

Groton Daily Independent

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Saturday, March 5

State Debate in Aberdeen
Birthdays: Chance Strom, Linda Locken
8:00am: Region DI in Groton
4:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran 5th graders and parents meet
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, March 6

Birthday: Stacey Bonn
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
3:00pm: 3 pm: (Open Gym for JK-8th for 6-12 from 5-7)

Monday, March 7

School Breakfast: Egg omelette, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Submarine, potato chips, fruit.

Senior Menu: Goulash, green beans, apple crisp, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Richard & JoAnn Krueger

Birthdays: Allan Merkel, Blanca Sperry, Brian Bahr, Dale Strom, Jamie Herron, Jeraka Rossow, Patty Harms, Pierce Kettering, Rev. Terry Kenny, Shannon Hjermstad, Tom Cutler.

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

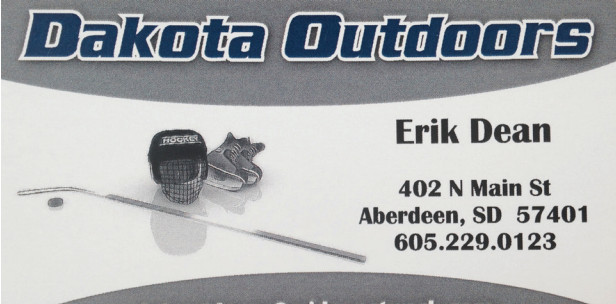
7:00pm: City Council Meeting at Groton Com-

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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Dakota Outdoors

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Lana's Annals

**Lana
Greenfield
District 2
State
Representative**

Hello from Pierre. We had a roller coaster ride this week in the House, and I want to mention some of the bills that are still alive. SB58, which revises restrictions for the use of night vision equipment for hunting predators, proved to be a "talker." Opponents defended leaving the bill the same way saying it was too dangerous to have a group of five hunting at night using a cartridge with a diameter less than .225 instead of using a rim fire cartridge. Proponents defended the bill as they said coyotes are very destructive to baby calves and that we need to get rid of the predators in any way possible. The change prevailed with a vote 51-16. I voted in favor after listening to testimony from Reps. Feickert and McCleerey, who both have livestock and have dealt with the devastation the coyotes can cause.

SB79 allows for not only psychiatrists but also psychologists to administer exams for people who sit in jails waiting to be declared guilty but possibly mentally ill. I voted in favor as it contained no fiscal note but only appears to speed up the court process and save our jails some money.

Here is one that may be applauded by many. SB97, providing for the automatic removal of all PETTY offenses, municipal ordinance violations or CLASS 2 misdemeanors or background check records after 10 years under certain conditions, was passed. One of these conditions is not to erase a misdemeanor that adjoins a felony. This bill will now eliminate one from having to go through the expungement process for minor infractions.

SB54 came out of the summer task force study on Elder Abuse. It protects our senior citizens and disabled adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Some were apprehensive to cast a favorable vote as they felt the bill went too far. A couple testified that they may be found facing charges if neighbors or other relatives questioned decision making done by family members. For example, a representative whose parent is now confined to a nursing home may have his motives questioned when that parent tells all who come to visit that she is being held as a captive against her will and wants a ride home. I did not feel this would be cause for any litigation. This is a common reaction from people who do not wish to give up their homes and autos, despite what a danger they may become to themselves or others. It did pass.

We also passed HB1061, which would appropriate tuition benefit to teachers who enroll in courses under the management of the Board of Regents and is not currently subsidized by the general funds. I was pleased to see this continue to make its way through as I am one of the co-sponsors. It is a very specific bill, which I hope the teachers can utilize to enhance their careers.

SB74 is a very common sense bill authorizing certain governing members, displaced by natural disasters, to continue their term in office. For example when the Delmont tornado struck, many people were forced to evacuate their homes and move out of the district or municipality which they represented. This just allows them to keep serving while they are currently displaced or until they complete their term. This has a very good chance of being signed into law.

SB131 has yet to be introduced onto the floor. I believe that student: teacher ratio has been reduced to 12:1 rather than 12.5:1, saving about 40 more teachers from being eliminated, but nothing was done at the top end to reduce the windfall that the big schools will get as a result of being funded extra money for teachers they do not have. A push to amend the bill again may come to try to stop the funding of phantom teachers while I am also relatively certain that the reps. and senators from the big districts along with their lobbyists will fight vehemently oppose it.

The transgender bill was laid to rest this week upon request of Rep. Deutsch, the author and prime of the bill at the urging of the Governor. This is a good reminder for all of us that as we author or co-sponsor bills in the upcoming years to be mindful of outside pressure, to be committed to the bills, and to "ride our pony" to the end of the race.

Until next week, may God grant you peace and good health.

Rep. Greenfield

lana.greenfield@gmail.com or rep.lanagreenfield@state.sd.us or call 773-3851.

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GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

March 7, 2016 - 7pm

Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Financial Report
- 3) Bills
- 4) Set Equalization Hearings Times & Place
- 5) Tax CPI set for 2017=0%---2017 Opt Out Procedure MUST be complete by 7/1/16
- 6) 7:15pm Garbage Hauling Bids
 - a)Options / b)Price to be charged / c)Spring Hauling Route
- 7) Department Reports – Herron, Lambertz
- 8) WAPA Rates / Heartland Rates
- 9) Appeal of Late Penalty on Utilities
- 10) Curb Cut ADA at Cheri's On Main
- 11) Dollar General Easement Vacation Request
- 12) Bike & Walking Path Grant App Due 4/15/16
- 13) Cats At Large
- 14) Dog Licenses
- 15) Swimming Pool Reports
- 16) 2016 Recreation Charges
- 17) Annual Report 2015
- 18) Nominating Petitions Filed –Cancel Election 2017
- 19) Car Show June 19
- 20) Health Ins Renewal Date
- 21) Comm Center Inspection
- 22) Exe Session – Legal & Personnel
- 23) SB 90 Concerns
- 24) Hire Summer Employees
- 25) 1st Reading Summer Salary Ordinance #703

AND any other business that may come before the Council

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 DI Tourney in Groton today

Groton Area will be hosting the regional Destination Imagination tournament at the Groton Area High School. Teams from Groton, Watertown, Doland, Deuel and Custer will be at the event. Groton has eight teams participating in the tournament. The first and second place teams will advance to the state tournament to be held April 2 in Mitchell. The public is invited to watch the challenges; however, the IC (Instant Challenges) are closed and only the team members and one coach can attend these events. After the last challenge, which starts at 2:40 p.m. the awards ceremony will be held at the Groton Area Arena.

	Technical/Structural		Scientific		Fine Arts	
	challenge	IC	challenge	IC	Challenge	IC
10:20						
10:40	challenge A					
11:00	Wtn EL	12:40	Groton SL	12:20	Doland EL	1:00
11:20	Wtn EL	1:00			Groton EL	1:20
11:40						
12:00			Wtn ML	1:20		
12:20	Wtn ML	1:40	Groton ML	1:40	Deuel EL	11:00
12:40	challenge E				Groton EL	11:20
1:00	Deuel EL	2:00	Groton EL	11:20		
1:20	Rising stars		Doland EL	11:40	Groton M	12:00
1:40	Groton	12:00	Ch D		Wtn ML	12:20
2:00	Wtn	12:20	Custer	11:00	Doland ML	12:40
2:20	Groton	12:40				
2:40	Deuel	1:00				
3:00						
3:20						

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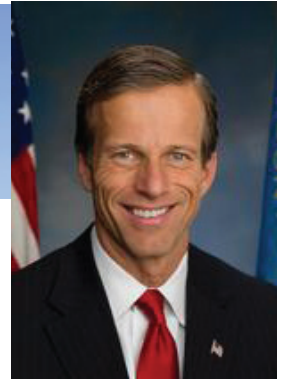
Groton Garden Club

The Groton Garden club met at the home of Linda Gengerke with Ruby Donovan assisting. President Bev Sombke opened the meeting. Eleven members answered roll call with what they did for Valentine's Day. Eunice McCollister read the poem "My Frog" by Michelle Mensinger from "Keeping in Touch." She also showed the poster winners from Groton Area Elementary Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl contest.

The March 21st meeting will be held at the home of Deb Olson with Linda Anderson assisting. Linda Gengerke will give the program.

Following the meeting Linda Gengerke gave the program "Chicken Dance" about the mating dance of the greater prairie chicken.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Visiting the Nation's Capital

Each year, millions of people from around the world travel to Washington, D.C., to take in the sights and sounds of our nation's capital. Between all of the historic buildings and locations scattered throughout the District are great places to eat, rest after

a long day on the National Mall, or enjoy a wide range of family-friendly entertainment opportunities. The spring season, in particular, draws families from around the country to Washington for spring break and other family vacations.

If your family is considering a trip to Washington this spring – or any time of year, for that matter – and you need help planning parts of your visit, you can always contact my office for assistance. We can help arrange tours of federal buildings throughout the city and provide tips on places to eat or stay. Visiting a big city can sometimes be an overwhelming task, so let us help alleviate some of that stress. While we're always just a phone call or email away, if you're already in Washington, you can always stop by my office in the Dirksen Senate Office Building to say hello, schedule tours, or pick up some helpful information about the city.

I hope one of your first tours in Washington is through the Capitol building, which is a living part of history and an iconic symbol of our democracy. It functions as an office for members of Congress and staff and serves as a hands-on museum for school groups and other visitors. If you tour the Capitol, you'll walk through the same hallways as members of Congress and can see firsthand important congressional debates and votes from the galleries of the House and Senate chambers. In addition to the Capitol, my office can help arrange tours of the White House, U.S. Supreme Court, Library of Congress, and many other federal buildings.

There's a uniqueness to visiting D.C. throughout the year, but this season is particularly interesting because of the world-famous cherry blossom trees that explode with color each spring. The Tidal Basin near the Jefferson Memorial becomes noticeably fragrant as the trees start to bloom, and end up painting the horizon pink and white. If you've never had the chance to see them in person and in full bloom, which is expected to peak this year between March 31 and April 3, it's definitely worth the visit.

There's one special event in D.C. that's reserved just for you: our weekly South Dakota Sunrise Coffee. Nearly every Wednesday that the House and Senate are in session, Sen. Rounds, Rep. Noem, and I host a breakfast for South Dakotans who are visiting Washington. It's a great opportunity to see familiar faces and make new friends, and it's one of my favorite parts of the week. To be part of our next South Dakota Sunrise Coffee or to learn about how we can help you during your trip to Washington, more information can be found at thune.senate.gov or by calling any of my Senate offices.



Invisible Illness

Sometimes the most difficult challenges to deal with are the ones a person can't see. Mental illness falls into that category. While about one in five American adults experiences mental illness throughout their lives, our health care system isn't adequately prepared to help. As a result, too many people are falling through the cracks, and instead of landing in a hospital bed, they are landing in a jail cell, a homeless shelter, or worse.

This February, I was honored to receive the Outstanding Leadership Award from the American Psychological Association for my work in this area, and specifically, for a bill I introduced with Rep. Jan Schakowsky called the Medicare Mental Health Access Act.

For more than a half-century, our country has made sure seniors have access to the care they need to treat virtually any physical disease that could possibly afflict them. That care has meant we get to spend more time with our parents and grandparents – even our great-grandparents. In fact, a 65-year-old woman on Medicare today will live 20 percent longer than her counterpart in 1960, due at least in part to the benefits she receives from Medicare.

But for the last 50 years, the role of mental health professionals in the spectrum of care has been marginalized – even though the anxiety and depression that are common in older populations can increase their susceptibility to physical disorders. Our minds and bodies work as one. Both need to be healthy and both need to be cared for.

My Medicare Mental Health Access Act will tear down barriers to mental health care for older Americans and give seniors more freedom and choice when it comes to how they are cared for.

This is just one piece of the puzzle, however. Mental health concerns know no boundaries – not age, not race, not gender. In South Dakota, we are facing a heartbreaking suicide epidemic on Native American reservations. Around two dozen young people have lost their lives to suicide in the last year or so – and scores more have attempted it. This cycle of hopelessness needs to end. We must bring quality mental health care into areas like this.

In the next few months, Congress is expected to debate the Helping Families with Mental Health Crisis Act. If this bill is enacted, mental health laws would finally be brought into the modern era. We would better empower parents and caregivers. We would extend our reach into underserved and rural populations. We would improve the transition from one level of care to another. And we would make more tools available to prevent suicides in this country. Acting on this legislation is critical, which is why I am so proud to be one of the bill's cosponsors.

Mental illnesses can often go unseen – at least by the outside world. With stronger legislation in place, I'm hopeful these illnesses won't have to go untreated.

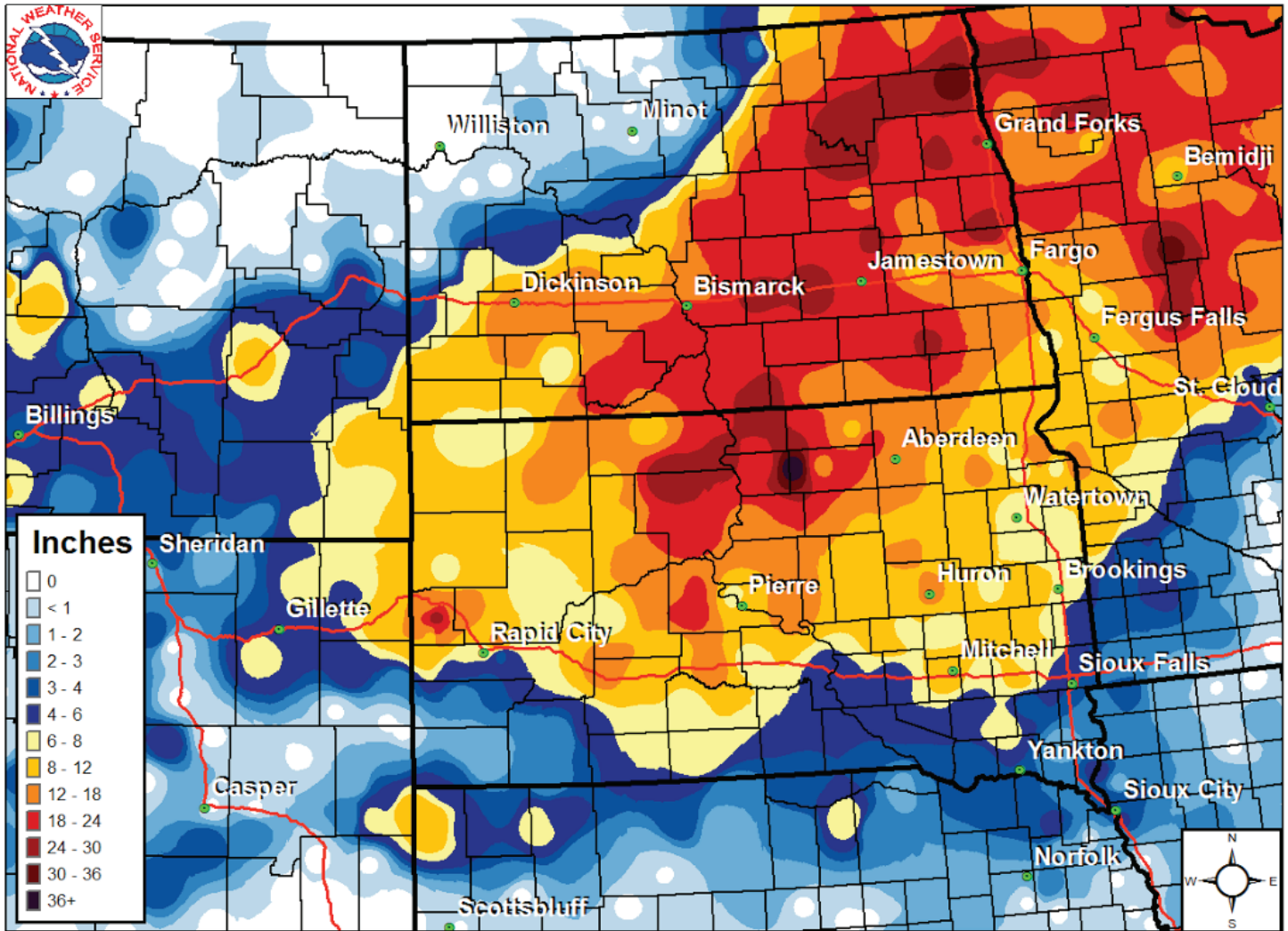
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Today in Weather History

March 5, 1966: The historic blizzard of 1966, which started on March 2, comes to an end in the Dakotas. North Dakota saw severe livestock losses with an estimated 18,500 cattle, 7,500 sheep, and 600 hogs killed. On a farm in eastern North Dakota, 7,000 turkeys perished. The total loss of livestock was estimated at near \$4 million dollars. In South Dakota, an estimated 50,000 cattle, 46,000 sheep, and 1,800 hogs were killed. Most of the deaths occurred in the central and northern central part of the state.

Snowfall (March 2-4, 1966)






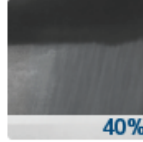



Map provided courtesy of the National Weather Service, Rapid City, SD.

The snowfall map above is courtesy from the NWS Office in Rapid City, South Dakota.

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Partly Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Breezy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Partly Sunny
High: 55 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 40 °F	High: 60 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 48 °F



Increased Fire Danger Today – Mild Temps As Well

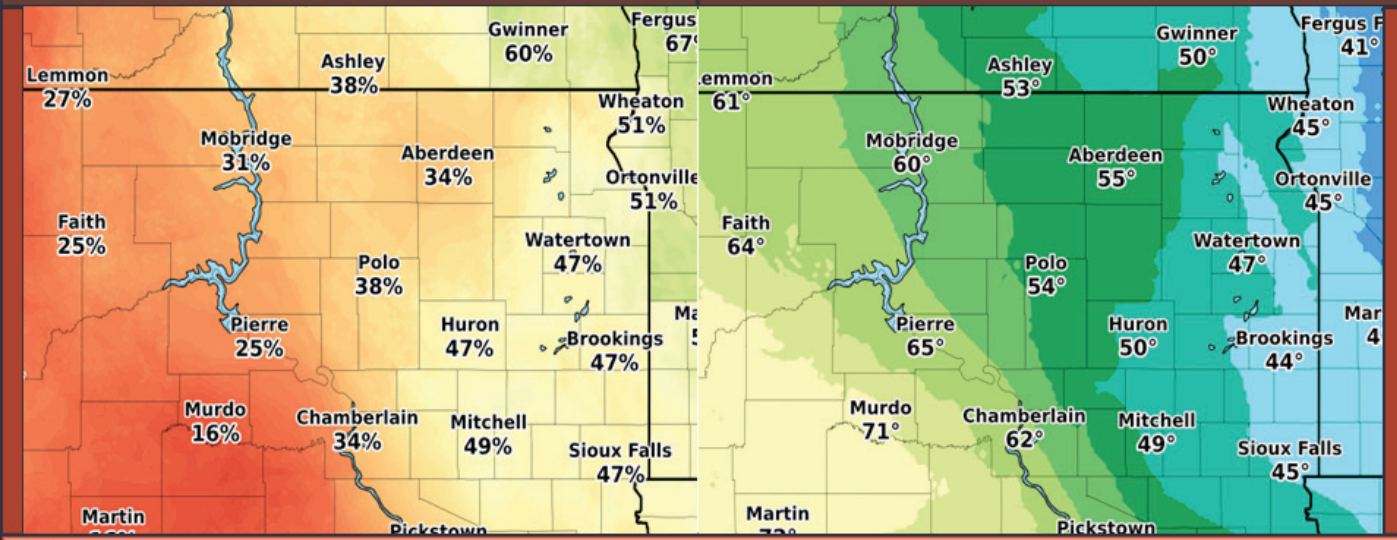


- Very high fire danger over central SD, where humidity will be lowest
- Much above normal temperatures, especially central SD
- Gusty south to southeast winds this afternoon



Lowest Forecast Humidity This Afternoon

Today's High Temperatures



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 3/5/2016 5:27 AM Central

Published on: 03/05/2016 at 5:33AM

The combination of above normal temperatures, low humidity, and gusty south to southeast winds will bring high to very high fire danger to much of the region today. The fire danger will reach critical conditions over south central South Dakota, where relative humidity is forecast to fall below 20 percent while winds gust up to 30 mph at times. A Red Flag warning has been issued for this area. Expect high temperatures to range from the 40s east, to the 60s and low 70s over central and western South Dakota. Even warmer temperatures will move in on Sunday, with highs reaching the 60s and low 70s. Record highs are likely in some areas. The winds will not be quite as strong on Sunday, so fire danger is expected to be hampered a bit.

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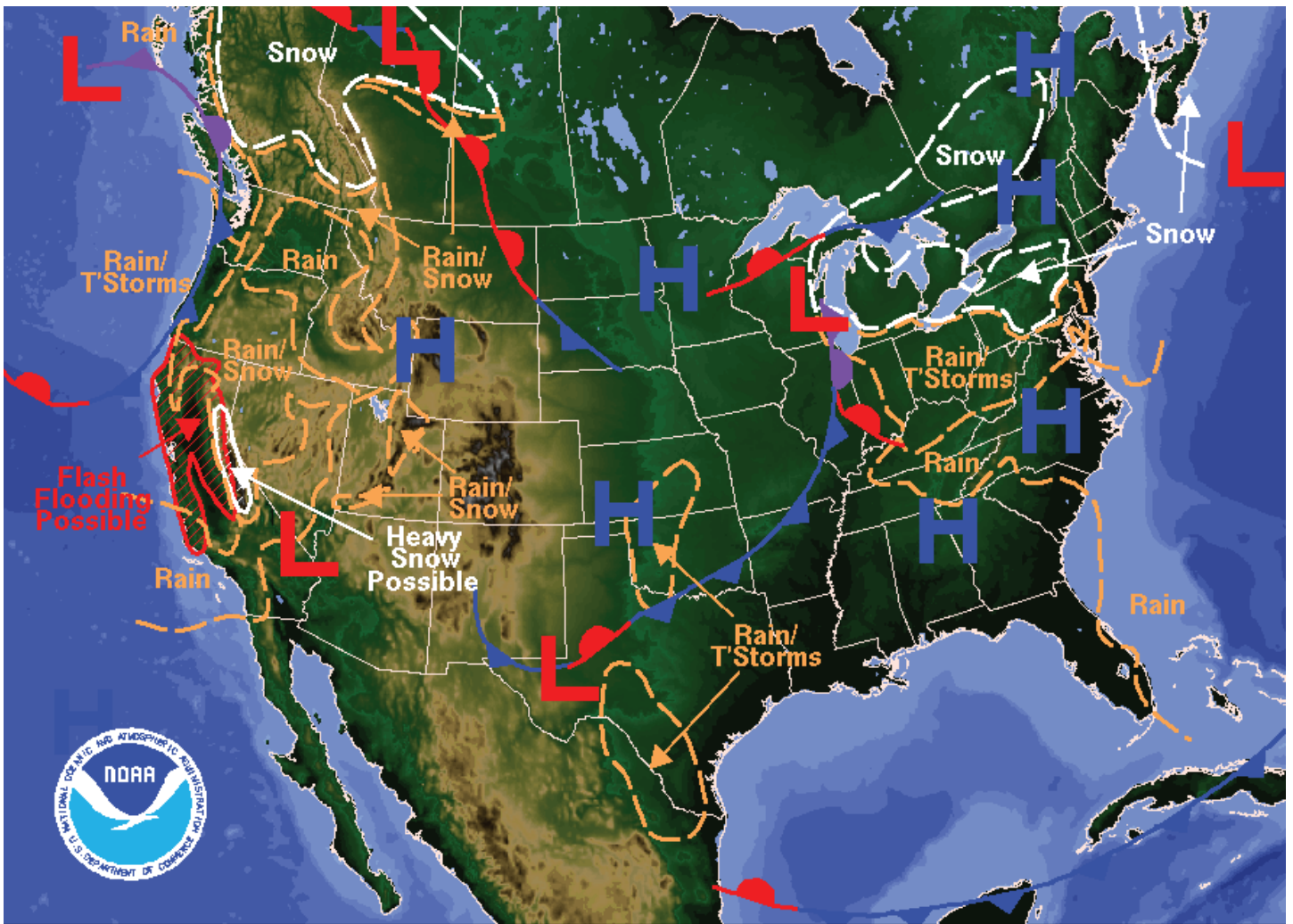
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 51.4
Low: 28.1
High Gust: 33
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 74° in 2000
Record Low: -22 in 1919
Average High: 35°F
Average Low: 15°F
Average Precip in March.: 0.14
Precip to date in March.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 1.16
Precip Year to Date: 0.60
Sunset Tonight: 6:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:01 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Mar 05, 2016, issued 4:02 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WANTED: FRIENDS

A husband and wife were driving down a street with manicured lawns, lovely flowers and beautiful trees. In the front yard of one quaint cottage was a sign reading, "ANTIQUES." They stopped the car, got out, walked to the door and knocked. Immediately they were greeted by two elderly ladies.

"Come in," was the gracious invitation. "Let us give you a cup of afternoon tea and a cookie."

After enjoying the delicious snack the husband asked, "May we see the antiques now?"

"You're looking at us," said one of the ladies with a twinkle in her eye. "We're very lonely and we've found that this is a lovely way to make new friends."

Everywhere we look, we find people who are lonely. They fill crowded streets, social events – even in our churches. Many can be with others and still feel alone.

In Genesis we find God saying that "It is not good for man to be alone." We were created to live in relationships. So, we all need friends who will be near when we need to be comforted, listen to us when we need to talk about a problem and even wipe away a tear when it runs down our cheek. In good times and bad, we all need a friend to share our dreams and help carry our burdens. People need people. Let's ask God to bring a lonely person or two into our lives – today.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, humble our hearts to seek the least, the lonely and the lost and share Your love, grace and hope. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 18:24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

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News from the  Associated Press

Judge rules Sturgis can challenge Buffalo Chip incorporation

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A judge has ruled the city of Sturgis can challenge a decision to approve Buffalo Chip Campground's petition to incorporate.

The campground became an incorporated town last spring. The judge ruled Friday in favor of Sturgis. Buffalo Chip asserted Sturgis didn't have legal standing to challenge the decision by Meade County commissioners.

County commissioners voted in February 2015 to allow the campground to move forward in its bid to become a town. Voters confirmed it in an election.

A trial in Sturgis' appeal is tentatively set to begin May 11, which is close to the anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Buffalo Chip.

Man gets 40 years in prison in death of Black Hawk toddler

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A man has been sentenced to 40 years in prison in connection with the death of a 21-month-old Black Hawk boy.

Thomas Pentecost was sentenced Friday in court in Sturgis. He pleaded guilty in November to first-degree manslaughter in the death of Bentley James Bahr.

Prosecutors say Pentecost fatally injured the boy on April 9 while the boy's mother was attending school. The boy was declared brain dead two days later.

Meade County State's Attorney Kevin Krull said the state had sought a sentence of 50 years in prison.

Friday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

District 1AA

Third Place: Watertown 46, Brookings 36

Championship: Sioux Falls O'Gorman 58, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 46

District 2AA

Third Place: Brandon Valley 56, Yankton 46

Championship: Sioux Falls Washington 66, Sioux Falls Lincoln 57

District 3AA

Third Place: Aberdeen Central 72, Huron 60

Championship: Pierre 62, Mitchell 55

District 4AA

Third Place: Rapid City Central 71, Douglas 44

Championship: Rapid City Stevens 66, Sturgis Brown 54

Region 3A

Regional Semifinal

Dell Rapids 56, Madison 53

Sioux Falls Christian 69, Flandreau 39

Region 5A

Regional Semifinal

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 68, West Central 52

Parkston 63, Tri-Valley 54

District 3B Championship: Potter County 84, Herreid/Selby Area 64

District 4B Championship: Highmore-Harrold 51, Lower Brule 46

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District 7B Championship: Chester 46, Elkton-Lake Benton 38
District 8B Championship: Canistota 55, Hanson 41
District 9B Championship: Menno 39, Parker 36
District 10B Championship: Irene-Wakonda 71, Alcester-Hudson 56
District 11B Championship: Corsica/Stickney 59, Platte-Geddes 31
District 13B Championship: White River 61, Lyman 40
District 15B Championship: Timber Lake 66, Dupree 45

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Region 6A Regional Final: McLaughlin 60, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 56
Region 1B Regional Final: Leola/Frederick 40, Waverly-South Shore 37
Region 3B Regional Final: Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 64, Castlewood 40

Activists say fending off transgender bills raised awareness

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Transgender-rights advocates say a legislative session spent successfully fending off several bills that targeted transgender people in South Dakota forged a more-visible community better prepared for future clashes at the Capitol.

A bill vetoed this week that thrust South Dakota into the national spotlight would have required transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms that match sex at birth. The House failed Thursday to override the veto, though the measure's sponsor suggested supporters come back with a "better, stronger bill."

A group of transgender people is establishing a new organization that would work with other LGBT-rights groups as a result of the legislative onslaught this session. The group would help give transgender people a platform to share their stories to raise their profile with other South Dakota residents, said Tamara Jeanne Urban, a 62-year-old transgender woman from Sioux Falls who is helping organize the effort.

A "powerful" strategy for transgender advocates has been putting a human face on an abstract concept that people don't understand, said Terri Bruce, a transgender man expected to be part of the new organization.

Bruce, 52, took that approach this year when he opposed the measures, working to build relationships with lawmakers, including Republicans who ultimately supported the bathroom bill. He now considers some them "unlikely friends."

"All of these people I met recently who didn't know transgender people can say they know a transgender person, and that ripples out," Bruce said.

Advocates for transgender rights rallied in February and talked to state lawmakers at the Capitol before a meeting with Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

The Sioux Falls-based Center for Equality asked for the time with Daugaard because he said he hadn't knowingly met a transgender person. The Republican governor heard the personal stories of three young transgender people and one of their mothers during the private meeting, which was also meant to personalize the issue.

Though the governor ultimately cited different reasoning when he vetoed the bill, Daugaard said shortly afterward that the meeting helped him "see things through their eyes a little bit."

Advocates "can't deny" that they had something to do with the veto, said Ashley Joubert-Gaddis, director of operations at the nonprofit.

Transgender rights have become a new flashpoint in the nation's cultural clashes following the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage last year. South Dakota became a focal point after its Republican-controlled Legislature last month approved the legislation.

A GOP lawmaker's comments referring to transgender people as "twisted" in February served as a catalyst that brought people from all over together, said Bruce, who lives in Custer County.

The furor this session has put the Center for Equality on the map, filled up phone contact lists with national LGBT-rights organizations that can help in future fights and increased new memberships that help fund advocacy and other work, Joubert-Gaddis said.

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"What they really did is give us a voice," she said.

Supporters said the bill was aimed at protecting student privacy, but opponents criticized it as discriminatory, saying it would further marginalize transgender students. It was one of several measures lawmakers proposed this session related to transgender people, none of which have passed.

Dale Bartscher, who lobbies for the conservative group Family Heritage Alliance Action, said supporters will regroup and move forward. Bartscher said new legislation would be proposed out of concern for children's safety and privacy.

"Whether the opposition to this legislative concept is stronger or more focused, that doesn't play into our decision to do what is right for the children and the parents of the state of South Dakota," he said.

LGBT advocates credit the struggle to defeat the legislation this year with strengthening them and bringing their community together. Bruce said transgender people won't be shamed, bullied or "legislated out of existence" by lawmakers.

"Now I am engaged," he said. "When this happens again, because it will, they will see my face."

House panel to mull oversight overhaul after GEAR UP scandal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A legislative committee is set to take up a proposed overhaul of government oversight in South Dakota after a murder-suicide last year involving two employees of a Platte-based educational cooperative.

The House State Affairs committee is set to consider the bill Monday.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has said the state needs to have a better internal control system that "reaches" into organizations such as Mid-Central Educational Cooperative.

The organization handled administration of the federal GEAR UP college-readiness grant for the state until the agreement was canceled last year.

The legislation establishes a state board to create effective internal controls. It also requires organizations that receive grants to attest that they enforce conflict-of-interest policies, among other things

If approved in committee, it would head to the chamber for final approval.

Panel to discuss health, future of Midwestern studies

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakotan will lead a Saturday discussion at the University of Kansas about reviving Midwestern studies.

Jon Lauck, the president of the Midwestern History Association, also serves as a University of South Dakota adjunct professor and an adviser to U.S. Sen. John Thune. He says historians in recent years have been questioning of the health of the topic, and several scholars have noted its demise or serious erosion as a field of study.

Lauck says the panel will grapple with the question of whether Midwestern studies should be revived.

Panelists will include: Casie Hermansson from Pittsburg State University/Midwest Quarterly, Virgil Dean from Kansas History, Chuck Myers from University Press of Kansas, Katy Schumaker from the University of Oklahoma and John Herron from University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Reservation hospital gets 2-month funding cutoff extension

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A troubled government-run hospital on the Rosebud Indian Reservation has been given an extension to reach a significant improvement agreement with federal officials to avoid losing its Medicare and Medicaid funds.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Friday notified the hospital's administration of the two-month funding cutoff extension.

The hospital administered by the Indian Health Service must reach the agreement by April 29 to enter a last-chance remediation program. In the absence of an agreement, the hospital won't be allowed to bill the government for services provided to Medicare- and Medicaid-eligible patients after May 16.

The funding cutoff warning comes after visits from inspectors who found serious deficiencies, including records of a heart attack patient who didn't receive treatment until 90 minutes after she arrived at the ER.

Troopers name 33-year-old woman killed in Lyman County crash

PRESHO, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway patrol has released the name of a 33-year-old Vivian woman killed in a one-vehicle crash in Lyman County.

The Highway Patrol says Reah Sullivan lost control of her sport utility vehicle on a gravel road and the SUV rolled several times in the ditch. The crash happened shortly after 3:40 p.m. Thursday, about 14 miles northwest of Presho.

Authorities say Sullivan was alone in the vehicle and died at the scene. She was not wearing a seatbelt. The Highway Patrol is continuing its investigation.

Onida man convicted in 2009 death of wife loses appeal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court has upheld an Onida man's 2009 first-degree manslaughter conviction in the shooting death of his wife.

Herman Kleinsasser pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the death of Sharon Kleinsasser. Prosecutors agreed to drop murder charges and seek a prison term of no more than 80 years in the case of Kleinsasser, who has to serve 40 years before he is eligible for parole.

Kleinsasser appealed, arguing that he had ineffective counsel, that the state violated terms of the plea agreement and that errors were made during sentencing. The justices disagreed and upheld the conviction and sentence.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says Kleinsasser willingly entered a guilty plea of guilty and accepted the deal.

Sioux Falls police dog tracks down and takes down suspect

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls police dog captured a suspect who authorities at one point during a foot chase suspected of having a handgun.

Police say it turned out to be an Airsoft gun, which looks real but shoots plastic pellets.

Authorities say the 19-year-old suspect ran from a traffic stop Thursday night and tried hiding under a vehicle, but the police dog eventually tracked him down and took him down.

The man was treated at a hospital for bite wounds on a leg and then jailed on several charges including fleeing.

White on ESPN snub: I'm thinking, should I keep going back?

EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

VAIL, Colo. (AP) — Shaun White turns 30 later this year, and the world's best rider is celebrating by stamping his name all over the business side of the world he's helped create.

As he shapes the future, in part by buying resorts and running events, it's becoming clear that future will include what, at best, will be a shaky relationship between White and another of the sport's biggest players, ESPN.

The network that created the X Games and, in doing so, provided White an outsized platform from which to become a star, nixed his invitation to this year's Winter X Games, denying a 13-time champion a spot in the biggest contest of the year. It was a shocker of a move that engendered bad feelings which, nearly two months later, haven't gone away.

"It's kind of opened my eyes," White said in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press this week. "This happened, and I'm thinking, should I keep going back or not?"

White says the network told him the snub came because of unflattering comments he made at a business forum last year about ESPN's unsuccessful attempt to take the X Games global. White said he and

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the network negotiated about collaborating in that effort, but those talks stalled.

After the talks broke down, the snowboarder-slash-businessman's next move was to purchase the Air & Style sports and music festival — an international set of events with a Coachella-like art-and-music vibe interspersed with some of action sports' biggest stars. He plans on expanding that into a six-event tour, starting next season.

ESPN, meanwhile, has refused to discuss the reason for White's snub from Winter X, which has only further irritated the two-time Olympic gold medalist.

"The rise of Shaun White and the X Games will always go hand in hand," Scott Guglielmino, senior vice president of programming and X Games, told AP when asked for comment about the rift. "Each has been good for the other. We have always valued our relationship with Shaun, and that hasn't changed as both continue to evolve."

White agrees. But where they go next is anybody's guess.

He has since declined a spot he earned, based on a victory in the Dew Tour earlier this season, in ESPN's startup event — a summer-winter hybrid X Games in Oslo, Norway. "I guess I'm good enough to help you launch your new event, but not good enough to go to Aspen," he said.

Instead, he focused on riding this weekend at the U.S. Open, run by one of his very first sponsors, snowboarding pioneer Jake Burton.

Successful as he's become, White is still bothered by the X Games snub.

"Those are the moments you get to shine. It feels good. It's why we do this," he said.

But, he insists, "I'm not moping around about it."

He remembers a time when he got flak for not having a bigger voice in the sport. Set to hit the "Big 3-0" on Sept. 3, he insists those days are over.

"If there's a time for change and something to happen, I feel like the next three years will be very interesting," White said.

He admits he thought he might retire after the Sochi Olympics, but his failure to win a third straight gold medal in the halfpipe reignited his passion for the sport. He will be at the Olympics in South Korea in 2018, and hasn't ruled out the 2022 Games in Beijing.

On the road to Korea, White has changed some things. He parted ways with his coach, Bud Keene, and is now working with J.J. Thomas, the 2002 Olympic bronze medalist who, ironically, took a spot on the U.S. team that year that could have gone to White. White has hired a full-time physical therapist and trainer, shunning the old days when, "I would basically show up in town and roll the dice."

His deal to design boys' clothes for Target has lapsed. He still sells the kids stuff online, but has reached a deal with Macy's for a more adult clothing line.

His band, Bad Things, is still playing, but in transition while it searches for a new singer.

Biggest of all is Air & Style.

Three of the six contests will run along the lines of his original vision — music and a Big Air competition set in a festival atmosphere. Thanks to a deal with online video provider Go90, fans can still watch last month's event in Los Angeles on their cell phones. The three new events will include halfpipe and slope-style contests. They'll take place in China, Switzerland and in California at Mammoth Mountain, White's childhood mountain, and one he recently bought a stake in.

White thinks the events could change the face of snowboarding.

"I've had certain riders come to me and say they're ready to not compete at the Olympics for me," he said. "That's very humbling. I was like, 'Settle down.'"

White's contests could share calendar dates with some World Cup events that are considered important to the Olympic movement and its qualifying process. But since snowboarding was incorporated into the Olympics in 1998, there have been multiple, competing tours with no single path toward either the Olympics or fame.

White is wondering if that equation might change if his tour takes off the way he hopes it will.

"I could say that I dream big," White said.

Either way, the Winter X Games aren't going anywhere. They remain the biggest contest this side of the Olympics. White isn't sure if he'll be part of that anymore.

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"Talks will need to happen," White said. "I've left it in their hands. I've got an event to run, a band to play in, a contest to compete in. That whole thing happened, and I went and did my thing."

What to do when your window of opportunity is closing

NOAH TRISTER, AP Baseball Writer

Spring training had barely started for the Toronto Blue Jays and manager John Gibbons was already facing questions about next offseason, when sluggers Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion could become free agents.

"You're happy for them, but it also kind of magnifies the importance of this year for us, because nobody knows what the future holds," Gibbons said. "So let's take advantage of this year while they're here and then hopefully they hang around for a long time, but nobody knows."

It was just last season that the Blue Jays won the AL East and returned to the playoffs for the first time since 1993, and already there's a sense that the clock is ticking.

Success in baseball can be harshly cyclical. A perennial contender can become an aging also-ran almost overnight. For some teams, the word "window" represents a foreboding reminder that the time to win a World Series is now — and the opportunity won't be there forever.

The Blue Jays want to build on last year's success, while the Detroit Tigers and Washington Nationals hope 2015 was an aberration. All three teams are trying to keep their championship windows open, and it isn't easy.

"At some point, some teams get into an all-win-now mode because they're right there," Tigers general manager Al Avila said. "It's very hard to get into the playoffs. It's very hard to get into the World Series, much more even to win it. When you feel you have that chance, you've got to go for it."

The Tigers have spent most of the past decade going for it, handing out expensive contracts to both their own players and incoming free agents — and aggressively trading prospects for stars. Detroit won American League pennants in 2006 and 2012 and AL Central titles every year from 2011-2014, but the Tigers are still without a World Series championship since 1984.

Last year, Detroit fell all the way to the bottom of the division, and with Miguel Cabrera and Justin Verlander both in their 30s and signed to massive long-term deals, it looked like the Tigers might turn into the AL's version of the Phillies. Philadelphia finished atop the NL East every year from 2007-2011 — and won the World Series in '08 — but the decline afterward was swift as its core of stars aged.

Detroit tried to avoid that by spending tens of millions of dollars this offseason. After signing Justin Upton and Jordan Zimmermann, the Tigers and owner Mike Ilitch are expected to begin the season with a payroll around \$200 million.

While the Tigers were spending big, the Blue Jays were gearing up for another run at a division title, albeit without David Price, who went from Detroit to Toronto in a trade deadline deal last year before leaving in the offseason for Boston. The Blue Jays have control over Josh Donaldson through 2018 and Troy Tulowitzki through 2021, but Bautista and Encarnacion are in the last year of their contracts.

The Nationals, meanwhile, already lost a key player in Zimmermann, and Stephen Strasburg is due to become a free agent after this season. Bryce Harper, last year's National League MVP, should be the centerpiece of the lineup for a while, but after a disappointing 83-win campaign in 2015, the Nationals can't be certain what their roster will look like a couple years from now.

Still, new manager Dusty Baker isn't buying the idea that Washington's window could close soon.

"The window closes if you don't replenish the refrigerator," Baker said. "I don't believe in that window unless you stand pat and don't do anything. Then that window will close. If you do it right ... you'll see the same organizations win for a long time."

There are two obvious ways teams can try to keep the window open. One is by spending more and more money, like the Tigers are doing now, and like the New York Yankees have done for years. Big-budget teams have the luxury of bringing in free agents who can boost what might otherwise be an aging roster.

The other way to keep winning is through player development. The St. Louis Cardinals have won at least

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86 games in each of the past eight seasons, even though they aren't really thought of as big spenders like the Yankees, Dodgers or Red Sox.

A player like Albert Pujols leaves, and St. Louis always seems able to replace him. The Cardinals won 100 games last year with Trevor Rosenthal, Carlos Martinez, Stephen Piscotty, Randal Grichuk and Michael Wacha making significant contributions. All five of those players are in their mid-20s.

Avila, who took over as Detroit's GM in the middle of last season after having been Dave Dombrowski's assistant, says the farm system is a priority for him.

"You cannot consistently win at the major league level by just signing major league free agents," Avila said. "You have to sign and develop your own players, and that is going to give you the foundation for the future."

What's difficult, though, is balancing the need for a strong farm system with the opportunity to win at the major league level. The Tigers have made their share of significant trades in recent seasons, sending younger players away in exchange for veterans who helped Detroit win those division titles.

What was left last year was an expensive team that went 74-87 — and afterward, the only way the Tigers could significantly improve was by spending more money. That approach is difficult to sustain, but in 2016, Detroit will take the field with a team that absolutely believes it can return to the top of the division.

The Tigers aren't letting their window close without a fight.

"Mr. Ilitch has always given us the resources to put the best competitive team on the field," Avila said. "It's great to work for that kind of owner, because you'd rather do that than the opposite."

Latest twist in O.J. Simpson case: discovery of knife

JOHN ROGERS, Associated Press

CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was yet another twist in the case that even two decades later remains at the center of American attention.

Warning that the story behind it could well amount to nothing, police nevertheless said they are examining a knife that was reportedly found at the home where O.J. Simpson was living in 1994 when his ex-wife and her friend were stabbed to death.

The knife was believed to have been recovered by a construction worker tearing down the house. The worker then gave it to an off-duty police officer who was working as a security guard at a filming location, police said.

It was unclear when the knife was found and how long it was held by the officer, who is now retired. The knife was being analyzed by a Los Angeles Police Department crime lab for DNA or other material that could possibly link it to the killings.

Capt. Andy Neiman stressed Friday that the authenticity of the story was not confirmed and that investigators were looking into whether "this whole story is possibly bogus from the get-go."

"It's unusual how this all of a sudden becomes a huge story during this time," Neiman added, referring to the popular "People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story" anthology that is airing on the FX television channel.

Simpson was charged and acquitted in the slayings. Even if the knife is linked to him, legal experts say he could not be criminally charged again because of protections against double jeopardy.

"If they were going to find this knife and make it useful in the murder trial, they should have found it 20 years ago, and they didn't," said Loyola Law School professor Laurie Levenson, a former federal prosecutor and longtime observer of the Simpson case. "It will just raise more questions about the incompetence of the investigation and probably lead to more books and more movies."

The weapon used in the killings has been a mystery for decades. Other knives have surfaced during the case, but they were not linked to the crimes.

In 1994, a salesman testified at a preliminary hearing that he sold Simpson a knife before the killings.

That same month a woman turned in a red-stained kitchen knife she said she found near Simpson's

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home, and a handle and a piece of blade of a knife were found in a tank that collects waste from airplanes at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, where Simpson flew the night of the killings.

In 1998, a residential construction crew found a folding-blade knife in Simpson's former neighborhood, but police said there was no evidence to show it was related to any crime.

The bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and friend Ronald Goldman were found stabbed multiple times outside her home on June 12, 1994.

The discovery led to the so-called "Trial of the Century," in which Simpson was represented by a team of high-profile attorneys led by the flamboyant Johnnie Cochran. A jury acquitted Simpson in 1995 after deliberating only four hours.

In 1997, a civil court jury found him liable for the slayings and awarded \$33.5 million in damages to the victims' families.

Simpson's Brentwood mansion was torn down after he moved to Florida following his acquittal.

Simpson, who has always maintained his innocence in the killings, is now serving a sentence of nine to 33 years in a Nevada prison for a 2007 armed robbery and kidnapping conviction in which he tried to retrieve football memorabilia. He is eligible for parole next year.

His Las Vegas lawyer said he had not talked to Simpson about the knife but questioned who was in possession of it over the years.

"The only thing I've heard is that some cop claims some other guy claims he found a knife on some property," attorney Malcolm LaVergne said. "From what I can see, there's no chain of custody."

If the knife turns out to be linked to Simpson, that fact could be raised at his parole hearing.

"The Nevada Parole Board may consider and give relevant weight to any evidence that bears on whether the release of the petitioning inmate could constitute a danger to the public," the state attorney general's office said in a statement.

Scientist: Possible new octopus species found near Hawaii

The Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Scientists say they have discovered what might be a new species of octopus while searching the Pacific Ocean floor near the Hawaiian Islands.

Michael Vecchione of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says in a statement Friday (<http://1.usa.gov/1oXarVu>) that on Feb. 27 a team found a small light-colored octopus at a depth of about 2.5 miles in the ocean near Necker Island. Vecchione says the octopus did not have fins and all of its suckers were in one row on each arm.

He says the octopus "did not seem very muscular" and was light colored.

He adds that "this resulted in a ghostlike appearance, leading to a comment on social media that it should be called Casper, like the friendly cartoon ghost. It is almost certainly an undescribed species ..."

Vecchione says the octopus was discovered during a search of the ocean floor by NOAA's Okeanos Explorer.

'Prince of Tides' author Pat Conroy dies at 70

BRUCE SMITH, Associated Press

Pat Conroy, the beloved author of "The Great Santini" and "The Prince of Tides" and other best-sellers who drew upon his bruising childhood and the vistas of South Carolina and became one of the country's most compelling and popular storytellers, died Friday evening. He was 70.

Conroy, who announced last month that he had pancreatic cancer, died at home among family and loved ones in Beaufort, South Carolina, according to his publisher. The heavy-set author had battled other health problems in recent years, including diabetes, high blood pressure and a failing liver.

"The water is wide and he has now passed over," his wife, novelist Cassandra Conroy, said in a statement from publisher Doubleday.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley tweeted: "We can find comfort knowing his words and love for SC will

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live on.”

Funeral arrangements were still being made.

Few contemporary authors seemed more knowable to their readers over than Conroy. An openly personal writer, he candidly and expansively shared details of growing up as a “military brat” and his anguished relationship with his abusive father, Marine aviator and military hero Donald Conroy. He also wrote of his time in military school and his struggles with his health and depression.

“The reason I write is to explain my life to myself,” Conroy said in a 1986 interview. “I’ve also discovered that when I do, I’m explaining other people’s lives to them.”

His books sold more than 20 million copies worldwide, but for much of his youth he crouched in the shadow of Donald Conroy, who “thundered out of the sky in black-winged fighter planes, every inch of him a god of war,” as Pat Conroy would remember. The author was the eldest of seven children in a family constantly moving from base to base, a life readers and moviegoers would learn well from “The Great Santini” as a novel and film, which starred Robert Duvall as the relentless and violent patriarch.

The 1976 novel initially enraged Conroy’s family, but the movie three years later made such an impression on his father that he claimed credit for boosting Duvall’s career (The actor had already appeared in two “Godfather” films), saying, “The poor guy got a role with some meat on it.”

But the book also helped achieve peace between father and son.

“I grew up hating my father,” Conroy said after his father died in 1998. “It was the great surprise of my life, after the book came out, what an extraordinary man had raised me.” The author would reflect at length on his relationship with his father in the 2013 memoir “The Death of Santini.”

“The Prince of Tides,” published in 1986, secured Conroy a wide audience, selling more than 5 million copies despite uneven reviews for its story of a former football player from South Carolina with a traumatic past and the New York psychiatrist who attempts to help him.

“Inflation is the order of the day. The characters do too much, feel too much, suffer too much, eat too much, signify too much and, above all, talk too much,” said The Los Angeles Times Book Review.

But Conroy focused on the advice he once got from “the finest writer I ever encountered,” novelist James Dickey, who taught him at the University of South Carolina.

“He told me to write everything I did with all the passion and all the power you could muster,” Conroy recalled. “Don’t worry about how long it takes or how long it is when you’re done. You know, he was right.”

“The Prince of Tides” was made into a hit 1991 film starring Nick Nolte and Barbra Streisand, who also produced and directed it. Conroy worked on the screenplay and shared an Oscar nomination, one of seven Oscar nominations it earned, including best picture.

Conroy’s much-anticipated “Beach Music,” published in 1995, was a best-seller that took nine years to complete. Conroy had been working on “The Prince of Tides” screenplay, but he also endured a divorce, depression, back surgery and the suicide of his youngest brother.

Conroy had other demons. After attending (at his father’s insistence) The Citadel, South Carolina’s state military college, he avoided the draft and went into teaching. In 2013, he wrote on his blog www.patconroy.com/wp that he had begun his life as “a draft dodger and anti-war activist” while his classmates “walked off that stage and stepped directly into the Vietnam War.”

“When I talk to Ivy Leaguers or war resisters of that era, I always tell them that Vietnam was not theoretical to me, but deeply and agonizingly painful. Eight of my Citadel classmates died in that war,” he wrote.

For years, he was alienated from The Citadel, which he renamed the Carolina Military Institute in his 1980 novel “The Lords of Discipline.” A harsh tale of the integration of a Southern military school, the book was adapted into a film in 1983, but had to be made elsewhere because The Citadel’s governing board refused to allow any crews on campus.

While “The Lords of Discipline” had made him unpopular with Citadel officials, reconciliation came in 2000 when he was awarded an honorary degree. In 2002, he visited during homecoming weekend and fans lined up to get him to autograph copies of his books.

“I never thought this would happen,” Conroy said. “This is my first signing at the Citadel. That’s amazing.” He had recently published “My Losing Season,” about his final year of college basketball at The Citadel.

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The good feelings deepened when Conroy's cousin Ed Conroy, a 1989 Citadel grad, became the Citadel's basketball coach in 2006 — and within a couple of years brought about a remarkable improvement in the team's fortunes.

Pat Conroy's other books included "South of Broad," set in Charleston's historic district, and "My Reading Life", a collection of essays that chronicled his lifelong passion for literature.

He was born Donald Patrick Conroy on Oct. 26, 1945. The Conroy children attended 11 schools in 12 years before the family eventually settled in Beaufort, about an hour from Charleston. He read obsessively as a child and called fellow Southerner Thomas Wolfe his inspiration to become a writer.

"Thomas Wolfe was the first writer I felt was writing for me," Conroy said. "He was articulating a vision of the world that seemed ready for me."

Following graduation in 1967, he worked as a high school teacher in Beaufort. While there, he borrowed \$1,500 to have a vanity press publish "The Boo," an affectionate portrait of Col. Thomas Courvoisie, an assistant commandant at The Citadel.

For a year he taught poor children on isolated Daufuskie Island, not far from the resort of Hilton Head. The experience was the basis for his 1972 book, "The Water Is Wide," which brought him a National Endowment for the Arts award and was made into the movie "Conrack."

Conroy was married three times and had two daughters. Although he lived around the world, he always considered South Carolina his home and lived since the late 1990s on Fripp Island, a gated community near Beaufort.

"Make this university, this state, yourself and your family proud," Conroy told University of South Carolina graduates in a 1997 commencement speech.

"If you have a little luck, any luck at all, if you do it right, there's a great possibility you can teach the whole world how to dance."

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, March 5, the 65th day of 2016. There are 301 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 5, 1946, Winston Churchill delivered his "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, in which he said: "From Stettin in the Baltic, to Trieste in the Adriatic, an 'iron curtain' has descended across the continent, allowing police governments to rule Eastern Europe."

On this date:

In 1766, Antonio de Ulloa arrived in New Orleans to assume his duties as the first Spanish governor of the Louisiana Territory, where he encountered resistance from the French residents.

In 1770, the Boston Massacre took place as British soldiers who'd been taunted by a crowd of colonists opened fire, killing five people.

In 1868, the U.S. Senate was organized into a Court of Impeachment to decide charges against President Andrew Johnson, who was later acquitted.

In 1933, in German parliamentary elections, the Nazi Party won 44 percent of the vote; the Nazis joined with a conservative nationalist party to gain a slender majority in the Reichstag.

In 1953, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin died after three decades in power. Composer Sergei Prokofiev died in Moscow at age 61.

In 1963, country music performers Patsy Cline, Cowboy Copas and Hawkshaw Hawkins died in the crash of their plane, a Piper Comanche, near Camden, Tennessee, along with pilot Randy Hughes (Cline's manager).

In 1966, BOAC Flight 911, a Boeing 707, crashed into Japan's Mount Fuji after breaking up in severe turbulence; all 124 people on board were killed. (Most of the passengers were executives and dealers of the Thermo King Corp. of Bloomington, Minnesota, as well as some of their spouses.)

In 1970, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons went into effect after 43 nations rati-

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fied it.

In 1979, NASA's Voyager 1 space probe flew past Jupiter, sending back photographs of the planet and its moons.

In 1982, comedian John Belushi was found dead of a drug overdose in a rented bungalow in Hollywood; he was 33.

In 1986, in Lebanon, Islamic Jihad issued a statement saying it had "executed" French hostage Michel Seurat, who had been abducted almost a year earlier. (Other hostages who were later freed said Seurat had died of either hepatitis or cancer.)

In 1994, a jury in Pensacola, Florida, convicted anti-abortion activist Michael F. Griffin of first-degree murder in the shooting death of Dr. David Gunn; Griffin was immediately sentenced to life in prison.

Ten years ago: AT&T announced it was buying BellSouth Corp., a big step toward resurrecting the old Ma Bell telephone system. "Crash" won the Best Picture Academy Award in an upset over "Brokeback Mountain"; Philip Seymour Hoffman won Best Actor for "Capote" and Reese Witherspoon won Best Actress for "Walk the Line."

Five years ago: Egyptians turned their anger toward ousted President Hosni Mubarak's internal security apparatus, storming the agency's main headquarters and other offices. Alberto Granado, 88, who'd accompanied Ernesto "Che" Guevara on a journey of discovery across Latin America described in "The Motorcycle Diaries," died in Havana.

One year ago: The U.S. Ambassador to South Korea, Mark Lippert, was slashed in the face and arm by an assailant in Seoul (sohl). Actor Harrison Ford crash-landed his vintage plane on a golf course in Los Angeles after reporting engine failure shortly after takeoff. Convicted murderer Jodi Arias was spared the death penalty as a jury in Phoenix voted 11-1 in favor of execution — not enough to send Arias to death row for the slaying of her lover, Travis Alexander. Islamic State militants continued their campaign targeting cultural heritage sites in territories they controlled in northern Iraq, bulldozing the historic city of Nimrud. Cardinal Edward Egan, 82, the former Archbishop of New York, died.

Today's Birthdays: Actor James Noble is 94. Actor Paul Sand is 84. Actor James B. Sikking is 82. Actor Dean Stockwell is 80. Actor Fred Williamson is 78. Actress Samantha Eggar is 77. Actor Michael Warren is 70. Actor Eddie Hodges is 69. Singer Eddy Grant is 68. Rock musician Alan Clark (Dire Straits) is 64. Actress-comedian Marsha Warfield is 62. Magician Penn Jillette is 61. Actress Adriana Barraza is 60. Rock singers Charlie and Craig Reid (The Proclaimers) are 54. Rock musician John Frusciante (froo-SHAN'-tee) is 46. Singer Rome is 46. Actor Kevin Connolly is 42. Actress Jill Ritchie is 42. Actress Jolene Blalock is 41. Actress Eva Mendes is 41. Model Niki Taylor is 41. Actress Kimberly McCullough is 38. Actress Dominique McElligott is 30. Actor Sterling Knight is 27. Actor Jake Lloyd is 27.

Thought for Today: "Tomorrow is a thief of pleasure." — Sir Rex Harrison, British actor (1908-1990).

Trump rallies: Tense, racially charged, immensely successful

BILL BARROW, Associated Press

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

VALDOSTA, Ga. (AP) — Among the many ways Donald Trump has redefined presidential politics, he stands alone for how he has used large, protest-ridden rallies, often bubbling with raw anger, to fuel his candidacy.

The Republican front-runner says the massive events are evidence of a "movement" of a "silent majority" frustrated by everything from the nation's uneven economy and immigration laws to a government run by "stupid people."

"And you know what?" he asked from the stage in Louisville, Kentucky, this week. "It's not about me. I'm a messenger. It's really about you. We're going to take our country back and make it great again."

While Trump generally exaggerates his crowd sizes, thousands routinely line up for hours to attend. There are almost always protests, and the response to them isn't always peaceful. Yet Trump supporters, some driving hours to see the former reality television star, appreciate the boisterous performance and see in it a strength they don't find in Washington leaders.

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"Hell yeah, I'm voting for Trump ... that's a man right there — a man," said Joe Hash, a 57-year-old building contractor, after a raucous Monday rally at Virginia's Radford University.

In Texas last week, Arlene Smart attended her fourth Trump rally. "It's just the feeling," said Smart, 58, who said she'd be traveling the country to his events if she didn't have a construction business to run. "There's pride in America. There's a reason to believe."

Detractors see something darker.

"It's a spectacle driven by pure hate," said Michael Marmol, a 20-year-old student who was ejected from the Radford event after he yelled at Trump over his plan to construct a wall on the Mexican border.

Indeed, crowds from Nevada to New Hampshire have devoured Trump's hour-long offerings of economic populism and unrepentant nationalism, all wrapped in promises to "win, win, win" and "make you so proud of this country again."

A natural showman, Trump peppers his speeches with humorous asides, imitation and dramatic acting. In Texas last week, he threw water across the stage and then tossed the bottle behind him to mock a rival's sweat. He frequently holds events in open airplane hangars, circling in his private jet with giant gold "T-R-U-M-P" letters as thousands hold cellphones up to capture its descent as soaring music from the movie "Air Force One" plays.

The crowd anticipates applause lines like rock concert throngs.

"We're going to build a wall. And who's going to pay for the wall?" Trump shouts.

"MEXICO," they yell.

"Who's going to pay for the wall?"

"MEXICO," they thunder back.

But the atmosphere sometimes turns darker, with booming chants that can shake arenas. Young men pound their fists in anger, attendees sometimes shout racial slurs.

Police are investigating at least two alleged assaults against protesters at a recent Kentucky rally. One, captured on video, involves a young African-American woman who was repeatedly shoved and called "scum."

In recent weeks, one of Trump's biggest applause lines has been his vow to bring back waterboarding and other methods of torture. "We don't go far enough," he told a Las Vegas crowd before the Nevada caucuses, prompting thundering applause and chants of "USA! USA!"

Anti-Trump protesters have also becoming increasingly common as the election calendar has moved away from the more subdued early-voting states.

"Get 'em outta here, get 'em outta here," Trump often booms when he spots one. "Are you protesting, darling?" he asked a demonstrator at Radford. He mocked another: "He just got on television. He's happy." Sometimes, he suggests they're high on drugs.

Occasionally Trump complains police are being too gentle with protesters, bemoaning the "old days" when police didn't fear for their jobs when they roughed up citizens.

"You know what they used to do guys like that when they were in a place like this?" he asked in Las Vegas as a protester was removed. "They'd be carried out on a stretcher, folks." Amid cheers, he added, "I'd like to punch him in the face."

On Friday, Trump recalled an incident at a New Hampshire rally where a protester started "swinging and punching." Trump said some people in the audience "took him out."

"It was really amazing to watch," he told an audience in Warren, Michigan.

Later Friday in New Orleans, Trump's rally was interrupted by a near-constant stream of protesters, including many from the Black Lives Matter movement. At points, campaign manager Corey Lewandowski was spotted personally assisting police as they escorted protesters out of the building. Members of Trump's personal, private security detail were also on hand to assist.

Months ago, Trump's team began telling supporters they should not harm demonstrators. Instead, crowds are instructed before rallies to surround protesters with signs and chant "Trump! Trump! Trump!" until authorities arrive.

Some incidents have carried racial undertones. At Radford, Trump asked one protester, who appeared

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to be of Asian descent, "Are you from Mexico?"

Later, as black demonstrators were led out, Trump recalled Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders once yielding his microphone to Black Lives Matter protesters. "That's never gonna happen here," Trump boasted, saying the Vermont senator acted "like a little boy."

While Trump often talks about how much he likes protesters — suggesting he'll hire some because they encourage television cameras to show his crowds — his aides have, at times, become aggressive about ejecting them.

On Monday, black Valdosta State University students were escorted out of a campus event in Georgia before it began. Ameer Junious, 19, said police directed him to the back of the arena — with no explanation given — before Trump arrived. Videos shot by Junious show a person who appeared to be police officer telling him, "They asked me to have y'all moved," adding, "I can't explain that, OK?"

In a statement, Trump campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks said the campaign "had no knowledge of the incident."

Video of a fall rally in Birmingham, Alabama, captured Trump supporters physically assaulting Mercurio Southall Jr., an African-American activist Trump ordered removed — "Get him the hell out of here, will you, please?" — after Southall shouted "black lives matter!"

Trump later said on Fox News, "Maybe he should have been roughed up."

Yet as he continues his march toward the nomination, Trump reassures his backers they have the moral high ground. "I'm not an angry person," he said at Radford. "You're not angry people." Then, pointing at demonstrators, he said, "They're angry people."

Barrow reported from Radford, Virginia. AP writer Steve Peoples contributed to this report.

Audit faults Michigan regulators in Flint water crisis

JOHN FLESHER, Associated Press

MIKE HOUSEHOLDER, Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — Michigan environmental regulators made crucial errors as Flint began using a new drinking water source that would become contaminated with lead, auditors said Friday, as crews in the city started to dig up old pipes connecting water mains to homes.

The report by the state auditor general found that staffers in the Department of Environmental Quality's drinking water office failed to order the city to treat its water with anti-corrosion chemicals as it switched to the Flint River in April 2014, but also said the rules they failed to heed may not be strong enough to protect the public.

Flint had been using water from the Detroit system but made the change to save money, planning eventually to join a consortium that would have its own pipeline to the lake. The corrosive river water scraped lead from aging pipes that tainted water in some homes and schools, and has been blamed for elevated lead levels in some children's bloodstreams. If consumed, lead can cause developmental delays and learning disabilities.

Crews on Friday dug up a lead service line in Flint and replaced it with a copper one at the home of an expectant couple. It marked the first residential lead pipe removal that is part of Mayor Karen Weaver's Fast Start initiative designed to replace all lead service lines in the city.

Barry Richardson II, who lives in the home with his pregnant fiancée, thanked mayor and said he no longer will "have to worry about the lead poisoning" his water.

Weaver said the work that started Friday will target lead service lines at homes in neighborhoods with the highest number of children under 6 years old, senior citizens, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems and homes where water tests indicate high levels of lead at the tap.

More than two dozen Democrats, including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, also visited Flint on Friday to hear from families affected by the water crisis. Democratic Rep. Dan Kildee of Michigan said it let lawmakers hear about Flint's problems firsthand and kept up pressure for Congress to act on a stalled bill aimed at helping the city. Kildee criticized Senate Republicans for delaying the bill and noted that

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lawmakers who have visited Flint in recent weeks were all Democrats.

Republican Gov. Rick Snyder, who has repeatedly apologized for the state's response, said it's taking longer than expected to locate all the lead pipes in the city but the state is working to find them.

The DEQ has acknowledged that its staffers who worked with Flint misread federal regulations designed to prevent lead and copper pollution of drinking water supplies. Three DEQ employees, including the director, have lost their jobs.

Director Keith Creagh said Friday the DEQ appreciates the auditor general's "thorough review" and "is committed to developing and implementing process and program improvements to address the findings in the report."

But the DEQ said the federal Lead and Copper Rule was ambiguous, and the auditors agreed, saying it and Michigan's Safe Water Drinking Act needed improvements. Snyder said he'd also like to set a higher water quality standard than the federal rule.

The audit said the federal rule does not require using indicators such as blood screenings to monitor for human exposure to lead. Sampling of drinking water that does take place relies mostly on samples from single-family residences, leaving out other locations such as schools and hospitals.

Additionally, many samples are taken by residents, who might use incorrect procedures, the report said.

Other DEQ shortcomings it noted included a failure to ensure that Flint drew enough water samples for testing from high-risk homes with lead pipes or fixtures. The agency said it would "put in place appropriate audit procedures that will increase the confidence and accuracy of water supply submissions."

DEQ also does not conduct surveillance visits, sanitary surveys and other monitoring within required time frames, a problem in places other than Flint, the report said. The department said 95 percent of sanitary surveys and 64 percent of surveillance visits meet required deadlines, exceeding goals set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Weekend to feature heavy rain and winds across the West

KRISTIN J. BENDER, Associated Press

JOHN ANTCZAK, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A major storm system is expected to start impacting the western, central and southern United States late Friday and continue through next week, the National Weather Service said.

Heavy rainfall, mountain snow, and strong winds will impact the West Coast and Intermountain West this weekend and early next week. Heavy rainfall and severe weather will be possible in the central and southern U.S. starting on Monday and continue through the rest of the week. Residual river flooding is also possible.

Scattered light showers fell around Northern California early Friday and were expected to continue on and off overnight before becoming steady and heavy through Saturday evening as a strong cold front crosses the region, the NWS San Francisco office said.

Southern California will see rain arrive slightly later than in the north, approaching late Saturday and lasting into early Sunday.

The NWS says a seven-day total could approach 20 inches of rain in Northern California and up to three inches in the southern end of the state.

In the northern part of the state, forecasters say that with the rain will be blustery winds, possibly up to 60 mph. The strong winds could bring down trees and power lines leading to scattered power outages, the agency said.

Bob Benjamin, a forecaster with the National Weather Service says the agency has issued a wind advisory beginning at noon on Saturday with winds expected to be around 15 to 20 mph and gusts up to 50 mph.

Flash flood watches were to go into effect in the state's far northwestern and central areas as well as the Sierra Nevada, where snow totals could range from 2 feet to 4 feet at elevations above 8,000 feet. Sierra snow levels will lower to near 4,000 feet by Sunday, forecasters said.

The Sierra snowpack, which normally stores about 30 percent of California's water supply, was only 83 percent of the March 1 average when it was measured earlier this week. That's much better than a year

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earlier, but after years of drought nearly all the state's major reservoirs hold far less water than average by this time of year, the Department of Water Resources said.

On Friday afternoon, state maintenance crews in South Lake Tahoe were clearing a large amount of snow, 14 feet high in some areas, to reopen State Route 89 over Emerald Bay to motorists. This four-mile stretch of the scenic highway has as many as 15 active slide zones and has been closed several times during this El Nino winter when it became unsafe for the travelers.

California is not the only place expecting severe weather. Conditions are especially ripe for tornadoes in the Southeast and Great Plains. Specifically, he said, that means Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, southern Illinois, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina and parts of Virginia.

Starting on Monday and continuing into the rest of next week, ample moisture will be pulled in from the gulf ahead of a slow moving cold front, leading to days of rain for a large swath of the central and southern U.S., stretching from the central Gulf Coast up through to the Ohio Valley.

The greatest threat for heaviest accumulations of rain are northeast Texas into Arkansas and Louisiana and other parts of the lower or middle Mississippi River Valley, where 5-day rain rainfall totals could exceed or 7 or 8 inches.