guidelines. New York state classifies PFOA as an “unspecified organic contaminant” and doesn’t require testing for it.

The EPA has a non-enforceable guidance level of 400 parts per trillion — roughly 4 teaspoons in enough water to fill a 10-mile string of rail tankers.

Hickey used his own money in summer 2014 to have water from his kitchen tap and other sources tested. The results showed PFOA at 540 ppt from Hickey’s home, exceeding the EPA’s guidance. Village officials subsequently tested the municipal supply and found PFOA at similar levels.

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, part of a Paris-based global conglomerate, in 1999 became the fifth owner of a plastics factory in Hoosick Falls. It conducted tests in the summer of 2015 and reported a PFOA level of 18,000 ppt in groundwater under its plant, 500 yards from the village’s main water wells.

“Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics is committed to helping the village of Hoosick Falls with this situation,” company spokesman Carmen Ferrigno said. While the source of the PFOA contamination hasn’t been identified, Saint-Gobain has been paying for bottled water for residents since November and has agreed to pay for filtration to remove the chemical from the public water supply, he said.

Hickey and Martinez, along with Albany environmental lawyer David Engel, weren’t satisfied. They wanted people to be told not to drink the tap water, as well as a full investigation and remediation.

Engel contacted Judith Enck, who heads the EPA region that includes New York. She issued a statement in December warning residents not to drink or cook with village water. Until then, state and village officials had told residents the water was unlikely to cause health problems.

On Jan. 14, Enck and a panel of leading EPA scientists addressed a standing-room-only crowd at Hoosick Falls’ high school auditorium. The same day, New York officials asked the EPA to add the Saint-Gobain plant and other possible sources of contamination in Hoosick Falls to the Superfund priorities list. The state health department also recently announced plans to study cancer rates in the village and vicinity.

“We are giving this contamination problem a high priority,” Enck said. “A very detailed study of groundwater is needed in Hoosick Falls to know what we are dealing with and how to best address it.”

Engel said that the village’s plan to install filters at the water plant is a good first step, but that the long-term solution should be to establish new wells to replace the contaminated ones.

Kevin Allard, 58, who worked at the plastics plant in the 1980s, said his mother died of pancreatic cancer at 54 and his father died of thyroid cancer at 81. In 2006, a 25-year-old friend of Allard’s son died of pancreatic cancer. Now, he worries about the health of his children, in their early 30s.

“They grew up on that water,” he said. “That’s what concerns me.”

A look at the group that made Planned Parenthood videos

The Associated Press

The leader of the Center for Medical Progress was indicted Monday in Houston by a grand jury investigating the anti-abortion group’s undercover videos of Planned Parenthood officials discussing the handling of fetal tissue. Here is some information about the center:

WHAT IS THE CENTER FOR MEDICAL PROGRESS?

The center is a nonprofit organization that described its mission in a 2013 application to the state of California as to “monitor and report on medical ethics and advances.” Public filings show a handful of people associated with the organization are longtime anti-abortion activists. The addresses for the group listed in public filings are postal drops in Sacramento and Irvine, California. Based on its submissions to the IRS, the center took in less than \$50,000 in 2014 and thus did not have to disclose its donors. CEO David Daleiden is the only salaried member of the group, receiving \$30,000 a year. He is the former director of research for the anti-abortion group Live Action, which is known for using undercover videos to target Planned Parenthood. Daleiden was indicted in Houston on a felony charge of tampering with a governmental record and a misdemeanor count related to purchasing human organs. Another anti-abortion activist, Sandra Merritt, was also indicted on a charge of tampering with a governmental record.

THE UNDERCOVER VIDEOS

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The group released a series of graphic videos alleging that Planned Parenthood profited from the sale of fetal tissue — something the abortion provider denies. One video shows officials associated with the Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, which includes Texas. Footage from the clinic in Houston showed people pretending to be from a company called BioMax that procures fetal tissue for research touring the facility. Planned Parenthood has previously said that the fake company sent an agreement offering to pay the “astronomical amount” of \$1,600 for organs from a fetus. The clinic said it never entered into the agreement and ceased contact with BioMax because it was “disturbed” by the overtures.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Troy Newman, listed as the center’s secretary, is president of the Kansas-based anti-abortion group Operation Rescue and has posed as a reporter to record conversations with abortion providers in the past. Albin Rhomberg, the center’s chief financial officer, was arrested in 1991 for disrupting a church service during the inauguration of California Gov. Pete Wilson, an abortion-rights Republican. In 2005, he led an unsuccessful attempt to pass a California ballot measure requiring doctors to notify parents or guardians before performing abortions on minors. Nichole Surkala, who is listed as the center’s contact if it is sued, was convicted in California in 2007 of willful cruelty to her 12-year-old son, according to court papers. Police found she kept a horse and seven dogs in a house in Modesto that was filled with animal feces and rotting produce.

Stocks slip as oil skids 6 percent, hitting energy companies

MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks fell Monday as the price of oil slumped again, giving up some of the ground it gained late last week. That forced energy companies lower.

The stock market opened lower and stayed in the red all day. The selling accelerated in the last hour of trading. The biggest losses came in the energy sector and companies that make chemicals and paper goods.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 208.29 points, or 1.3 percent, to 15,885.22. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index shed 29.82 points, or 1.6 percent, to 1,877.08. The Nasdaq composite index lost 72.69 points, or 1.6 percent, to 4,518.49.

Plunging oil prices have been decimating profits at energy companies and getting investors worried that the global economy is slowing down. Companies that mine metals, especially copper, face the same problem. Low oil prices are also hurting banking stocks because some banks hold large amounts of loans from energy companies, and investors fear they may not get paid back.

The price of benchmark U.S. crude fell \$1.85, or 5.7 percent, to \$30.34 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, lost \$1.68, or 5.2 percent, to \$30.50 a barrel in London. U.S. oil jumped 9 percent Friday after setting 12-year lows earlier in the week.

Exxon Mobil lost \$2.59, or 3.4 percent, to \$73.98 and Chevron fell \$2.65, or 3.2 percent, to \$80.89. Chesapeake Energy lost 56 cents, or 16 percent, to \$2.95.

Paper and packaging companies fell on concerns about product prices falling. WestRock gave up \$5.63, or 14.9 percent, to \$32.11 and International Paper declined \$3.87, or 10.6 percent, to \$32.58.

Mark Wilde, managing director BMO Capital Markets, said stocks in that sector are falling because an influential trade publication estimated that prices for containerboard, an important product, fell sharply in January.

“I think it confirms people’s fears,” Wilde said. “Falling prices are going to mean lower earnings.”

Friday was the best day for the S&P 500 since early December. It was the biggest gain for the Nasdaq composite index since September. That helped stocks make their first weekly gain in the last four.

The shaky global outlook helped push companies to make a slew of big deals last year, and that trend continued as Tyco International and Johnson Controls said they will combine. Tyco makes fire suppression systems and Johnson Controls makes ventilation systems, auto seating and car batteries. Both stocks have struggled as investors worried about their growth.

Tyco jumped \$3.56, or 11.6 percent, to \$34.15, the biggest gain in the S&P 500. Johnson Controls lost

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\$1.39, or 3.9 percent, to \$34.21.

Companies spent a record \$5 trillion on acquisitions and other deals last year, a big jump from 2014. While few deals have been announced in the first weeks of 2016, business technology company Intralinks that will change. It thinks global deal value will rise 3.5 percent, to a total of almost \$2.3 trillion.

John Manley, chief equity strategist for Wells Fargo Fund Management, said he expects another big year of deals even though interest rates are likely to rise. That's because companies around the world are still looking for ways to become more efficient and lift their earnings and sales growth.

"I have no reason to think it's going to slow down," he said.

The economic outlook didn't get any brighter Monday. Business economists became more pessimistic about profits and sales than they were last fall and expect slower economic growth, according to a survey by the National Association for Business Economics. However, most of the survey participants said their companies plan to raise wages in the first quarter. That's the largest proportion in more than a year.

Heavy machinery maker Caterpillar sank after Goldman Sachs downgraded the stock to "Sell." Analyst Jerry Revich said companies around the world are spending less money on machinery because commodity prices have dropped. Caterpillar lost \$3.07, or 5 percent, to \$57.91.

McDonald's rose after the restaurant chain said its U.S. sales grew 5.7 percent in the fourth quarter, its best result in more than three years. The company said its all-day breakfast menu and the warm weather helped its sales. Overall, its sales rose 5 percent. The stock edged up 80 cents to \$119.20.

Twitter continued to slide after the company said four executives, including its head of engineering, will leave the company. The stock lost 82 cents, or 4.6 percent, to \$17.02. Twitter is down 57 percent in the last year.

Asian markets rose. Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.9 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 1.4 percent. Germany's DAX lost 0.3 percent, France's CAC 40 slid 0.6 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 declined 0.4 percent.

In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline fell 5 cents, or 5 percent, to \$1.03 a gallon. Heating oil dropped 6 cents, or 6.1 percent, to 93.5 cents a gallon. Natural gas rose 1.9 cents to \$2.158 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The price of gold rose \$9 to \$1,105.30 an ounce and silver gained 19.7 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$14.254 an ounce. Copper fell less than half a cent to \$1.998 per pound.

U.S. government bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.00 percent from 2.06 percent. The euro rose to \$1.0837 from \$1.0791 late Friday. The dollar fell to 118.48 yen from 118.78 yen.