

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, February 21

- Youth Wrestling Tourney in Groton
- Birthdays:** Kate Profeta, Leah Swanson, Les Nehls, Natalia Warrington, Scott Smith
- 9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School and Confirmation
- 9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
- 9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion
- 9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship
- 10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
- 10:00am: St. John's Lutheran School
- 10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion
- 11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
- 3:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship at Golden Living Center (Sarah Circle Serves)

Monday, February 22

- School Breakfast:** Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.
- School Lunch:** Mini corn dog, baked beans, broccoli and dip, fruit.
- Senior Menu:** Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.
- Birthdays:** Anthony Schinkel, Chad Kampa, George Leonhardt, Leonard Broman, Robin Wanous-Williamson
- 6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study
- 5:00pm: School Board Meeting
- 7:00pm: Dollar General Store Public Hearing at City Hall
- 7:00pm: Long Term Facilities Planning at High School Computer Lab

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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"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all!"

NOW OPEN

Harr's
Auto Body ABDN

225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

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Follow The Groton
Activities On-Line



gdilive.com

Coming up this week at gdilive.com

The Groton Area games for both boys and girls in the regions will be broadcast on gdilive.com. Watch for dates and details.

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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Region 1A Girls Basketball Tournament

#1 Webster Area

Score:

Date: February 25

Time: 6:00

Site: Britton Hecla Arena

Score:

Score:

Date: March 1st

Time: 7:00

Site: Britton Hecla Arena

CHAMPION

State Qualifier

#4 Sisseton

Score:

Date: February 23rd

Time: 20 minutes following 2nd

Site: Britton Hecla Arena

Score:

#5 Britton-Hecla

#3 Aberdeen Roncalli

Score:

Date: February 23rd

Time: 20 minutes following first

Site: Britton Hecla

Score:

Score:

#6 Milbank Area

Date: February 25th

Time: 20 minutes following

Site: Britton Hecla Arena

Score:

#2 Groton Area

Score:

Date: February 23rd

Time: 4:30

Site: Britton Hecla Arena

Score:

Score:

#7 Tiospa Zina

Region 1

Seed
Points

W-L

[Webster Area](#)

45.60

18-2

[Groton Area](#)

42.65

14-6

[Aberdeen Roncalli](#)

40.95

11-9

[Sisseton](#)

40.70

11-9

[Britton-Hecla](#)

39.28

7-11

[Milbank Area](#)

39.00

6-14

[Tiospa Zina](#)

36.89

4-15

Follow the Lady Tigers on

gdilive.com

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SDHSAA Region 1B Results for Groton Area

126 - Trevor Pray (30-7) placed 4th and scored 11.00 team points. (qualifies for state)

Champ. Round 1 - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 30-7 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 30-7 won by major decision over Gage Carter (Faulkton Area) 19-24 (MD 12-3)

Semifinal - Josh Weisbrod (Clark/Willow Lake) 24-2 won by decision over Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 30-7 (Dec 10-4)

Cons. Semi - Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 30-7 won by major decision over Jackson Stoltenburg (Deuel) 16-13 (MD 14-3)

3rd Place Match - Aaron Elijah (Sioux Valley) 37-8 won by decision over Trevor Pray (Groton Area) 30-7 (Dec 10-5)

170 - Wyatt Locke (7-20) scored 2.00 team points.

Quarterfinal - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 7-20 won by decision over Preston Worth (Potter Co.) 12-12 (Dec 10-6)

Semifinal - Chance Goodfellow (Sioux Valley) 28-13 won by fall over Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 7-20 (Fall 2:22)

Cons. Semi - Adam Anderson (Faulkton Area) 19-22 won by decision over Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) 7-20 (Dec 3-2)

285 - Brandyn Anderson (32-9) placed 1st and scored 24.00 team points. (qualifies for state)

Quarterfinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 32-9 won by fall over Matt Fegueroa (Potter Co.) 8-19 (Fall 0:31)

Semifinal - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 32-9 won by fall over Chase Sigdestad (Webster Area) 10-21 (Fall 0:50)

1st Place Match - Brandyn Anderson (Groton Area) 32-9 won by fall over Kaeden Metz (Sisseton) 16-18 (Fall 0:56)



Kumla \$10 Dinner

Sunday, Feb. 28th

Serving 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Groton Community Center

**(From US 12, go south on Main Street,
then go east on 2nd Ave for one block.)**

**Sponsored by
Heaven Bound Ministries
of Pierpont**



With Assistance from Thrivent Action Program

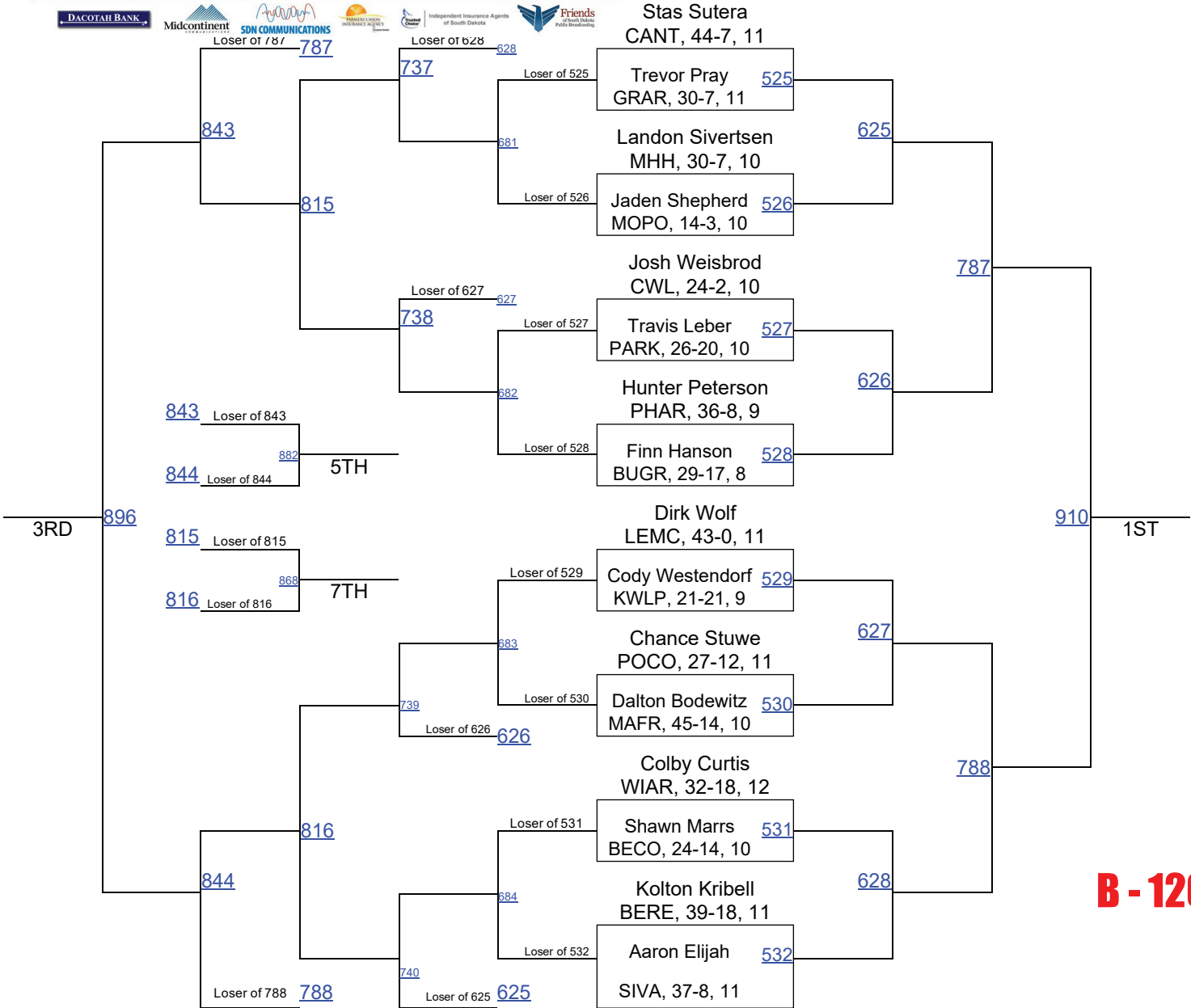
By placing an order through Schwans.com a portion of the sales will come back in support of our congregation! Your support of Heaven Bound Ministries is greatly appreciated! (When you check out, under Step 2: Coupon Codes and Fundraising, Click on "I would like to contribute to a new fundraiser." Then enter Campaign ID 26276. Campaign starts Monday, Feb. 22.

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2016 SDHSAA State Championships



B - 126

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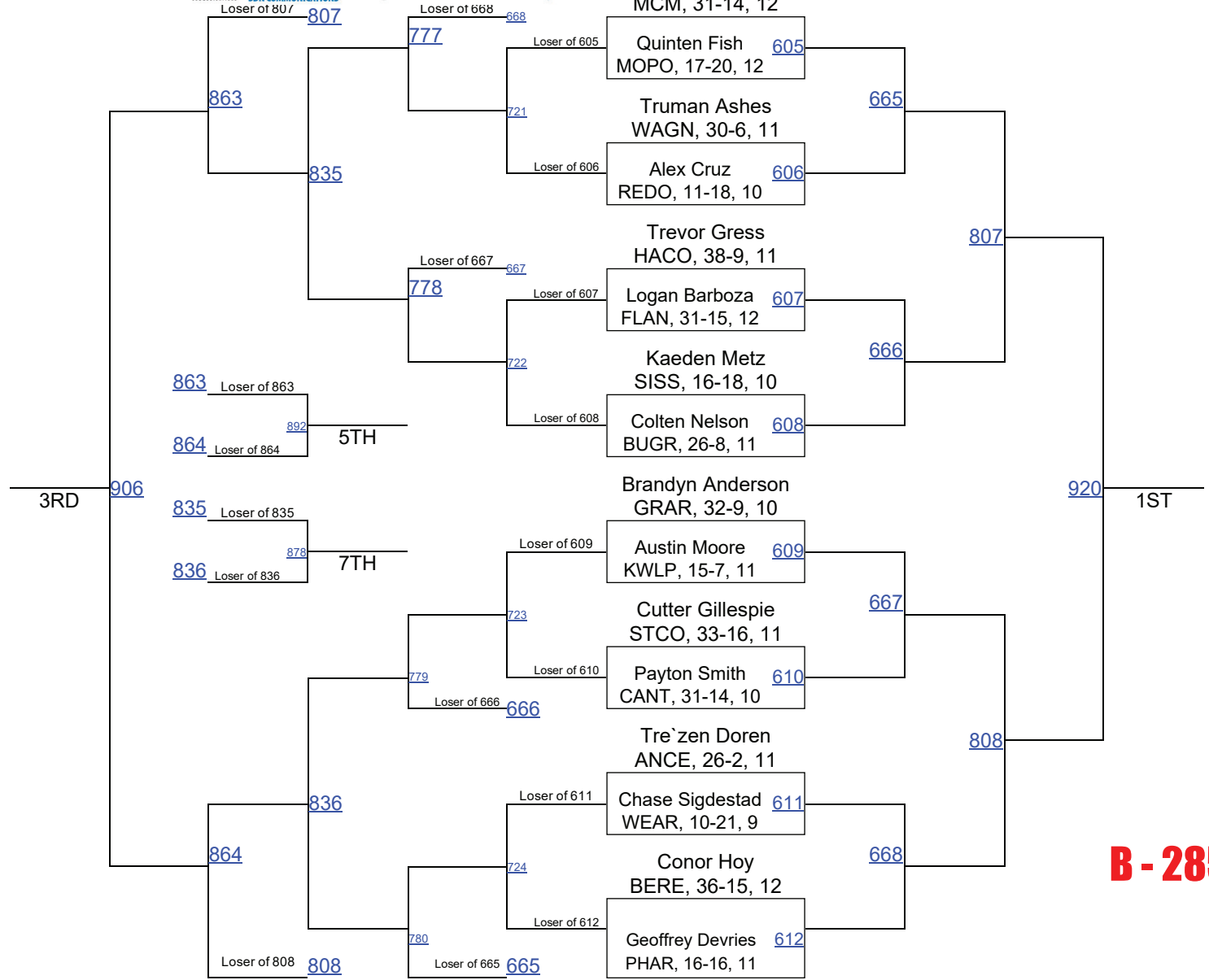
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2016 SDHSAA State Championships

DACOTAH BANK Midcontinent SDN COMMUNICATIONS TERRY'S FOOD INSURANCE AGENCY Independent Insurance Agents of South Dakota Friends of South Dakota Public Broadcasting

Jordan VanHout
MCM, 31-14, 12



B - 285



Implementing Juvenile Justice Reforms

Under the South Dakota Constitution, the governor is “responsible for the faithful execution of the law.” This is not something I take lightly. In my second term I have been especially focused on executing new reforms passed by our legislators – and not simply executing but executing well. Without good execution, a well-intentioned law is meaningless, and the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Initiative is one thing I’m determined to execute well.

A year ago, I spoke to legislators about a growing problem in juvenile corrections. South Dakota had the second highest juvenile commitment rate in the nation. This ranking was not explained by a higher rate of juvenile violence. In fact, South Dakota’s juvenile violence arrest rate was just one-third of the national average.

Our high commitment rate was driven by nonviolent offenses. Seven of every 10 youth committed to the Department of Corrections in 2013 were sent to them for misdemeanor offenses, probation violations and “status offenses” – violations which, if committed as an adult, would not even be considered crimes.

I asked a group of stakeholders to study this issue. They did the research and found that for many youth, commitment to residential placement fails to produce better outcomes than alternative sanctions. Commitment also costs much more and can actually increase reoffending in certain circumstances.

To address this problem I proposed comprehensive juvenile corrections reforms which the Legislature passed a year ago. Under these reforms, the state will reserve commitments to the Department of Corrections for youth who commit the most serious offenses and pose a risk to the public. The reforms also called for the development of an array of effective programs for youth offenders, including community-based programs to address substance abuse, antisocial tendencies and challenges within the family. These programs allow youth to get the help they need without being removed from their homes. They also help judges as they perform the difficult task of weighing how best to set youth on a better path.

The state has been working to prepare for the most significant changes, which became effective Jan. 1. The Department of Social Services has identified a core set of effective programs to be available in communities. To date, 12 contracts have been awarded to deliver Functional Family Therapy throughout South Dakota. This program is designed to address adolescent behavior problems, substance abuse and delinquency, and help families support their children in positive ways.

The Unified Judicial System has been working to ensure judges are aware of the statutory changes that impact them, and that probation officers have the tools they need. Probation officers will be utilizing a guide of graduated consequences to hold youth accountable for their conduct by responding consistently and quickly to violations, and also to incentivize positive behavior.

The Department of Corrections has created a financial incentive program to encourage counties to divert juveniles from detention, and yet allow counties to request funds when the number of detention bed days in a given calendar year exceeds an established baseline.

It is still very early, and it will take some time before we see the impact of these reforms. Still, early indications are hopeful, and I am committed to executing these new policies well. If all goes as hoped, we’ll have fewer nonviolent youth in lock-up, and better programs to put them on track for a better future.

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Groton MS/HS News

Physical Science—Kristen Gonsoir

Physical science has just completed its first chapter in the introduction of chemistry. NSU student teacher Mr. Kopff will take over teaching during the next chapter over states of matter. This introduction to chemistry will provide students a firm foundation for their required high school chemistry course. Students will also complete several chemistry activities and labs. Please see Mr Kopff's welcome letter, too.

Welcome-- Mr. Kopff

Hello, My name is Mr. Kopff and I will be student teaching this semester at Groton Area High School. I was born in Buffalo, MN, and was raised my whole life in Monticello, MN. I attended Monticello Senior High School and participated in basketball, cross country, and track there. For college I attended Northern State University. I will graduate from Northern in May of this year. At Northern I majored in chemistry and chemistry education along with a minor in coaching. I also was on the cross country and track teams at Northern. My favorite races were the 5K and 8K. Last semester I was in my junior field experience at Central High School. I was in a chemistry in the community classroom. In this classroom I taught several lessons and labs along with helping students with assignments or other work while I was there. For my student teaching experience I hope to gain many useful insights from my cooperating teacher. This will include how to manage a classroom, plan or layout the curriculum, and show real life applications from science. Lastly I want to thank you for welcoming me into Groton's school and its community as well. Sincerely,
Mr. Kopff

Chemistry I—Kristen Gonsoir

Chemistry I has just began our unit on quantifying chemical matter through the use of the mole and stoichiometry. The mole is the unit used to quantify matter and it is equal to 6.02×10^{23} particles. This unit in chemistry was first introduced in the early 1900s. Stoichiometry is the study of the quantities of matter involved in chemical reactions. These next few chapters will seem a lot like a second math class, however, these concepts are vital to giving students preparation for college science. NSU student teacher, Mr. Kopff, will also be working with the Chemistry I class.

Organic Chemistry—Kristen Gonsoir

Organic Chemistry is currently carrying out its first distillation. Students are comparing the effectiveness of simple and fractional distillation in separating miscible liquids. Organic Chemistry will begin its study of carboxylic acids and their derivatives such as esters and anhydrides following the distillation lab. Carboxylic acids are a biologically important group as they are one of the parts of amino acids. The other part of an amino acid is the amine group which we will study in the next chapter. Organic chemistry also has several other interesting labs coming up including the isolation of carvone and limonene from caraway seeds and orange oil and the synthesis of isoamyl acetate which is an artificial banana flavoring. NSU Student teacher, Mr. Kopff, will also be working with the Chemistry II class.

Debate I and Debate II Class- Kristen Gonsoir

GHS has been fortunate this year to be able to offer a Debate I and Debate II class for students. Debate I fulfills students' speech requirement for graduation. In both Debate I and Debate II students have been researching the current public forum debate resolutions. In January they researched and debated on Russia sanctions and in February they are researching and debating on a carbon tax. Following the debate season, students will work on research and speeches for student congress. Students are gaining valuable public speaking and researching skills. Students are also being introduced to the rich data bases of information through the South Dakota Library online data bases. They are learning there are much better research tools available for scholarly research than just "googling."

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Debate- Kristen Gonsoir

The GHS team has had a successful season so far and will wrap up the season with their national qualifying contest in Brookings on February 26-27, 2016, and the state debate contest in Aberdeen March 4-5, 2016. Several students have earned many different individual awards and the team as a whole has earned numerous sweepstakes awards. Be sure to stop and see the new addition in the GHS debate trophy case. Varsity debaters that will finish out the post season for GHS include seniors Lily Cutler, Kelsey Iverson, and Katie Miller and junior Keri Pappas. Once again the state debate contest conflicts with Destination Imagination and Middle School All-State Band, so several debaters are unable to go to the state contest. Congressional debate will begin soon after the state public forum and LD contest. Congressional debate will conclude with the state contest on April 8 at the State Capitol building in Pierre.

7th grade Reading – Mrs. Seibel

I hope that you have had an enjoyable winter and have been able to do all of those fun outdoor activities! In the classroom, we are working on how to write an argumentative essay. This type of essay is one of the two that middle school students need to write prior to taking the Smarter Balance performance test. At the end of January, students were asked to take the Great Kindness Challenge which is a national event and is done in conjunction with Rachel's Challenge. We listened to Tim McGraw's "Humble and Kind" song and video, and then fifty different acts of kindness were discussed. Each student was required to submit one page of their personal acts of kindness in order to create a classroom booklet.

8th grade Reading – Mrs. Seibel

My class of 8th grade students is just finishing reading the drama version of the Diary of Anne Frank. During the reading of the drama, each student got to take on the role of one of the eight Secret Annex characters and bring the story to life through dialogue. They have learned about the injustices of the Holocaust and watched and learned about the pyramid of hate from Holocaust survivors. Through all of this, I believe these students will be better citizens, friends, neighbors, sons and daughters so that no one in America will ever have to experience the horrors that the 6.3 million murdered Jews had to endure. Next on our agenda is to write an argumentative speech in preparation for the Smarter Balance Test.

8th Health – Mr. Seibel

At the start of this nine-week period, the eighth grade students participated in a few booster lesson from Project ALERT dealing with drugs and alcohol, and how to refuse in pressure situations by performing skits. We have learned about the nervous, endocrine, reproductive, skeletal, muscular, and digestive systems this quarter. I am really impressed that the students have been able to make a connection with how each body system is supposed to work to how their own body if functioning. When we have covered all of the body systems, we will then discuss fitness and nutrition.

9th Health – Mrs. Seibel

We started off the semester with learning about current information on medical marijuana, recreational marijuana, plus tobacco and alcohol through the RAND Corporation and Project ALERT. Then the students learned how to perform CPR on adults and infants. We have also talked about reproduction and pregnancy. Currently we are reading and learning about how to be in a healthy relationship, abstinence, STDs, and HIV-AIDS.

6th Grade Math – Mr. Hawkins

We have really worked hard in 6th grade math. We are just finishing chapter 8 of ten chapters in the book. We have covered and did work with number operations, basic algebra, decimals and percents, fractions, graphs, customary and metric measurement, and geometry. We still need to explore integers and functions. Then we will also go back and review all material. 6th grade is a big year in math and quite a jump from their elementary math.

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6th Grade Science – Mr. Hawkins

In 6th grade science, we are currently finishing up with the earth science portion of the book. Right now 6th grade science is a composite of life, earth, and physical science. We are now done with life and earth, and will finish the year with physical science. Probably, the most difficult of the three. Topics like matter, atoms, forces and motion, machines, and energy lie ahead. One culminating activity I like to do with my 6th graders at the end of the year in science is dissect pig hearts. We will talk about the human body a bit, then wrap up with that. They always seem to enjoy it!

8th Grade Science – Mr. Hawkins

I also have the 8th graders for science. Right now the curriculum for 8th grade science is strictly earth science. We have already studied material on minerals, rocks, soil, erosion, deposition, earthquakes, volcanoes, the atmosphere, weather, and climate. We still need to get to and learn more about the ocean, space, and human impact on land, air, and water.

Tech. Ed – Don Donley

7th grade These student are working with basic hand and power tools, the wood lathe, scroll saw, band saw, power sander, gas welder, router, and robotics and electronics.

9th grade These students are working on individual projects of their choice.

10th grade We are working on individual projects and we have a computer aided plasma cutter that we are working with.

11th grade The Juniors are working on basic construction, building a storage shed.

12th grade The Seniors are working on individual projects of their choice.

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING ACTIVITIES - Jodi Sternhagen

OFFICE ACTIVITIES - Jodi Sternhagen

January and February have been a very busy months in the School Counseling Office. During this time, I have talked to numerous students about careers, tests, and scholarships. The juniors recently researched careers, budgets and the ACT. The sophomores took an aptitude test and researched careers. It is exciting to see the results. Students also just registered for fall 2016. My favorite activities are working in the classroom with students to plan their futures.

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

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE - Jodi Sternhagen

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

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

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Memorial, Richard Duerre Memorial, Susan Weismantel and Shawn Weismantel Kramer Memorial, Groton Chamber of Commerce, and Phyllis J. Jark Memorial Scholarship.

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

FINANCIAL AID - Jodi Sternhagen

Financial Aid Information Night was held on December 7th in the Groton Area High School library at 5:30 pm. If you did not yet submit your free application for federal student aid (FAFSA), it is not too late. Federal student aid applications are accepted by the federal government for many months. However, each school has its own priority deadline. If you do not submit your FAFSA by the stated deadline, the amount of money the school has left to allocate may be limited. Most of the deadlines for the South Dakota schools are March 1. If you have questions, please feel free to call me at (605) 397-8381.

TESTING INFORMATION - Jodi Sternhagen

ACT Testing

Groton is a test site for the ACT in April and October. The school felt it was a nice option for students to be able to test in a familiar location and to not have to travel a long distance. The next ACT tests are scheduled for April 9 and June 11. On Wednesday, December 2nd, all juniors were able to take a practice ACT test during school and then look at the test preparation section of SDMyLife called Method Test Prep. The computerized program will generate a study plan designed to increase student ACT scores based on the results from short test sections. Hopefully, the juniors have been working on this personalized study plan.

Dakota STEP/Smarter Balanced Testing

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

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

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

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

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

Here are some things your child can do:

Here are some things you can do:

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

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Biology II - Jodi Sternhagen

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

Physics - Jodi Sternhagen

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

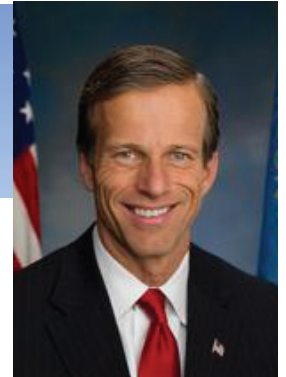
6th and 7th grade – Mr. Jordan Kjellsen

As the school year is quickly flying by my 6th and 7th graders have to come to realize how much work middle school really can be! As we find ourselves in the middle of the 3rd quarter already the 6th and 7th graders have joined forces to take on the world of Geometry. We started off Geometry by learning how to classify geometric shapes, find their areas, volumes, and surface areas. As the quarter quickly comes to an end we will be preparing for our Smarter Balance Testing. (I'm sure their favorite time of year!)

8th - Mr. Jordan Kjellsen

In 8th grade we are hard at work preparing ourselves for the big world of High School. Many of the 8th graders are making the hard decision as to which math class they will be taking next year, which comes at a great time as they are currently working on the Algebra chapter. Here they are finding probability of an independent event as well as multiplying probabilities of individual events. They will also be getting into patterns of division as well. It has been such a great time getting to know all of these hard working kiddo's! It will be hard to see them move on to bigger and better things, but I know that they will do great!

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Bringing the 5G Network One Step Closer to Reality

Do you remember Gordon Gekko, the character portrayed by Michael Douglas in the iconic 1987 movie "Wall Street"? If you do, you might also remember scenes in which Douglas' character makes phone calls from his state-of-the-art Motorola, which had Americans wondering what it must be like to have one of their own. While a lot has changed since 1987 – including no longer having to be Gordon Gekko rich to own a mobile phone – some things have not. Americans still want the latest and greatest technology available at their fingertips, and as mobile devices have gotten smaller and their operating systems faster, we have fully integrated these devices and the technology they offer into our day-to-day lives.

Think about everything you're able to do with a mobile device and the ease with which you're able to do it. A seat on a flight to London can be booked from the seat of your car in traffic, and a pizza can be ordered and delivered by texting or tweeting an emoji from your mobile phone. The technology that exists today allows us to connect instantaneously with people from coast to coast, and through apps like Facebook, Twitter, Periscope, and others, citizen journalists can broadcast from around the world.

It's pretty amazing to think of the technological advancements we've seen over the last decade, which begs the question, what new advancements will we see in the decade to come? Imagine a world in which lightbulbs, wheelchairs, and even the roads and bridges we drive on potentially become Internet-connected. What if download speeds were no longer relevant, and the content you want and need could be instantly accessed from wherever you're located? While we're not there yet, I think we're on the path to achieving it.

In order to get there, I believe we need to work toward deploying a fifth generation or "5G" wireless broadband network throughout the country, and there's a collective duty as policymakers and innovators to see that it's done as effectively and efficiently as possible. 5G shouldn't be viewed simply as the next incremental step in wireless broadband technology, but instead as an enormous leap toward a revolution in our wireless capability in America. These networks will not only bring the already connected world closer together, but they can help connect rural areas, like some places in South Dakota, where high costs and other difficulties have delayed the high-speed broadband needed for robust Internet access.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I've authored legislation, the Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless (MOBILE NOW) Act, which would help usher in the 5G era by facilitating the investment and technology required to get there. MOBILE NOW is bipartisan, supported by industry leaders, and if enacted, would benefit consumers and businesses alike. We're going to work hard in the coming weeks and months to see that this important legislation makes its way through Congress so America's innovators can continue their work on our 5G future.

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Don't Forget States Created the Federal Government

Washington often forgets a reality President Reagan so succinctly explained: "[T]he Federal Government did not create the States; the States created the Federal Government." One of my primary objectives as South Dakota's sole member of the House of Representatives is to reduce the federal government's influence, giving state and local governments as well as individuals more opportunities to make the decisions that impact their families and communities most. This was something I spoke with the South Dakota State Legislature about earlier this month.

I join the thousands of South Dakotans who are deeply concerned that the Obama administration has stepped over its Constitutional limits and grossly expanded the role of the federal government in our lives. I am proud that over the last few years, we have passed dozens of bills to return more and more authority to states and individuals. We haven't always been successful in getting the President to sign them into law, but we've put the marker down and made some meaningful progress along the way.

For instance, bureaucrats in Washington have been able to micromanage our children's classrooms for far too long. Last December, we passed, and convinced the President to sign, the first major education overhaul since 2002. With this new legislation in place, those closest to our kids will be more empowered to design an education system that is right for them. As an example, we made sure the federal government could no longer pressure states into adopting specific standards, such as Common Core.

Congress also passed into law the first long-term highway bill in a decade. This legislation gives states five-years of certainty to plan, invest, and conduct maintenance on our intricate network of roads, bridges and railways. It also gave state leaders more flexibility to spend money in a way that worked at the local level.

I've been fighting for flexibility like this because I put a lot more trust in our state government than the federal. Rather than handing down federal mandates, Washington should be taking lessons from the states about what really works. After all, states are often incubators for innovative public policy and South Dakota is no exception.

We have an incredibly healthy economy. Not only does South Dakota have a higher percentage of people participating in the workforce than most states do, but our unemployment rate is the second-lowest in the country. Much of this is due to the fact that the state government puts minimal burdens on families, whether through fewer regulations or lower taxes.

Despite the successes we've long been able to share, I am the first South Dakota Representative in history to serve on the congressional committee responsible for designing our nation's tax policy. I see my duty on that committee as an overdue opportunity to share our experience as a proven example of what can be accomplished by a government for its people.

During my first year on the committee, we were able to put permanent protections in place that keep more Americans from enduring tax hikes. For example, we permanently extended the state and local sales tax deduction, which will save people money in states like South Dakota that don't burden their citizens with a state income tax.

Protecting states' rights is critical. Earlier this month, America lost a great legal mind and a tremendous defender of the 10th Amendment, which preserves states' rights. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was a man of admirable faith and unyielding candor, but perhaps one of the greatest gifts Justice Scalia imparted upon the Supreme Court was a lesson that the words captured within the Constitution matter. That includes the 10th Amendment: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution ... are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." I couldn't agree more.



Recognizing the Mental Health Needs of Our Veterans

South Dakota is home to more than 72,000 veterans who have bravely and selflessly served our country. Making sure each veteran is cared for and receives top-notch health care has been a priority for me while working in the Senate. While there are many problems plaguing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), addressing mental health reform is among the most important. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), 10 to 20 percent of veterans returning from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom are diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and more than 150,000 veterans have been diagnosed with PTSD in the last 15 years.

Many returning veterans struggle with the invisible wounds of war long after they leave the battlefield. While the most recent available numbers on veterans suicide have shown improvement in recent years, even one veteran taking his or her life due to the mental and physical stresses caused by service to this nation is one too many. Physical injuries can be seen and treated, but too many veterans are suffering in silence from mental health issues that are often not visible on the surface.

Early last year, Republicans and Democrats in Congress came together to pass the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. It was one of the first bills I cosponsored as a senator, and it was signed into law by the president. This law focuses on establishing programs to help veterans with PTSD and bring more mental health care specialists into VA facilities. Still, there is much more that needs to be done to take care of our nation's heroes once they return home.

The Department of Health and Human Services says that surveillance is the first step in solving the problem of suicide at large. Accurate surveillance must then be followed by identifying risk and protective factors, which is followed by intervention strategies. Currently, there is no nationwide surveillance system in place to monitor suicide among all veterans. With the majority of veterans not enrolled in Veterans Health Administration, accurate data is hard to find. While the VA has done a decent job gleaning data from the National Death Index and developing data sharing agreements with all 50 states, surveillance still needs to be a top priority.

Many veterans today do not have access to mental health services when they need it most. I hear from veterans all across South Dakota who have trouble getting appointments at VA facilities. In fact, about 60 percent of my office's casework stems from veterans requesting help. When a veteran is struggling with PTSD and seeks mental health help from his or her VA provider but is forced to wait weeks to see a doctor, we have a major problem on our hands. I am committed to working with my colleagues on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee as well as VA Secretary Robert McDonald to address these critical issues.

The VA and our committee are committed to addressing the heartbreaking issue of veteran suicide and making sure each and every veteran gets the care he or she deserves.

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SCHOOL LAND LEASE AUCTION

A school land lease auction will be held at the Brown County Courthouse in Aberdeen, SD on March 17, 2016 at 1:15 PM (CT) on the following tract:

16 125N 65W E2NE, E2SE

A list of tracts available for lease may also be obtained at the Brown County Auditor's Office or by contacting the Office of School & Public Lands at (605) 773-4172. For more information contact Mike Cornelison, Office of School & Public Lands, 500 E Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-5070 or phone (605)773-4172. Disabled individuals needing assistance should contact the Office of School and Public Lands at least 48 hours in advance of the auction to make any necessary arrangements.



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Today in Weather History

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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










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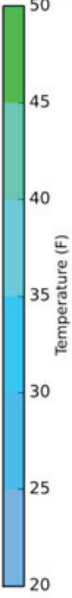
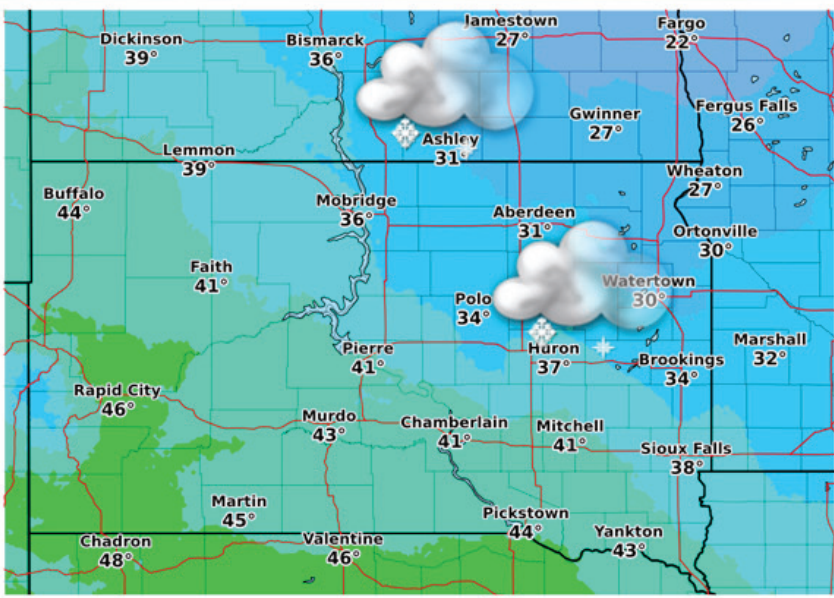
Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Chance Snow then Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Partly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 31 °F ↓	Low: 22 °F	High: 43 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 38 °F	Low: 20 °F	High: 40 °F





Cooler, but Above Normal Today






- Light snow possible through midday
- Warmer temperatures expected on Monday

National Weather Service
Aberdeen SD
02/21/2016 04:36 AM CST

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National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 2/21/2016 5:47 AM Central

Published on: 02/21/2016 at 5:48AM

A low pressure system will track southeast today with light snow possible in northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota through midday. Highs today will range from the upper 20s, to the 40s west river.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 41.7 at 4:51 PM

Low: 31.4 at 9:42 PM

High Gust: 16 at 4:27 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 61° in 1977

Record Low: -30 in 1918

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 10°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.37

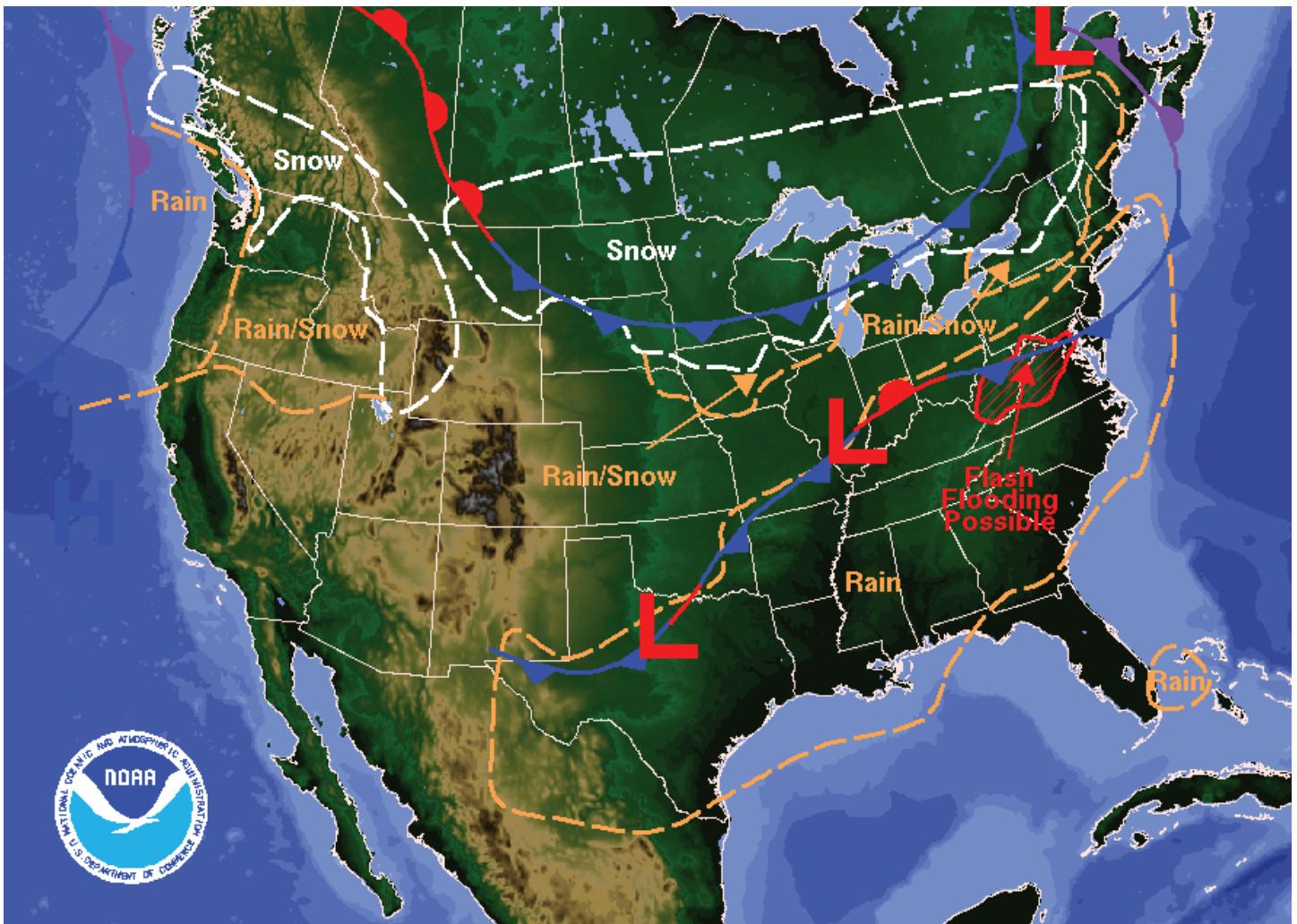
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.60

Average Precip to date: 0.84

Precip Year to Date: 0.60

Sunset Tonight: 6:08 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:24 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Feb 21, 2016, issued 3:42 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by campbell based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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IT'S NOT A KNOCK, IT'S THE LORD

A motorist stopped at a garage in a small rural town and complained to a mechanic, "Every time I hit eighty miles an hour, there's a terrible knock in my engine. I don't know what it is."

"Maybe," said the mechanic, "it's not a what, it's a Who. It just might be the Lord warning you to slow down."

"Whatever you do," said Paul, "do it to the glory of God!" Great advice!

On one occasion Paul gave two specific principles for the way Christians are to behave. The first is that we who are Christians are to do whatever we do for the glory of God. We are His personal representatives and whatever we do we do in His name. So, all of our actions and activities are to be in harmony with the teachings of Jesus and in keeping the laws of society. We cannot pick and choose what we want to do.

The second principle is that we are not to do anything that would harm another person's Christian faith. At all times our behavior is to be guided by what is best for others even if it causes an inconvenience or difficulty for us. What may not be a problem for us may be a problem for others. We must always be an example, in word and deed, of behavior that honors our Lord.

These two principals are the heart of the Gospel. Live them!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to be representatives of Your Gospel that will earn us the reward of being good and faithful servants. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

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News from the  Associated Press

Saturday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Castlewood 67, Wilmot 44
Chamberlain 55, Platte-Geddes 35
Chester 65, Deubrook 33
Corsica/Stickney 81, Avon 37
DeSmet 57, Flandreau 52
Elkton-Lake Benton 42, Waubay 27
Ethan 68, Viborg-Hurley 41
Faith 61, Philip 46
Flandreau Indian 75, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 70
Gregory 62, Rapid City Christian 45
Huron 58, Harrisburg 42
Oelrichs 77, Edgemont 73
Pierre 58, Brandon Valley 47
Pine Ridge 84, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 75
Red Cloud 80, Hill City 31
Scottsbluff, Neb. 71, Rapid City Central 38
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 52, Sioux Falls Lincoln 44
Sioux Falls Washington 52, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 48
Wall 68, Newell 67
Watertown 55, Yankton 51
NDSCS Bonanza
Rosholt 65, Fairmount-Campbell-Tintah, N.D. 47

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Harrisburg 48, Huron 36
Rapid City Central 71, Scottsbluff, Neb. 53
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 61, Sioux Falls Lincoln 49
Sioux Falls Washington 58, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 51
Yankton 67, Watertown 54

South Dakota State tops Western Illinois 87-67

MACOMB, Ill. (AP) — Mike Daum scored 18 points, Deondre Parks had 17 points and seven rebounds, and South Dakota State breezed past Western Illinois 87-67 on Saturday.

Daum finished 5 of 6 from the field and 8 of 8 at the free-throw line, where the Jackrabbits (21-7, 10-4 Summit) combined to set a season-high with 33 makes on 37 attempts.

Leading 10-8 early, South Dakota State used a 22-5 run to pull in front by 19, and the Leathernecks (9-16, 2-12) never got it back to single-digits.

Buoyed by a 31-13 rebound advantage and holding Western Illinois to 29 percent shooting, South Dakota State led by 18 at the half despite a 13-of-34 shooting performance. The Jackrabbits finished 24 of 55 (44 percent).

Garret Covington led Western Illinois with 23 points. Mike Miklusak made three 3-pointers and scored 12 points.

Forest Service works on solution for grassland prairie dogs

BOB MOEN, Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — The U.S. Forest Service is making new efforts to resolve prairie dog issues on the Thunder Basin National Grassland in northeast Wyoming, where ranchers say the rodents are damaging rangeland, a regional Forest Service official said.

Jacqueline Buchanan, deputy forester in the Rocky Mountain Region, told lawmakers Friday that the agency has ramped up its commitment to the issue. She said she recently met with local government officials.

But some lawmakers expressed frustration with what they see as too much talk and no action on controlling prairie dog numbers.

Sen. Gerald Geis, R-Worland, said prairie dogs on federal land have been encroaching on private land for several years, causing problems for ranchers who have grazing livestock.

"You get a bunch of prairie dog towns and there isn't much left there for anything else to eat," Geis, who is chairman of the Senate Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Committee, said.

Prairie dogs can damage rangeland used for grazing livestock, but the rodents also are part of the habitat and "we don't want to lose the population completely," Buchanan said.

"I think everyone's in agreement we need to get to a better place, and I don't know what the outcome is going to be," Buchanan said.

Prairie dogs are important prey for black-footed ferrets, which wildlife managers and conservation groups are trying to encourage after the animal came close to becoming extinct in the 1980s. Prairie dogs also benefit grassland species, including mountain plovers, burrowing owls and ferruginous hawks.

"For the Forest Service, we're always trying to find the balance between interests and uses and multiple use came up and we support sustained multiple use," Buchanan said. "But we also have the responsibility for the wildlife and maintaining all those other pieces and parts."

Regarding other forest issues in Wyoming, Buchanan noted that the Forest Service is working more closely with the state and other agencies to improve forest health and resiliency. Those efforts include increasing timber sales, continuing to battle beetle infestations and battling invasive plants, she said.

Wyoming State Forester Bill Crapser said the mountain pine beetle infestation that killed many trees in the state has slowed but an outbreak of spruce beetles has yet to abate.

"We're still seeing issues in the Black Hills with an increase in beetle activity and in high elevation five-needle pine," Crapser said.

In addition, aspen and cottonwood trees around the state are having problems with diseases, he said. And the Emerald Ash Borer bug that devastates ash trees is creeping closer to Wyoming, Crapser said.

"There is an outbreak in Boulder, Colorado, so it's fairly close," he said. "Emerald Ash Borer doesn't impact our backcountry forests ... but our city trees, town street trees. About 15 percent of our city canopy coverage in the state is ash."

School of Mines students building canned food sculpture

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Students from the South Dakota School of Mines American Society of Civil Engineers are building a giant sculpture out of donated food cans.

Saturday's "Canstruction" event at Rushmore Mall showcases colossal structures from community organizations made out of canned food. The weeklong competition is open to public voting.

Rapid City Leadership class of 2014 is hosting the event to benefit Feeding South Dakota and the Hope Center.

Other teams include Black Hills Federal Credit Union, Boys Scout Venture Crew 320, HDR Engineering and Banner Associates.

The structures will be on display through Feb. 28. The canned food will be donated to Feeding South Dakota, and monetary proceeds will go toward the addition of an in-house laundry facility in the HOPE Center, laundry supplies and the Soap for HOPE project.

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The Latest: 2016 campaign churns on, next contests come soon

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the 2016 presidential race as Republicans look back on South Carolina's primary and ahead to Nevada's caucuses on Tuesday and Democrats move past their Nevada contest and await a South Carolina faceoff on Saturday (all times local):

8:05 a.m.

The 2016 presidential campaign isn't taking too long off before the next contests.

It's the Republicans now heading to the West and Democrats venturing to the South.

The GOP candidates are setting their sights on Nevada for that state's caucuses on Tuesday. Nevada Democrats caucused on Saturday and gave Hillary Clinton a clear victory over Bernie Sanders.

Attention in South Carolina turns to those Democrats after Republican primary voters sent Donald Trump to his second straight election victory. South Carolina's Democratic primary is Saturday.

And then coming up is Super Tuesday — March 1 — when voters in a dozen states plus American Samoa pick their presidential favorites.

Kerry: 'Provisional agreement' reached on Syria ceasefire

DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday that a "provisional agreement" has been reached on a cease-fire that could begin in the next few days in Syria's five-year civil war.

Kerry said he spoke in the morning with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to discuss terms of a cease-fire and the two now must reach out to the parties in the conflict.

He declined to go into the details of the agreement, saying it "is not yet done." But he said he hoped President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin would talk soon and that after that, implementation could begin.

"The modalities for a cessation of hostilities are now being completed," Kerry said. "In fact, we are closer to a cease-fire today than we have been. A cessation of hostilities ... is possible over the course of these next hours."

The Russian Foreign Ministry seemed to stop short of Kerry's announcement. The ministry said Lavrov and Kerry spoke on the phone Sunday for a second day in a row and discussed "the modality and conditions" for a cease-fire in Syria that would exclude groups that the U.N. Security Council considers terrorist organizations.

Fighting has intensified in Syria during recent weeks and an earlier deadline to cease military activities was not observed. The United States, Russia and other world powers agreed Feb. 12 on a deal calling for the ceasing of hostilities within a week, the delivery of urgently needed aid to besieged areas of Syria and a return to peace talks in Geneva.

U.N. envoy Staffan De Mistura halted the latest Syria talks on Feb. 3, because of major differences between the two sides, exacerbated by increased aerial bombings and a wide military offensive by Syrian troops and their allies under the cover of Russian airstrikes. The humanitarian situation has only gotten worse, with an estimated 13.5 million Syrians in need of aid, including 6 million children.

"Peace is better than more war," Kerry said, standing next to Nasser Judeh, the foreign minister of Jordan, which hosts 635,000 Syrian refugees. "A political solution is better than then a futile attempt to try to find a military one that could result in so many more refugees, so many more jihadists, so much more destruction, and possibly even the complete destruction of Syria itself."

However, he reiterated the long-time U.S. position that any political solution to the conflict will not work if Syrian President Bashar Assad remains at the helm of the nation. "Make no mistake. The answer to the Syrian civil war will not be found in any military alliance with Assad," Kerry said. "Let me make that clear."

He said Russia now has to talk with the Syrian government and Iran, which backs Assad, and the U.S. has to talk with the opposition and members of the International Syria Support Group. He said he knows that not every party will automatically agree to the agreement reached for a ceasefire.

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"There is a stark choice for everybody here," Kerry said.

"I know how much work remains and I don't know if everyone is going to meet their commitments," Kerry said. "I can't vouch for that — the United States can't make certain of that."

He said enforcement issues still need to be resolved in addition to how any breeches will be addressed. "These are details that have to be determined if it going to be effective," Kerry said.

Later, Kerry met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Amman and was scheduled to fly to Aqaba for an evening meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II.

On the ground in Syria, a pair of explosions ripped through the central city of Homs, killing at least 32 people and wounding dozens, according to activists and Syrian state TV.

The Homs blasts came amid reports that Syrian government forces captured 31 villages in the northern province of Aleppo from the extremist Islamic State group. Syrian troops have been on the offensive in different parts of the country under the cover of Russian airstrikes.

The television report said Sunday's blasts struck in the pro-government neighborhood of Zahraa — a frequent target for similar explosions. The report quoted Homs governor Talal Barrazi as saying that 32 people were killed and dozens of others wounded.

Most of the bombing attacks in Homs over the past months have been claimed by IS, which controls parts of Homs province including the historic town of Palmyra.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists around Syria, said the blasts killed 46 and wounded more than 100. The explosions took place just after 6 a.m. local time, and both the Observatory and the TV report said they were caused by a pair of car bombs.

The television report aired footage of the destruction caused by the blasts. Debris and mangled cars filled the streets and the charred body of a man was seen being taken away on a stretcher.

The Zahra neighborhood is predominantly Alawite, the minority Muslim sect to which President Bashar Assad belongs.

Homs, once dubbed the capital of the Syrian revolution, has been hit with a wave of explosions in recent months, killing and wounding scores of people. The rebels controlled large parts of Homs after the uprising against Assad's government began in March 2011.

With time, the government gained control of most of Homs' neighborhoods and a deal was reached late last year for militants to evacuate the last rebel-held neighborhood of Waer.

Two blasts hit the Zahra neighborhood on Jan. 26, killing 20 and wounding more than 100 people.

To the north, the Syrian army captured 31 villages on Sunday that were controlled by IS, according to the pro-Syrian Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen TV and Hezbollah's Al-Manar station.

Al-Mayadeen and Al-Manar often have reporters embedded with Syrian troops in northern Syria.

Syrian state media earlier reported that Syrian troops had captured some 10 villages in Aleppo province from IS.

Israeli military says it shot dead Palestinian attacker

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military said it shot dead a Palestinian who tried to stab a soldier at a West Bank checkpoint on Sunday, after security forces managed to disarm and apprehend two separate potential attackers in a non-lethal manner.

The incidents came amid a domestic debate over how to best to counter a five-month bout of near-daily Palestinian attacks. Israel's military chief last week angered right-wing nationalists by urging soldiers to use only "necessary force" in subduing attacks. He was quickly backed by Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon who said Israel can't be "trigger happy" in such a volatile climate. Hawkish lawmakers said the military chief's comments weakened Israel.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday called it "a pointless debate" driven either by misunderstanding or political calculus.

"What the Chief-of-Staff said is self-evident, and in any case the IDF and the security forces operate in this manner," Netanyahu said at his weekly Cabinet meeting.

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Palestinians and others have accused Israel of using excessive force, a claim it strongly denies. The Palestinian attacks, mostly stabbings, have killed 28 Israelis since mid-September. During that time, some 166 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire, the majority said by Israel to be attackers. The rest died in clashes.

Israel says the violence is fueled by a Palestinian campaign of lies and incitement. Palestinians say it stems from frustration at nearly five decades of Israeli rule and dwindling hopes for gaining independence.

Last week, Lt. Gen. Gadi Eisenkot told a meeting with high school students that when "there is a 13-year-old girl who is holding scissors or a knife and there is a barrier between her and the soldiers, I wouldn't want a soldier to open fire and empty a magazine on a girl like that, even if she commits a very serious act."

After South Carolina, GOP race becomes Trump's to lose

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP) — Yes, Donald Trump could really be the Republican nominee.

The blunt-talking billionaire posted his second straight victory in South Carolina's Republican primary Saturday, ending any lingering doubts that he could transform his passionate supporters into voters. On the other side of the country, Hillary Clinton blunted concerns about her viability with a clear victory over Bernie Sanders in Nevada, the first state to test the Democrats' appeal among a racially diverse group of voters.

Trump, now the clear leader in the delegate race, cemented his standing as his party's favorite. No Republican in modern times has won New Hampshire and South Carolina and then failed to win the nomination. Having proven his mettle in South Carolina, Trump emerged well-primed for more winning as the primary heads toward a cluster of Southern states.

"It's tough, it's nasty, it's mean, it's vicious," Trump said of the rollicking presidential campaign. "It's beautiful. When you win, it's beautiful."

Though Trump's victory was vindication for political mavericks whose hunger for an outsider has defined this year's campaign, those fortunes didn't extend to Sanders. After winning the second contest in New Hampshire, the self-declared democratic socialist came up in short in Nevada, where Clinton collected the majority of delegates and told gleeful supporters that "this one is for you."

For Jeb Bush, it was the end of the line. His donors ready to bolt, the political scion dropped out of the race after failing to break into the top three.

Trump routed his rivals by capturing roughly one-third of the votes in South Carolina. Sen. Marco Rubio edged fellow freshman Sen. Ted Cruz for second place, according to complete but unofficial results. John Kasich shrugged off a weak performance in South Carolina, a conservative state the Ohio governor had largely written off.

From here, Republicans and Democrats swap places, with the GOP candidates preparing to face off Tuesday in Nevada and the Democrats four days later in South Carolina. The bigger prize comes a few days later, when a dozen states vote on March 1, with oodles of delegates up for grabs.

A string of victories for Clinton and Trump in those Super Tuesday contests would give them commanding leads in the delegate race, dampening prospects for their rivals to catch up. Already, Trump leads Republicans with 61 of the needed 1,237 delegates, while Clinton has 503 to Sanders' 70, including superdelegates who back the candidate of their choice.

When Trump jumped into the race eight months ago, most Republican leaders dismissed the real estate mogul, insisting the die-hards packing his amped-up rallies were fans, not real voters. Not anymore.

The biggest question facing Republicans now is whether those seeking to spoil a Trump nomination have simply run out of time. Both Cruz and Rubio hinted at their strategy for knocking him out as they addressed supporters after polls closed.

"We are the only campaign that has beaten and can beat Donald Trump," said Cruz, the victor of the Iowa caucuses. "If you are a conservative, this is where you belong because only one strong conservative is in a position to win this race."

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Rubio, the fresh-faced son of Cuban immigrants, has insisted he's the only Republican that can best Clinton or another Democrat with a voting public that's growing younger and more diverse. Having finally dispensed with Bush, he confidently told supporters in Columbia that "this has become a three-person race."

"This country is now ready for a new generation of conservatives to guide us into the 21st century," Rubio said, flanked by South Carolina's Indian-American Gov. Nikki Haley and African-American Sen. Tim Scott.

Clinton's victory was a relief for her campaign following her blowout loss in New Hampshire. She captured voters who said electability and experience were important to their vote, according to entrance polls Edison Research conducted for The Associated Press and TV networks. But in sign of Clinton's continuing vulnerability, Sanders did best with voters seeking someone caring and honest.

"We have come a very long way in nine months," Sanders said. He waxed optimistic that "the wind is at our backs."

Backed by a powerful network of small-dollar donors, Sanders has plenty of funds to stay in for months. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson vowed to keep campaigning despite lagging far behind his fellow Republicans.

Fiji scrambles to restore power as ferocious cyclone kills 6

NICK PERRY, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Most of Fiji was without electricity Sunday and residents were told to stay inside for a second straight night as officials scrambled to restore services and assess damage in the wake of a ferocious cyclone that left at least six people dead and destroyed homes.

Winds from Cyclone Winston, which tore through the Pacific Island chain over the weekend, reached 285 kilometers (177 miles) per hour, making it the strongest storm in the Southern Hemisphere since record-keeping began, according to the Weather Underground website.

Although the weather calmed Sunday, a curfew was extended through early Monday and police were empowered to make arrests without a warrant to ensure order.

In a televised address to the nation Sunday, Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama said many people had been left without power, fresh water or communications.

"The damage has been widespread, homes have been destroyed, many low-lying areas have flooded, and many people have been left stunned and confused about what to do," he said.

He said that the police and military had been brought in to help with rescue operations and the general cleanup, and that government agencies were working overtime to clear roads and restore power.

"This is a time of sorrow, but it will also be a time of action," Bainimarama said. "We will stand united in the face of this disaster."

Officials were trying to establish communications and road access to the hardest-hit areas, and said they would not know the full extent of the damage and injuries until then.

George Dregaso of Fiji's National Disaster Management Office said that two people on Ovalau Island died when the house they were sheltering in collapsed on them, and that another man was killed on Koro Island, although it wasn't clear how.

Authorities also said three people on the main island of Viti Levu were killed in the storm, but didn't have more details.

Tourism Minister Faiyaz Siddiq Koya said that all tourists in Fiji were safe and that there was no significant damage to the majority of hotels on the main island. Fiji is a popular tourist destination, known for its beach resorts and scuba diving.

Cyclone Winston hit Fiji on Saturday and moved westward overnight along the northern coast of Viti Levu. Fiji's capital, Suva, located in the southern part of the main island, was not directly in the cyclone's path and avoided the worst of its destructive power.

"Truth be told, we've gotten off pretty lightly here in the capital," said Alice Clements, a spokeswoman for UNICEF. "It was still a pretty awful night. You could hear crashing trees and power lines, and popping rivets as roofs got lifted and ripped out."

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She said there was foliage everywhere that looked like it had been put through a blender.

About 80 percent of the nation's 900,000 people were without regular power, although about one-third of them were able to get some electricity from generators, said Dregaso, the disaster office official. Landlines throughout Fiji were down, but most mobile networks were working.

Dregaso said there were 483 people who had evacuated from their homes and were staying in 32 emergency shelters. He said he expected the number of evacuees to rise.

Authorities were urging people to remain indoors as they cleared fallen trees and power lines. They said that all schools would be closed for a week to allow time for the cleanup, and that three universities would be closed until further notice.

The government declared a 30-day state of natural disaster, giving extra powers to police to arrest people without a warrant.

The government said the curfew would end at 5:30 a.m. Monday.

"The curfew has been imposed to protect lives and protect property," Prime Minister Bainimarama said in his address.

Clements, the UNICEF spokeswoman, said there was particular concern for people on the northern part of the main island and on smaller islands. She said that many would have lost their homes and livelihoods, and that some tourist resorts on the outer islands may have been damaged.

The airport reopened Sunday to allow emergency flights, Dregaso said, after many flights had been canceled the day before.

Election Takeaways: A boost for front-runners Clinton, Trump

JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans went to the polls in South Carolina to make their Republican presidential picks on Saturday as Democrats caucused in Nevada.

Saturday's top takeaways:

DONALD TRUMP, FRONT-RUNNER

Celebrity businessman Donald Trump's win in South Carolina's Republican primary needs no spin. It's not just the optics of his decisive first-place finish on the heels of his New Hampshire victory — it's real points on the board. Trump left South Carolina with at least 44 of the state's 50 delegates.

It's also becoming clearer why people are voting for Trump. Nearly half of Republican voters in South Carolina said Trump is the candidate they trust most to handle the economy, more than double the proportion who said so of any other candidate, according to exit polls conducted for the Associated Press and television networks by Edison Research.

More than 7 in 10 said they were very worried about the economy, and Trump led both Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio — who finished behind Trump — among those voters.

GOP TRADITIONS FALTER

Advertising mattered little. Endorsements even less. In 2016, the traditional way of running for president hasn't amounted to much in the Republican Party.

Rubio secured South Carolina's most coveted GOP endorsements, winning the support of the state's overwhelmingly popular governor, Nikki Haley, its popular U.S. senator, Tim Scott, and high-profile congressman Trey Gowdy. Cruz did just as well by touring the state with the star of "Duck Dynasty."

And Florida Sen. Jeb Bush finished near the bottom of the pack in a big military state with the backing of Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of the Senate's most respected voices on national security.

Trump, meanwhile, lacked few meaningful in-state endorsers and locked up his win by spending less than \$2 million in advertising — a tiny fraction of what Bush, Rubio and Cruz and their supporters spent. Cruz's campaign and allies spent more than \$7 million on paid media, and Rubio's and Bush's teams both more than \$11 million each, according to advertising tracker Kantar Media's CMAG.

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Bush ended his campaign after another disappointing election night. An outside group backing him spent some \$85 million on commercials to build him up and tear down his opponents, which until this election season was a surefire way to move toward the nomination. This time, it didn't work.

MARCH MONEY MADNESS

Resources are still likely to play a major role in the weeks ahead, because the primary contest moves from one-state-at-a-time to a cross-country contest. That typically means advertising and organization takes on increased importance, and both require money.

As voters caucused in Nevada and cast ballots in South Carolina, all of the presidential candidates — and many of the big-money outside groups backing them — filed their latest fundraising reports with federal regulators.

Those financial documents showed Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders had spent some \$35 million in January alone, a huge sum that helped him hire staff and open offices across the country. His Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, also made major investments, but she began February with \$33 million left in the bank, twice what Sanders had on hand.

Their healthy accounts stand in sharp contrast to the comparatively cash-strapped Republicans.

Cruz was in better financial shape than his competitors, starting this month \$13.6 million — far more than the \$5 million Rubio had in his accounts. Ohio Gov. John Kasich had less than \$1.5 million. The fundraising documents show none had set up the sprawling operations to rival the two Democrats.

Trump is a wildcard. The billionaire has vowed to spend whatever it takes to win the nomination, and has invested \$17.5 million in his campaign so far. His latest fundraising report also showed a surprising presence of staff in states that will vote March 1.

THE CLINTON COALITION

After her double-digit loss to Sanders in New Hampshire, Clinton prevailed in Nevada with the backing of women, union workers, minorities and voters who are certain she will have a better shot at winning in November, according to entrance polls.

A large majority of blacks supported Clinton, an outcome that bodes well for her in South Carolina on Feb. 27 and on Super Tuesday a few days later.

The elections held on March 1 include several southern states where African Americans make up a far larger voting bloc than in New Hampshire and Iowa, where she barely eked out a victory.

Should Clinton win a similar level of support from black voters in those contests, she could amass a significant number of the 2,383 delegates needed to win Democratic nomination.

VOTERS AND THE SUPREME COURT

The death last week of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has thrust the president's job of selecting nominees to the nation's highest court into the 2016 discussion.

In Nevada, Clinton was the candidate Democratic caucus-goers said they trusted most to handle a Supreme Court nomination, by an 11 percentage point margin over Sanders, according to entrance polls.

Among Republican primary voters in South Carolina, Trump and Cruz were tied as the candidates most trusted to handle a Supreme Court opening, the exit poll showed, with just short of 3 in 10 voters selecting each of them.

Rubio trailed, with just 2 in 10 saying he would best handle nominating a justice.

Egyptian columnist delivers stinging attack against el-Sissi

CAIRO (AP) — A prominent columnist has delivered the harshest attack to date against Egypt's president in the local media, saying that, in terms of freedoms, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's rule is not different from the Islamist regime he removed in 2013.

In a front-page column Sunday in the al-Maqal daily, Ibrahim Eissa expressed outrage over a two-year prison sentence passed Saturday against author Ahmed Naji for publishing a sexually explicit excerpt of

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his novel that prosecutors said violated "public modesty."

"Your state is a theocracy, Mr. President, while you are talking all the time of a modern, civilian state," he wrote. "Your state and its agencies, just like those of your predecessor (Islamist Mohammed Morsi), hate intellectuals, thought and creativity and only like hypocrites, flatterers and composers of poems of support and flattery. "

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2016. There are 314 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 21, 1916, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France as German forces attacked; the French were able to prevail after 10 months of fighting.

On this date:

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

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

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

In 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

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

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

In 1958, the USS Gudgeon (SS-567) became the first American submarine to complete a round-the-world cruise, eight months after departing from Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

In 1965, black Muslim leader and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam. (Three men were convicted of murder and imprisoned; all were eventually paroled.)

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

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

In 1986, Larry Wu-tai Chin, the first American found guilty of spying for China, killed himself in his Virginia jail cell.

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

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush endorsed the takeover of shipping operations at six major U.S. seaports by a state-owned business in the United Arab Emirates, and pledged to veto any bill Congress might approve to block the agreement. Donald Herbert, a brain-injured Buffalo, New York, firefighter who suddenly spoke after nearly a decade in a near-vegetative state, died at age 44. Harvard University president Lawrence H. Summers announced his resignation.

Five years ago: Deep cracks opened in Moammar Gadhafi's regime, with Libyan government officials at home and abroad resigning, air force pilots defecting and a major government building ablaze after clashes in the capital of Tripoli. Yemen's embattled leader, President Ali Abdullah Saleh (AH'-lee ahb-DUH'-luh sah-LEH'), rejected demands that he step down, calling demonstrations against his regime unacceptable acts of provocation and offering to begin a dialogue with protesters.

One year ago: U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter made his international debut with a visit to Afghanistan to see American troops and commanders, meet with Afghan leaders and assess whether U.S. withdrawal

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plans were too risky to Afghan security. Activists, actors, and politicians gathered in New York City at the place where civil rights leader Malcolm X was shot to death 50 years earlier. Jazz trumpeter Clark Terry, 94, died in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Today's Birthdays: Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe is 92. Fashion designer Hubert de Givenchy is 89. Movie director Bob Rafelson is 83. Actor Gary Lockwood is 79. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 77. Actor Peter McEnery is 76. U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., is 76. Film/music company executive David Geffen is 73. Actress Tyne Daly is 70. Actor Anthony Daniels is 70. Tricia Nixon Cox is 70. Former Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 69. Rock musician Jerry Harrison (The Heads) is 67. Actress Christine Ebersole is 63. Actor William Petersen is 63. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 61. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 58. Actor Kim Coates is 58. Actor Jack Coleman is 58. Actor Christopher Atkins is 55. Rock singer Ranking Roger is 55. Actor William Baldwin is 53. Rock musician Michael Ward is 49. Actress Aunjanue Ellis is 47. Blues musician Corey Harris is 47. Country singer Eric Heatherly is 46. Rock musician Eric Wilson is 46. Rock musician Tad Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 43. Singer Rhiannon Giddens (Carolina Chocolate Drops) is 39. Actor Tituss Burgess is 37. Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt is 37. Actor Brendan Sexton III is 36. Singer Charlotte Church is 30. Actress Ashley Greene is 29. Actress Ellen Page is 29. Actor Corbin Bleu is 27. Actress Hayley Orrantia is 22. Actress Sophie Turner is 20.

Thought for Today: "There is nothing more horrifying than stupidity in action." — Adlai E. Stevenson, American politician and diplomat (1900-1965).