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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 Community Center

Tuesday, March 8

CDE at Bowdle

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

School Lunch: Chili, corn bread, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, mixed vegetables, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Jonathan Doeden

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

7:00pm: Region 1A Boys Game in Groton

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Wednesday, March 9

School Breakfast: French toast, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hamburgers, French fries, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken, boiled potato, green beans, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Betty Strom, Collette Van Cleave, Jamie Jorgensen, Jessica Grenz, Megan Fliehs, Samuel Schlosser

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

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 Brush

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397-9337

104 N. Main, Groton

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Disfunctional Broad Squad takes first and earns Renaissance Award

The Disfunctional Broad Squad earned first place in the middle school In Plain Sight Challenge. They also earned the Renaissance Award for outstanding design, engineering, Execution and performance. They will advance to the state DI Tourney April 2 in Mitchell. Pictured above, left to right, are Alyssa Fordham, Julianna Kosel, Sage Mortinson, Samantha Pappas and Haley Monson. The Northeast Region DI Tourney was held Saturday in Groton.



Pictured with the Renaissance Award are Julianna Kosel, Sage Mortinson, Alyssa Fordham, Haley Monson and Samantha Pappas.



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Pheasant Dumpling Pizza Guys take first

Pheasant Dumpling Pizza Guys placed first in the elementary In Plain Sight Challenge. Pictured left to right are Nicholas Groeblinghoff, Korbin Weismantel, Nicholas Morris, and Axel Warrington; not pictured is Winston Dinger. The group will take part in the State DI Tourney April 2 in Mitchell.



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6Lets place second

The "6Lets" team placed second in the elementary Get A Clue challenge. Pictured below, in back, left to right, are Jackson Dinger, Bryson Wambach, Carter Barse and Danny Feist; in front are Ryan Groeblichhoff and Ian Kyar. The team will advance to the state DI Tourney April 2 in Mitchell.



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Out of the Boxers take first and earn the DaVinci Award

In the photos below, in back are Nathan Wright and Clint Fjeldstad; in the middle row are Emma Donley, Anne Marie Smith and Lily Cutler; in front is Jenifer Fjeldstad. The "Out of the Boxes" earned the DaVinci Award for Outstanding Creativity. The group placed first and will advance to the state DI Tourney April 2 in Mitchell. Left photo are the first place awards, right photo is the Renaissance Awards.



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Six Girls on a Mission place third

The Six Girls on a Mission team placed third in the elementary Get a Clue challenge. Pictured left to right are Jillian Hughes, Nicolette Nickeson, Emma Bahr and Jeslyn Kosel; in front are Hannah Monson and Abby Jensen.



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The Rising Stars were recognized at the awards event held Saturday at the Northeast Region DI Tournament held in Groton.



Prior to the awards ceremony, the youth enjoyed playing with balloons and bubble wrap.

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The Wonderful Nonsense places first and earns

Renaissance Award

The Wonderful Nonsense team placed first in the middle level of the Get a Clue challenge, and they also earned a Renaissance Award for outstanding design, engineering, execution and performance. Pictured left to right are Kayla Jensen, Rylee Rosenau, Madeline Schuelke and Katlyn Kyar. Not pictured is KaSandra Pappas. The top photo is the first place awards. The middle photo is the Renaissance Awards.



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Rising Stars Teams

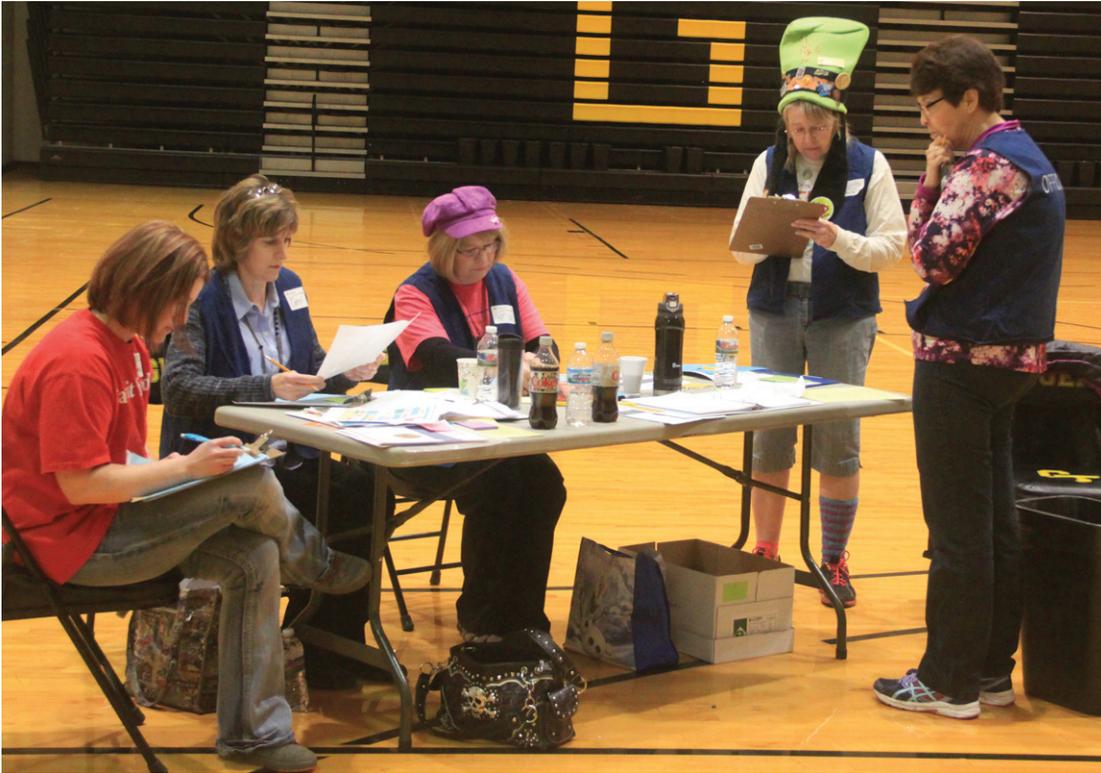
Two Rising Stars team from Groton participated in the Northeast Regional Destination Imagination Tournament held Saturday in Groton. In the top photo is the Lovers Team of Thomas Aalseth, Makenna Krause and Arabella Clark; not pictured is Troy Nickeson. In the bottom photo is the Map Travelers team of Caroline Bahr, Lincoln Krause, Tristan Nickeson, Jeran Hughes, Natalia Warrington and Keira Wiesmantel.

The Rising Stars division is a non-competitive challenge. Their challenge was "Change in Direction."



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Grotonnites helping to judge at the regional tournament include Merrie Atherton, Carol Smith, Lori Westby, Laurel McNickel and Deb Winburn.



Returning 2015 seniors to help judge the Rising Stars were Luke Smith and Katie Groebelinghoff.



Joann Donley coordinated the awards ceremony. Pictured are Joanna, Dean Fenenga who is the state affiliate for South Dakota, and Kristi Anderson who is the chairperson for the Northeast Regionals.

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These DI students were looking over the airplanes that were brought by Jim Cutler.



The Jar Raffle is always a big hit at the DI Tournaments. Helping with them are former GHS DI members Katie Groeblinghoff, Breanna Marzahn and Luke Smith. Also pictured is Joanna Donley.





Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

Last week, I devoted the vast majority of my article to the education bills and the tax increase proposal that has dominated the headlines much of this session. As I stated, I have been supported of the stated objective of raising teacher pay in SD to the full extent (\$67 million) proposed by the Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) and the Governor. However, I did not feel it was ap-

propriate or necessary to overtax everybody to the tune of \$40-45 million in order to provide tax relief to some of the electorate. As promised, I supported an amendment--actually two amendments--that would have achieved raising the entire \$67 million for the purpose of addressing teacher salaries. The amendments would have made HB 1182 substantially better, and would have garnered the support of nearly all the Senate and, subsequently, the House on concurrence. As I spoke with House members on both sides of the initial House vote, they said they preferred the alternate plan. Many of the "No" votes from the House committed to supporting the amended version of the bill if we had succeeded in making the changes on the Senate side. However, fear-mongering and backroom deals won the day. We were told on the Senate side that we could not amend the bill. The House had considered a number of amendments to HB 1182 when it was on their side. They adopted four of the amendments that helped to reshape the bill which was woefully inadequate as it was introduced. The Senate, however, chose not to put its fingerprint on the bill by amending it, even though a number of people who voted against the amendment(s) said they believed they made the bill better. In the end, the bill passed 25-10. By my count, the bill would have likely passed with anywhere from 30 to 33 affirmative votes (and over 60 on the House side) had we made the changes sought by Senator Novstrup who offered the amendments.

Of greater concern is SB 131, which outlines the blueprint to consolidation. I alluded to this last week, as well. If SB 131 passes as it currently is drafted, most schools in our legislative district will have to reduce the size of their staffs in order to achieve the target student-to-teacher ratios called for in the bill. According to DOE statistics, when the bill left the Senate, the following schools would have had to reduce the number of teachers in their schools in order to achieve the targets as set forth by the BRTF: Castlewood (-1.63), Clark (-6.2), Doland (-5.78), Groton Area (-4.8), Hamlin (-0.15), Northwestern Area (-1.23), and Willow Lake (-8.05). Although their attendance centers are not in District 2, Henry (-1.2) and Langford Area (-1.32) do have portions of their land mass within the district. On the other hand, Redfield and Warner would be compensated for additional teachers not currently on staff. Redfield would gain the equivalent funding for 6.57 teachers and Warner, 2.05. The bill has been amended to reduce the target ratio from 12.5-to-1 down to 12-to-1 in the smaller schools, which would change the numbers somewhat if that remains intact. Nevertheless, most of our schools will be faced with the decision between paying teachers less than the target salary or reducing their staffs and attempting to fill in the voids by utilizing more distance learning resources. I have heard several times that SB 131 is intended to "force schools to make tough decisions" that "could result in consolidation" if they aren't able to meet their targets and remain competitive in the marketplace. For perspective, large schools will be compensated for teachers not currently on staff. It was explained to me that this is because they have librarians and counselors who don't fall under the definition of "teacher" under the new model because they don't teach any classes. I asked if librarians and counselors in smaller schools meet the definition of "teacher" and I was told they would if they teach even one class. Aberdeen (+25.55), Sioux Falls (+70.89) and Watertown (+19.64) would appear to benefit from the new formula regardless of what the small school target ratio turns out to be. As stated, I would have preferred to provide additional funding this year without the wholesale,

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full-scale rewrite of the funding formula to see how it would work out, but it appears that along with the carrot will come a very large stick for some of our rural districts.

In other legislative action, we passed HB 1163 which allows veterans to use tuition benefits beyond the twenty year limitation currently on the books. This bill is a common sense change that recognizes that if somebody hasn't taken the opportunity to utilize the benefits they qualify for, they should be allowed to do so. Frankly, our veterans have laid their lives on the line for the rest of us, and we should do everything we can to honor their service by affording them this opportunity. The bill passed the Senate, 35-0.

We also passed HB 1141 unanimously on the Senate side. This bill will put in place a licensure process for those who offer applied behavioral analysis (ABA) services to those who are diagnosed with autism. ABA therapy has been proving to be extraordinarily beneficial to a number of children who have received such therapy. It is important to ensure that those offering ABA services are licensed and have submitted to background checks for the safety and well-being of those they serve.

HB 1177 addresses our otherwise cost-prohibitive tax structure on solar power energy facilities. Currently, we do not have any solar interests looking at South Dakota because of our tax structure. This bill seeks to make us a more appealing place to locate in the future. Last year, we amended this section of code to address our wind energy tax structure. Although last year's bill was not without controversy as the administration initially objected to the proposal, all interested parties were able to strike a deal. This year's solar legislation saw a much smoother ride through the process, as everybody agreed to a better taxation process, and nobody appeared as an opponent in committee in either the House or Senate committees. The bill passed the Senate 33-1.

I carried HCR 1017 on the Senate floor which commends Israel and expresses our support for them as a friend and ally, as well as a wonderful trading partner. Unfortunately, Israel has been increasingly shunned by many in this world, and even by some within our federal government. They remain a major importer of South Dakota and American products. Last year alone, we exported \$18 million worth of goods to them. This resolution merely stated our appreciation for them. It was not a terribly political statement. Although some of the Senators I asked to co-sponsor this measure refrained from doing so, they did all support it when it came to the floor, as it passed 34-0.

I was also the Senate prime sponsor on two bills, HB 1125 and HB 1138, that seek to revise legislation we passed last year relating to our enhanced concealed weapons permit. The enhanced permit requires a different process in order to obtain one. A four-five hour class, followed by actual hands-on training and shooting is integral in procuring such a permit. This permit is recognized by more states than our regular concealed pistol permit. HB 1138 went through on the consent calendar. This bill extends the length of validity from four to five years and clarifies how the license fees are distributed. HB 1125 was more substantive in that it changed last year's law to clarify that felons convicted of violent crimes are not eligible for the enhanced permit immediately when their civil rights are restored. It ensures that individuals who are deemed to pose a danger to others are subject to the same provisions as our other concealed pistol permit process. Moreover, it ensures that our enhanced concealed pistol permit is recognized on reciprocity agreements by the maximum number of states. Had we not passed this legislation, some states would have rejected our enhanced permit.

Obviously there were many other measures taken up on the Senate side, but I wanted to highlight a few that I have heard from you about. By the time you read this, we will be in the final two or three days of this year's session. It has been a grueling year, but I have truly appreciated the opportunity to work for you again this term. I remain hopeful that we will be able to make some tweaks to some of the bills that remain in-play to improve them before we finalize things for another year.

God bless you and yours!

Easter Cantata set for C&MA Church

The Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church will be hosting their 2016 Easter Cantata "Because He Lives", a Russell Mauldin musical production, on Palm Sunday evening, March 20th, at 6:30 pm. The public is invited. This passionate celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ features some of the best-loved songs of Contemporary Gospel Christian music. Follow Jesus through the journey to Jerusalem, down the Via Dolorosa to the cross. Then rejoice with heart and soul as with the choir we together celebrate the victorious resurrection of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ.

Members of the choir, directed by Carrie Olson, look forward to sharing the anointed music of composers like Bill and Gloria Gaither, Russell Mauldin, and Michael W. Smith. They are Sopranos Darby Duncan, Moira Duncan, JoAnne Ehresmann, Deb Jacobs, Krista and Sierra Tunby, Altos Nancy Cutler, Kayla Castillo, Amy K. Duncan, Jana Duncan, Joyce Grenz, Glenna Remington, Darinda & Shawna Tunby, Tenors Rick Buhler, Bill Duncan, Doug Duncan, and Adam Franken, Baritones Zeke Duncan, Dale Grenz, Lowell Harms, Scott Krueger, Larry Remington, Dawson and Lars Tunby.

A Fellowship time will follow the cantata in the church social hall.

The logo for Golden Living, featuring the word "golden" in orange and "living" in blue, with a stylized orange and blue graphic element below.

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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Today in Weather History

March 7, 1998: A winter storm tracked across South Dakota resulting in heavy snow of 6 to 8 inches across most of central South Dakota from the evening of the 6th into the afternoon of the 7th. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Fort Pierre and near Stephan, 7 inches at Blunt, Pierre, and Murdo, and 8 inches across far southern Jones and Lyman counties. Many activities were canceled and travel was significantly disrupted, especially on Interstate-90.

1717 - The Great Snow, a composite of four winter storms to hit the eastern U.S. in nine days, finally came to an end. Snow depths averaged 60 inches following the storm. Up to four feet of snow fell around Boston MA, and snow drifts 25 feet high were reported around Dorchester MA. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1932 - A severe coastal storm set barometric pressure records from Virginia to New England. Block Island RI reported a barometric pressure reading of 28.20 inches. (David Ludlum)

1970: Last near total eclipse of the sun in Washington, DC in this century. Sun was 95% eclipsed.

1987 - Forty-five cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Huron SD hit 80 degrees, and Pickstown SD reached 81 degrees. Rochester MN and Rockford IL smashed their previous record for the date by sixteen degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - High winds along a sharp cold front ushered snow and arctic cold into the Central Rocky Mountain Region and the Northern Plains. Snowfall totals in Utah ranged up to sixteen inches at Brighton. Winds gusted to 66 mph at Rapid City SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Blustery northwest winds ushered arctic cold into eastern U.S. Burlington VT reported a record low of 14 degrees below zero. Snow and ice over the Carolinas replaced the 80 degree weather of the previous day. High winds and heavy surf caused five million dollars damage along the North Carolina coast. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A major ice storm left much of Iowa under a thick coat of ice. It was the worst ice storm in at least twenty-five years for Iowa, perhaps the worst of the century. Up to two inches of ice coated much of western and central Iowa, with three inches reported in Crawford County and Carroll County. As much as five inches of ice was reported on some electrical lines. The ice downed 78 towers in a 17-mile stretch of a high voltage feeder near Boone costing three electric utilities fifteen million dollars. Damage to trees was incredible, and clean-up costs alone ran into the millions. Total damage from the storm was more than fifty million dollars. (Storm Data) 1997: The worst was finally over for states hit hard by the flooding Ohio River. The river crested on the 6th at Louisville, Kentucky, at 15 feet above flood stage, after topping out at nearly 13 feet at Cincinnati, Ohio and more than 7 feet at Huntington, West Virginia.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
Patched Fog then Partly Sunny	Chance T-storms	Rain Likely then Chance Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 67 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 46 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 57 °F



Another Very Mild Day!

Happy Leap Day!

weather.gov/Aberdeen

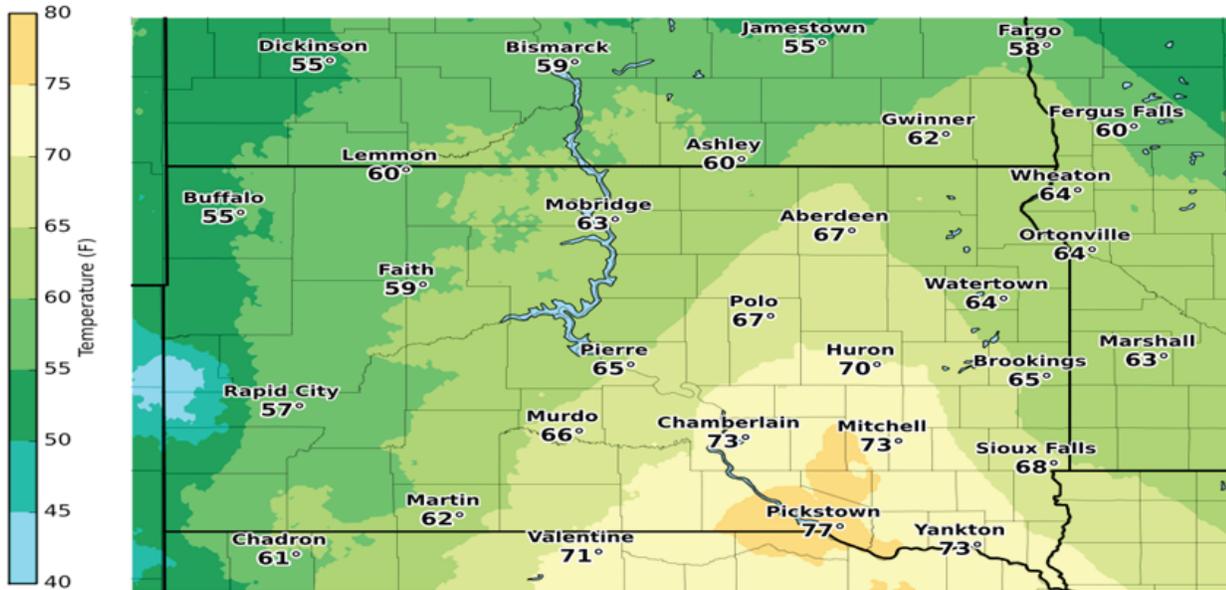


National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Afternoon Highs
Valid: March 07, 2016



National Weather Service
Aberdeen SD
03/07/2016 05:26 AM CST

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Published on: 03/07/2016 at 5:33AM

We'll manage to have one more day of very mild temperatures across the region today. Highs will once again be in the 60s and 70s, with a few records in jeopardy. Rainfall chances will increase this evening and through the overnight hours as an area of low pressure moves through the region. Cooler temperatures will move in on Tuesday behind the departing low pressure.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 66.6 at 4:19 PM

Low: 40.7 at 7:13 AM

High Gust: 32 at 12:26 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 69° in 1987

Record Low: -24 in 1995

Average High: 35°F

Average Low: 16°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.20

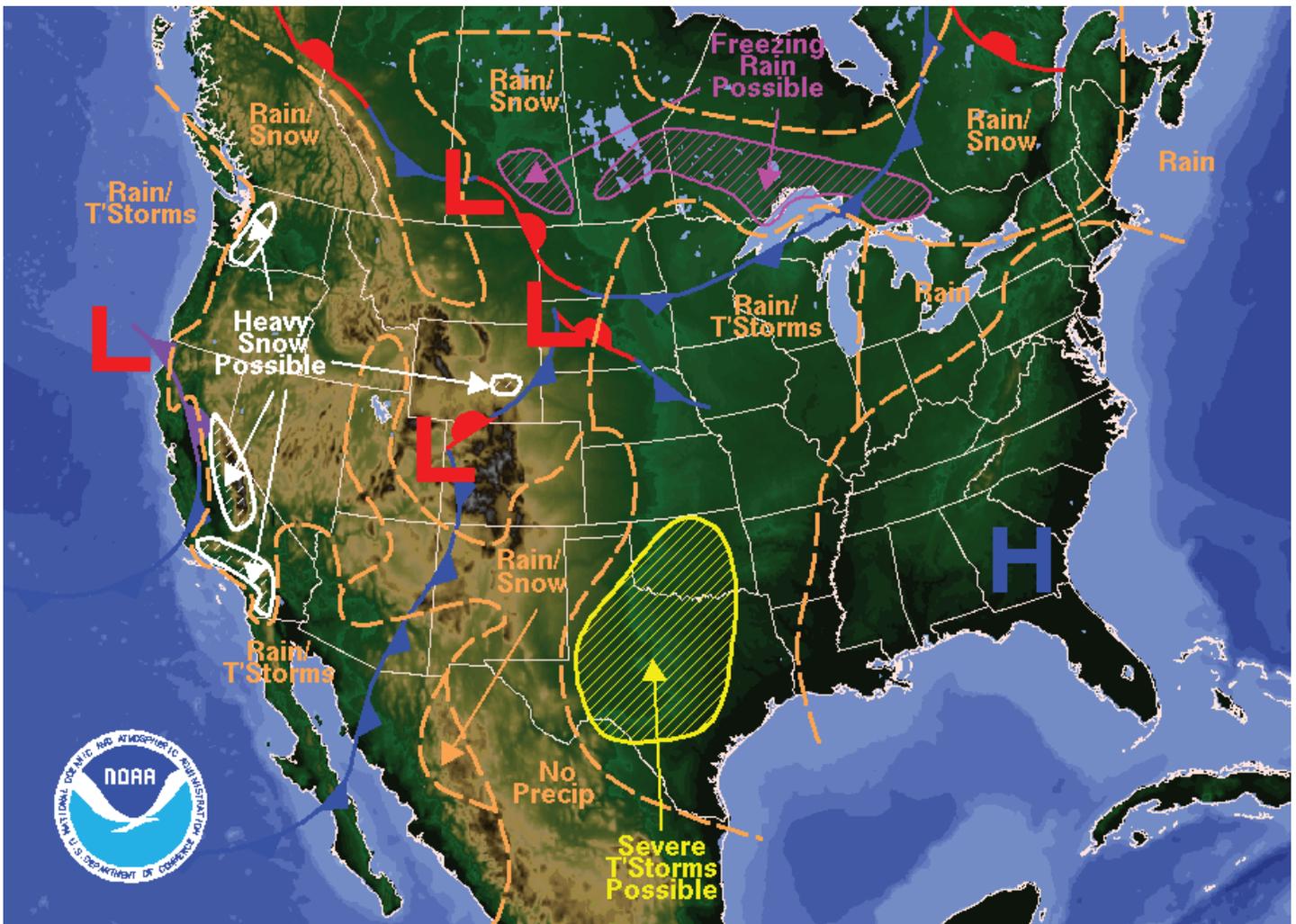
Precip to date in March.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.22

Precip Year to Date: 0.60

Sunset Tonight: 6:29 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:58 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Mar 07, 2016, issued 3:42 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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DELIGHTFULLY DIFFERENT

The other day I was visiting with an old friend. During the conversation I asked, "I understand that you married Jane. Why?"

"Because she's different," he replied.

"How different?" I asked.

"She's the only one who would have me," he explained.

But there's One Who will accept everyone – unconditionally. Young or old, rich or poor – our condition does not matter. Jesus said, "Come to me," and then He added, "if you do come, I will not cast you out."

In all my years of serving God, I have never heard anyone say, "I came to Jesus, but He would not accept me." It has been just the opposite. Many have told me that Jesus was the only One Who would have them. They knew that when they came to Him, they finally discovered the only One Who accepted them in spite of all that they had done.

To become a Christian, all you have to do is to come to Christ. Take Him at His Word.

Prayer: Father, I come to You right now with all of my faults and failures, all of my sins and shortcomings and exchange my guilt for Your grace and mercy. Help me to take You at Your Word: in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

News from the Associated Press

Polygamist leader in court on food stamp fraud charges

BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Prosecutors are expected to ask a federal judge in Utah Monday to keep polygamist leader Lyle Jeffs behind bars as he awaits trial on allegations of food stamp fraud.

Authorities argue that if allowed out on bail, Lyle Jeffs would hide in the group's elaborate network of houses, using aliases, disguises and false identification.

He is one of one of 11 people from a polygamous sect on the Utah-Arizona border indicted on fraud and money laundering charges.

Investigators say Lyle Jeffs runs the day-to-day operations for the group with his brother Warren Jeffs serving a life prison sentence.

Lyle Jeffs has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Prosecutors have allowed other suspects out while the case plays out, but are fighting to keep Lyle Jeffs and three other top-tier leaders behind bars.

Rosga, Denver beat Omaha, advance to Summit League semis

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Freshman Joe Rosga scored a career-high 25 on 9-of-11 shooting to help No. 6 seed Denver beat third-seeded Omaha 78-70 Sunday night in the Summit League tournament quarterfinals.

Rosga had 15 points in the first half as the Pioneers shot 62.5 percent and built a 19-point lead before going into the break with a 44-29 advantage.

Tre'Shawn Thurman scored nine, and Tra-Deon Hollins seven in a row, as Omaha (18-13) opened the second half with a 21-9 run to pull within three with 11 minutes to play.

Randy Reed's dunk with 6:39 left capped a 7-0 run and gave the Mavericks their first lead of the game, but Rosga scored six as Denver (16-14) responded with a 13-5 spurt that made it 72-65 with 1:19 to play.

The Pioneers will face No. 2 seed South Dakota State (24-7) in the semifinals Monday night.

Hollins led Omaha with 17 points, eight assists, seven steals and two blocks.

It was the third-lowest scoring output of the season for Omaha, which came in averaging 84.9 points per game (4th in Division I).

Senate panel set to consider municipal sales tax measure

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A legislative committee is expected to take up a bill that would allow cities with fewer than 25,000 residents to impose an additional sales tax of up to 1 percent for municipal projects.

The Senate Local Government committee is scheduled to consider the measure Monday. The bill has passed through the state House of Representatives.

The funds could be used for purchasing land, professional fees and construction costs for projects such as utilities, roads or buildings.

The governing board of a municipality would have to approve an ordinance specifying the use of the tax and how long it would be imposed.

The ordinance would be subject to a public vote.

Werner, N. Dakota St. beat IUPUI in Summit tourney quarters

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Dexter Werner scored 18, on 6-of-8 shooting, with 11 rebounds to help No. 5 seed North Dakota State beat fourth-seeded IUPUI 60-45 Sunday in the quarterfinals of the Summit League tournament.

A.J. Jacobson scored 14, Paul Miller added 12 points and Kory Brown grabbed 11 rebounds for North

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Dakota State, which outrebounded IUPUI 43-36.

The Bison (19-12) will play top-seeded IPFW (24-8) in the semifinals Monday.

T.J. Henderson's jumper with 16:05 to play gave IUPUI (13-19) a 30-26 lead, but the Jaguars made just three more field goals as NDSU closed the game on a 34-15 run.

IUPUI shot just 29 percent from the field, including 1 of 12 from 3-point range, and its 15 made field goals was a season low.

Henderson led the Jaguars with 11 points on 5-of-9 shooting, while Matt O'Leary had a career-high 12 rebounds.

SD DOT to begin reconstructing Highway 50 in Yankton

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Transportation says work is getting ready to begin on the \$5.5 million reconstruction of Highway 50 in Yankton.

The work beginning March 14 includes removing and replacing the current surface from Burleigh Street to Broadway Avenue.

On Monday, crews will install and activate temporary traffic signals at the intersection of 2nd Street and Broadway Avenue for a truck and over-width detour on 2nd Street from Broadway Avenue to Burleigh Street.

Phase one involves reconstruction of the eastbound lanes while maintaining two-way traffic on the existing westbound lanes. Phase two is reconstruction of the westbound lanes while maintaining two-way traffic on the new eastbound lanes.

The final phase includes pouring the center turn lane with one lane of traffic in each direction.

Saturday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

District 5B Championship: DeSmet 60, Castlewood 36

Region 2A Regional Final: Sioux Valley 49, Clark/Willow Lake 39

Region 4A

Regional Semifinal

Dakota Valley 65, Lennox 60

Vermillion 69, Tea Area 56

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Region 2A Regional Final: Hamlin 61, Sioux Valley 59

S. Dakota St. rallies to beat ORU in Summit League tourney

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Mike Daum grabbed an offensive rebound, was fouled and made two free throws with 42 seconds left to give South Dakota State just enough cushion to beat Oral Roberts 73-70 in the quarterfinals of the Summit League Tournament on Saturday night.

Oral Roberts, which led for most of the second half, was up 70-65 with 1:24 remaining when George Marshall nailed a 3 and made a free throw to close to 70-69 with 45 seconds left. Daum, who finished with 26 points, made two free throws for the lead, and Deondre Parks and Reed Tellinghuisen added one apiece to seal the victory.

The Jackrabbits (23-7) scored 10 points in the final 2:00 while holding the Golden Eagles scoreless.

South Dakota State, the No. 2 seed, will play the Nebraska-Omaha-Denver winner in the semifinals.

Obi Emegano had 15 points and Kris Martin added 13 for ORU (14-16).

IPFW beats South Dakota 86-70 in Summit League quarterfinal

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — John Konchar had 16 points and 16 rebounds and IPFW rolled to an 86-70 victory over South Dakota on Saturday night in a Summit League Tournament quarterfinal.

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The top-seeded Mastodons (24-8) will play Sunday's IUPUI-North Dakota State winner in the semifinals on Monday.

Max Landis scored 24 points to lead IPFW, which bounced back from an 80-77 loss to IUPUI that snapped a four-game win streak. DeAngelo Stewart added 19 points and Joe Reed chipped in 16.

Tre Burnette scored 23 points for No. 8 seed South Dakota (14-18). Tyler Flack had 15 points and Dejon Davis 11.

IPFW took the lead five minutes in, built a 39-33 halftime lead and stretched it to 44-33, and led by double digits the rest of the way.

The Mastodons have a program-best 24 wins, the most since the 23-4 mark in 1992-93.

Reptile Gardens in SD's Black Hills opens

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Black Hills tourist attraction Reptile Gardens opened this weekend to begin its 79th year of operation.

Park officials say the reptile department has prepared exhibits of snakes, lizards, turtles, crocodiles, amphibians and bugs in the Sky Dome. Reptile Gardens' giant tortoises, Quazi, Tank, and Orville are ready to greet visitors, and the park's tropical Safari Room is filled with Bromliads and other seasonal flowers.

The park's busy season runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day, but Reptile Gardens is open from March through November.

Juveniles rescued after falling over edge at climbing site

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Emergency responders have rescued three juveniles who fell over the edge at a popular hiking and climbing site near Rapid City.

Authorities in Pennington County say the three youths on Friday fell over the edge after loose rocks gave way underneath them in area known as Falling Rock.

Sheriff's deputies and members of the Pennington County Search and Rescue Team responded to the scene around 4:45 p.m. Friday and performed a vertical rescue.

Authorities say one of the juveniles has leg and facial injuries, while the other two were not injured.

Falling Rock is a limestone canyon about six miles outside Rapid City. The area's visitors bureau says Falling Rock's climbing is on edges and pockets on vertical to slightly overhanging walls that are about 40 feet high.

Rapid City woman pleads not guilty to 2 counts of rape

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City woman is denying accusations from law enforcement authorities that she raped a 4-year-old girl last October.

Twenty-six-year-old Ashlee Goldsmith was arraigned in Pennington County this week and pleaded not guilty to two counts of first-degree rape. The charge carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Pennington County Jail records show Goldsmith was arrested Feb. 12. Goldsmith's lawyer, Shiloh MacNally, tells the Rapid City Journal her client was babysitting the girl when the crime is alleged to have occurred.

Goldsmith is in custody on a \$150,000 bond. MacNally on Thursday asked Seventh Circuit Court Judge Robert Mandel to lower Goldsmith's bond to \$25,000. Mandel scheduled a bond hearing for March 14.

MacNally says Goldsmith is in protective custody, meaning she is segregated from the general jail population.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. A MARKED CHANGE IN TONE FOR HILLARY CLINTON AND BERNIE SANDERS

Both candidates frequently interrupted one another and accused each other of misrepresenting their

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records at the Democratic presidential debate.

2. NORTH KOREA AGAIN THREATENS NUCLEAR STRIKES ON U.S. AND SOUTH KOREA

The latest belligerent threat came in response to the start of huge U.S.-South Korean military drills.

3. WHAT NANCY REAGAN WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR

She wasn't out to break the rules of being first lady but she knew well how to work within them, privately favoring better relations with the Soviet Union and urging the president to speak openly about AIDS.

4. WHY MARCO RUBIO IS STRUGGLING TO RECONNECT WITH TEA PARTY VOTERS

The Florida senator finds his White House ambitions squeezed by Donald Trump's outsider ambush and the Republican Party's resulting identity crisis.

5. WHERE MANY IRAQI REFUGEES ARE GOING AFTER EUROPE DISAPPOINTS

A growing number are returning home because of the difficulty of finding housing and employment in Europe.

6. CUBA ENTREPRENEURS QUIETLY CREATE NETWORK OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The schools are entirely legal because they function as cooperatives of licensed private language teachers, which is allowed under Cuba's economic reforms.

7. WHEN BLOOMBERG WILL LEAVE THE INFORMATION COMPANY THAT BEARS HIS NAME

The billionaire has laid the groundwork for his second departure — whether that's retirement in 10 years or a presidential campaign in 10 days.

8. BERNIE SANDERS AND DONALD TRUMP HAVE SOMETHING HUGE IN COMMON

The presidential candidates are exciting fans with the same catchphrase, which they both pronounce as "yuge."

9. MANNING CHANGED THE WAY WE PLAY, AND WATCH FOOTBALL

The quarterback set records and won MVPs but his mark on the game goes deeper than that.

10. SPOILER ALERT! WITH "DOWNTON ABBEY" ENDING, 10 FAVORITE BYGONE FINALES

AP Television Writer Frazier Moore recalls 10 favorite series finales from the past.

Mushers set off from Alaska town as Iditarod race begins

MARK THIESSEN, Associated Press

WILLOW, Alaska (AP) — Eighty-five mushers set off Sunday to conquer the toughest terrain this nation has to offer, vying to become the first to reach Alaska's western coast with their dog teams.

Scott Janssen, an undertaker from Anchorage who is known as the Mushing Mortician, was the first to leave across Willow Lake in the staggered start to the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Dallas Seavey was only wearing a long-sleeved shirt as he packed his sled under blue skies and warm temperatures. He said it felt just like another day for him and his dogs, doing their thing.

That could be bad news for the field as Seavey has won three out of the last four races.

"If we have a good race, we should have a good finish. If we can maximize this team, we'll get there fast," he said of the dash for the finish line under the buried arch in Nome. The winner is expected in about nine days after traveling over two mountain ranges, the Yukon River and battling the fierce winds along the Bering Sea coast.

He said there are "a lot of really good teams, there's a lot of people who could win. There's a lot of people that maybe should win that won't. That's actually why we go run the race, and we'll figure it out in a couple of weeks," he said.

Besides Seavey, there are six other former champions in the race, including four-time winner Lance Mackey.

Last year, Mackey struggled to finish the race. The cancer survivor also has a condition which affects blood circulation in his hands, and he had problems caring for his dogs last year. His brother, musher Jason Mackey, helped with dog care so Lance could finish the race.

When asked Sunday if his hands were good, Lance Mackey said, "Well, to a degree."

He has had continued treatment on his hands, including a surgery last month that took out a nail bed on one finger. He said the pain level has been reduced a bit, and he was ready to get the race started.

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"If we don't have a good run this year, it's not the dogs' fault. This team, in my opinion, and I know what kind of dogs it takes, this team has what it takes. It's up to me now to show the world, and they deserve it," he said.

Also in this year's race is two-time champion Robert Sorlie of Oslo. He leads a large Norwegian contingency among the mushers. But Mats Pettersson will tell you there are eight Norwegians in the race, and not nine.

"I feel a little bit lonely," he said because everyone believes he's Norwegian, too. "I have to tell every guy I'm Swedish."

Adding to the international flair of the race is Kim Franklin, a 49-year-old musher from Herts, England.

This is her second race to Nome, but she's still considered a rookie after being withdrawn at the Rohn checkpoint in 2008. She had to qualify for the Iditarod last winter.

"It sounds like it's going to be a hard, fast trail and it's going to be a rough start to the race, I think," she said, adding her goal is to keep everything under control.

"I just want to run a slow, steady, safe race," Franklin said.

The winner is expected in the old Gold Rush town of Nome in about nine days.

Heavy rain leads to evacuations, rescues in California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A woman died in Northern California after being trapped in a car that became submerged in floodwater on a section of highway that was closed amid heavy rain, authorities said Sunday.

The casualty was reported after a storm that rolled across California on Saturday led to the evacuations and rescues in some low lying areas, where thousands of people lost power after powerful winds toppled trees and power lines.

Chia Xiong, 51, of Marysville, was underwater for about 15 minutes Saturday night because it took divers some time to find the vehicle, which plunged into 6 to 8 feet of water, according to fire officials and the California Highway Patrol.

The driver, who was able to get out of the car, was arrested for investigation of driving under the influence and vehicular manslaughter, CHP Officer Jodie Beck said.

Officers who were at a road blockade saw Neng Yang, 55, of Sacramento go around the closure on State Route 70 in Olivehurst, about 35 miles north of Sacramento, and enter the floodwater, Beck said.

Firefighters rescued four people stranded along the Los Angeles River in the Encino area while in Santa Cruz County people living along Soquel Creek and the Upper San Lorenzo River were evacuated because of rising water.

A second winter storm reached the northernmost part of the state Sunday and was expected to spread across California overnight, indicating that March will not be as parched as it was last month. Forecasters warned of strong winds, heavy snow in the mountains and dangerous breaking waves along the coast.

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

Back in the Sierras, the Sugar Bowl ski resort near Donner Summit reported 7 inches of new snow at the summit overnight and slopes full of people Saturday.

"When it snows people are anxious to get up here and get to those fresh tracks," said Lloyd Garden, Sugar Bowl's marketing coordinator. "Die-hards love to ski when it's snowing. It's very peaceful, it's quiet and the turns are fresh and great."

Along the coast at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, a wild sea otter sought shelter from stormy seas in the aquarium's Great Tide Pool so she could give birth, and she had her pup in full view of a crowd of visitors and staffers.

"There it is!" someone shouted and a round of applause followed as the single pup came into the world on a large outcropping of rock amid a smattering of rain.

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, where rain is expected to arrive Sunday.

Farther north, a 48-hour winter storm warning went into effect in the state's far northwestern and cen-

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tral 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 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.

Starting on Monday and continuing into the rest of next week, ample moisture will be pulled in from the Gulf of Mexico 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.

Heavy rainfall and flooding are possible throughout Oklahoma as a storm system makes its way through the state, with the strongest storms capable of producing large hail and damaging wind gusts, forecasters said.

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

NYC revisits policing tactics that clogged jails, courts

JAKE PEARSON, Associated Press

MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The city that pioneered "broken windows" policing is retooling its longtime strategy of trying to reduce serious crime by cracking down on people who commit minor offenses, like public drinking and littering.

With crime at historic lows, New York City leaders have rolled out a series of proposals aimed at unclogging courts and jails and undoing damage done to poor, minority neighborhoods by generations of mass incarceration.

Change can't come fast enough for people like Manhattan resident Jamal Williams.

The 28-year-old was cited by the police two years ago for spitting on the ground outside his East Harlem public housing building. The offense was as minor as they come, but when he forgot to show up for his court date, he became a wanted man.

Williams was hauled off to jail last spring when an officer patrolling the subway stopped him for passing between cars, checked his ID and saw there was a warrant for his arrest.

"I didn't even remember it," Williams said of the initial spitting incident. "And they kept me locked up for the whole day, waiting and waiting" to see a judge.

It isn't certain yet how much things will change for borderline lawbreakers, but the idea that there are too many people in jail for piddling offenses is having a moment.

Last week, the mayor, police commissioner and the Manhattan district attorney said people who commit certain low-level infractions in the borough, like urinating in public, won't be arrested. Instead, they will get a summons to appear in court, saving them from at least a day in jail.

The announcement follows a package of bills introduced by city lawmakers in January that would steer many minor offenders to civil, rather than criminal, courts.

There has been talk about developing an amnesty program for the huge number of New Yorkers like Williams who wind up in jail — sometimes for extended periods — when they miss court appearances or can't post small amounts of bail because of poverty.

The city has 1.2 million such arrest warrants outstanding, many for failing to appear in court for infractions ranging from disorderly conduct to taking up two seats on the subway to riding a bicycle on the sidewalk.

Police Commissioner William Bratton insists the city isn't abandoning the broken windows theory, which holds that neglecting minor blights, like cracked glass or turnstile jumping, leads to a culture of decay and criminality.

But he says that with crime low, policing tactics should reflect the fact that New York isn't the sick "patient" it was in the 1980s and early 1990s.

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"Why keep arresting, why keep summoning when the patient doesn't require that?" Bratton said.

There have been calls for a citywide fund to help poor defendants on very minor charges post bail.

Other, more ambitious proposals would require state legislators to take action. They include raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 and allowing judges to consider whether a person is truly dangerous when setting bail, something now done routinely in many states, but not in New York.

Statistics show the number of people put in handcuffs in recent years has declined.

Police made 54,000 fewer arrests in 2015 than they did in 2013. The number of people arrested for possession of very small amounts of marijuana has dropped by two-thirds since 2011. Because of public protests, and lawsuits, the police department has curtailed a once-widespread practice of stopping and searching people in the street.

That's welcome news to advocates who note that such policing practices disproportionately affected black and Latino residents, who also represent the majority of jail inmates.

But critics say the softer touch will threaten public safety.

"The message that they're sending is it's OK to litter, it's OK to urinate in public and all that'll happen is you'll have to pay a ticket. It's lunacy," said Ed Mullins, president of the Sergeants Benevolent Association. "What's shocking is Commissioner Bratton flip flopping. He spent his past two decades on preaching about broken windows ... It doesn't make sense."

Some advocates argue the reforms don't go far enough, noting that officers have long had the discretion to warn people or issue a summons for minor crimes but often arrest to prove productivity on the street.

"What we really need is a shift from relying on policing and law enforcement as a solution to minor problems or issues that can be resolved in other ways," said Fahd Ahmed of Communities United for Police Reform.

Former first lady Nancy Reagan dies at 94 in California

CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president — and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease — has died. She was 94.

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press.

Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say No" campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. By the time she moved out eight years later, Mrs. Reagan was fending off accusations that she was a behind-the-scenes "dragon lady" wielding unchecked power over the Reagan administration — and doing it based on astrology to boot.

All along she maintained that her only mission was to back her "Ronnie" and strengthen his presidency.

Mrs. Reagan carried that charge through the rest of her days. She served as a full-time caretaker as Alzheimer's melted away her husband's memory. After his death in June 2004 she dedicated herself to tending his legacy, especially at his presidential library in California, where he had served as governor.

She also championed Alzheimer's patients, raising millions of dollars for research and breaking with fellow conservative Republicans to advocate for stem cell studies. Her dignity and perseverance in these post-White House roles helped smooth over the public's fickle perceptions of the former first lady.

The Reagans' mutual devotion over 52 years of marriage was legendary. They were forever holding hands. She watched his political speeches with a look of such steady adoration it was dubbed "the gaze." He called her "Mommy," and penned a lifetime of gushing love notes. She saved these letters, published them as a book, and found them a comfort when he could no longer remember her.

After Reagan was shot by John Hinckley just three months into his presidency, he was said to have famously wisecracked to her, "Honey, I forgot to duck."

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In announcing his Alzheimer's diagnosis in 1994, Reagan wrote, "I only wish there was some way I could spare Nancy from this painful experience." Ten years later, as his body lay in state in the U.S. Capitol, Mrs. Reagan caressed and gently kissed the flag-draped casket.

In a statement Sunday, U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama spoke of the Reagan's journey with Alzheimer's disease.

"Later, in her long goodbye with President Reagan, she became a voice on behalf of millions of families going through the depleting, aching reality of Alzheimer's, and took on a new role, as advocate, on behalf of treatments that hold the potential and the promise to improve and save lives," the Obama's said.

As the newly arrived first lady, Mrs. Reagan raised more than \$800,000 from private donors to redo the White House family quarters and to buy a \$200,000 set of china bordered in red, her signature color. She was criticized for financing these pet projects with donations from millionaires who might seek influence with the government, and for accepting gifts and loans of dresses worth thousands of dollars from top designers. Her lavish lifestyle — in the midst of a recession and with her husband's administration cutting spending on the needy — inspired the mocking moniker "Queen Nancy."

But her admirers credited Mrs. Reagan with restoring grace and elegance to the White House after the austerity of the Carter years.

Her substantial influence within the White House came to light slowly in her husband's second term.

Although a feud between the first lady and chief of staff Donald Regan had spilled into the open, the president dismissed reports that it was his wife who got Regan fired. "The idea that she is involved in governmental decisions and so forth and all of this, and being a kind of dragon lady — there is nothing to that," a visibly angry Reagan assured reporters.

But Mrs. Reagan herself and other insiders later confirmed her role in rounding up support for Regan's ouster and persuading the president that it had to be done, because of the Iran-Contra scandal that broke under Regan's watch.

She delved into policy issues, too. She urged Reagan to finally break his long silence on the AIDS crisis. She nudged him to publicly accept responsibility for the arms-for-hostages scandal. And she worked to buttress those advisers urging him to thaw U.S. relations with the Soviet Union, over the objections of the administration's "evil empire" hawks.

Near the end of Reagan's presidency, ex-chief of staff Regan took his revenge with a memoir revealing that the first lady routinely consulted a San Francisco astrologer to guide the president's schedule. Mrs. Reagan, who had a longtime interest in horoscopes, maintained that she used the astrologer's forecasts only in hopes of predicting the safest times for her husband to venture out of the White House after the assassination attempt.

Anne Frances Robbins, nicknamed Nancy, was born on July 6, 1921, in New York City. Her parents separated soon after she was born and her mother, film and stage actress Edith Luckett, went on the road. Nancy was reared by an aunt until 1929, when her mother married Dr. Loyal Davis, a wealthy Chicago neurosurgeon who gave Nancy his name and a socialite's home. She majored in drama at Smith College and found stage work with the help of her mother's connections.

In 1949, MGM signed 5-foot-4, doe-eyed brunette Nancy Davis to a movie contract. She was cast mostly as a loyal housewife and mother. She had a key role in "The Next Voice You Hear ...," an unusual drama about a family that hears God's voice on the radio. In "Donovan's Brain," she played the wife of a scientist possessed by disembodied gray matter.

She met Ronald Reagan in 1950, when he was president of the Screen Actors Guild and she was seeking help with a problem: Her name had been wrongly included on a published list of suspected communist sympathizers. They discussed it over dinner, and she later wrote that she realized on that first blind date "he was everything that I wanted."

They wed two years later, on March 4, 1952. Daughter Patti was born in October of that year and son Ron followed in 1958. Reagan already had a daughter, Maureen, and an adopted son, Michael, from his marriage to actress Jane Wyman. (Later, public spats and breaches with her grown children would become a frequent source of embarrassment for Mrs. Reagan.)

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She was thrust into the political life when her husband ran for California governor in 1966 and won. She found it a surprisingly rough business.

"The movies were custard compared to politics," Mrs. Reagan said.

California's Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown released a statement on behalf of all Californians.

"Nancy Reagan lived a remarkable life and will be remembered for her strength and grace," Brown said.

United Continental CEO Munoz returns after medical leave

SARAH SKIDMORE SELL, AP Business Writer

United Continental says its President and CEO Oscar Munoz will return to his roles at the airline full-time later this month.

Munoz took medical leave after suffering a heart attack in October, just six weeks after replacing Jeff Smisek as CEO. He then had a heart transplant in January.

General Counsel Brett Hart took over as interim CEO but Munoz began easing back into work recently. The airline said Sunday that Munoz has already been participating actively in all major corporate decisions and meeting frequently with employees, shareholders, and other stakeholders during his recovery. He will return to his duties on a full-time basis March 14.

Chicago-based United Continental Holdings Inc. is the nation's third-biggest airline by traffic, trailing American and Delta.

Time running out to charge anyone who helped gangster Bulger

DENISE LAVOIE, AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Investigators who spent years building a criminal case against gangster James "Whitey" Bulger have long believed he had multiple helpers when he fled Boston and went on the run.

But if prosecutors don't bring charges within the next few months, the only person to be charged with actually assisting the notorious crime boss during his 16 years as a fugitive will be his longtime girlfriend.

The statute of limitations for harboring a fugitive is five years. The clock began ticking when Bulger was captured in Santa Monica, California, on June 22, 2011, and runs out on June 22, 2016.

Catherine Greig, who accompanied Bulger on his long flight from justice, was sentenced to eight years in prison for helping him.

Greig faces additional prison time after pleading guilty last month to contempt for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating who else may have helped Bulger.

Now the question is, without Greig's help, will anyone else ever be charged?

"I don't think the chances are great. I'd be happy to see it, but I'd be surprised to see it," said retired state police Col. Thomas Foley, who spent two decades pursuing Bulger.

Bulger, now 86, is serving a life sentence after being convicted of a litany of crimes during a 2013 racketeering trial, including participating in 11 murders.

Over the years, investigators suspected Bulger received help from his family, and attention focused on his brother, William Bulger, a powerful political figure who was president of the state Senate for 17 years.

But William Bulger has denied helping his brother while he was a fugitive and has never been charged. In testimony before a federal grand jury in 2001, William Bulger acknowledged that he and his brother spoke by phone shortly after he fled Boston in late 1994. William Bulger also acknowledged that he did not encourage his brother to surrender.

"I don't feel an obligation to help everyone catch him," he said, according to leaked transcripts of testimony published in The Boston Globe.

Another brother, John "Jackie" Bulger, pleaded guilty to perjury and obstruction of justice in 2003 for lying to federal grand juries. Jackie Bulger admitted he had spoken to his brother while he was a fugitive. He also admitted lying when he testified he had no knowledge about a safe deposit box owned by his brother.

Greig's twin sister, Margaret McCusker, pleaded guilty to lying to a grand jury about having contact with her sister after she fled Boston with Bulger.

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Kevin Weeks, a key Bulger henchman, admitted that he provided Bulger with fake identification while he was on the run. Weeks, who testified against Bulger, served five years in prison for being an accessory to five murders, but was not charged with helping Bulger as a fugitive.

Although the statute of limitations on the harboring charge ends in June, prosecutors could potentially have more time to bring a different charge. If, for example, Bulger had assets hidden and someone moved them after his arrest in 2011, that person could potentially be charged with obstruction of justice. The statute of limitations would begin running on the date the assets were moved.

Or, if someone lied to the grand jury after Bulger's arrest, that person could be charged with perjury for up to five years. Likewise, if someone lied to the FBI after Bulger's arrest, that person could be charged with making a false statement to a federal agent.

With Greig refusing to testify, another key question could remain unanswered: where is the money investigators believe Bulger hid?

While Bulger was a fugitive, the FBI seized cash and other items from safe deposit boxes in Florida, London, Canada and Ireland. But investigators believe that was just a fraction of the money Bulger made through his gang's illegal activities.

"I think the general belief was yeah, he had money stashed all over the place," said Tom Duffy, a retired state police trooper.

When Bulger and Greig were captured, authorities found \$822,000 in cash in their apartment.

Prosecutors have said they will divide that among the families of Bulger's victims.

Patricia Donahue, whose husband was killed by Bulger and another man in 1982, said she has little hope any more money will be distributed to Bulger's victims.

"I'm sure there is probably money stashed out there somewhere, but I don't think we'll see it," she said.

Sailors face more lenient body fat rules

JULIE WATSON, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Navy is giving another chance to thousands of sailors who otherwise would be kicked out for repeatedly failing their physical fitness tests because they exceeded body fat limits.

The service branch loosened its body fat restrictions in January and is allowing those who failed their exams three or more times to get one more opportunity to be tested this spring under the more lenient guidelines. The Navy said it has been losing too many talented sailors. Some were resorting to liposuction, diet pills and other measures to save their careers.

The Navy allowed about 2,400 sailors who passed a preliminary test under the new rules to stay in, reducing the number of failures on their records from three to one, said Navy spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen. In the past, three failures were grounds for being kicked out. The sailors will be measured again this spring and allowed only two failures now instead of three.

The changes are the latest by the military looking to improve its abilities to recruit and retain talented people as it builds up its cyber-warfare strategy and faces competition from a rebounding economy.

A 2014 Pentagon study found that roughly two-thirds of Americans would not qualify to enlist in the armed services as a result of health problems, obesity and the failure to complete a high school education.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said the service is not lowering standards but rather adjusting to reality: People today, in general, are bigger but not necessarily fat. The Navy is also considering larger uniforms sizes for the first time in two decades.

"It's far more realistic," Mabus said of the new body fat standard. "We were kicking more people out of the Navy for failing that, than for drugs."

The number of sailors booted from the Navy annually because they did not meet physical standards has more than doubled from 694 in 2011 to 1,536 in 2014.

The changes come amid debate over whether the physical requirements demanded of service members across the board are still relevant or should be adjusted according to the job so the armed forces can maintain the pool of talent it needs for today's high-tech warfare.

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There's been talk in the Army of easing up on strict body fat requirements for its cyber-warriors, for example.

All branches are reviewing their job standards to modernize their forces and prepare for the opening of combat posts to women.

From drone operators to cyber-warfare officers, "there are a number of officers in jobs where it is really obvious why it would not make whole lot of difference what their weight is, other than to the extent that the culture in the military disrespects it and therefore, they can't lead," said former Army officer James Joyner, who teaches at the Marine Corps University.

He believes the military must change.

"It's absurd the percentage of high school teenagers who are considered to be too fat to join the military," Joyner said. "Maybe there are two problems: One, obesity, and the other that the standards are out of date and not relevant."

Some 34,000 sailors, or roughly 10 percent of the force, have failed the physical requirements at least once since 2011, mostly because of body fat, Christensen said.

The Navy's old policy allowed for 22 percent body fat for males ages 17-39, and 33 percent body fat for females ages 17-39. Sailors age 40 and older were allotted one additional percentage point or 23 percent for males and 34 percent for women over 40.

The new limits fall in line with the Department of Defense standards and allow sailors to pass with a maximum 26 percent of body fat for men and 36 percent for women.

Service members have long complained that the Defense Department's method of estimating body fat punishes bulkier, muscular builds.

Plastic surgeons in communities near bases have said up to a third of their business comes from service members seeking liposuction to pass the exam.

The traditional, so-called "tape test" relies on measurements of the neck and waist to calculate one's body fat percentage. Fitness experts have questioned its accuracy.

The Air Force in 2013 started allowing airmen who fail the tape test but pass physical fitness exams to be measured using the Body Mass Index, which is a chart based on an individual's weight and height. The Navy adopted similar rules, expanded gym hours and provides fitness help to post-partum sailors.

Petty Officer Lentoyi White, 26, feared for her career, after failing twice.

"I am very grateful for a second chance with this new policy," said the single mother of a 5-year-old girl. White, based in Coronado, California, uses a calorie-tracking app and does 30 minutes of cardio a day. She has gone from 212 pounds to 188 and is confident she'll pass this spring.

Dog pops up in driver's seat when semi crashes in Minnesota

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) — One dog apparently has learned a new trick: how to drive a semi-truck.

Customers at a Minnesota gas station saw a golden Labrador retriever appear to drive the semi across a road Friday.

Mankato police say the idling truck apparently was put into gear, then went through a parking lot, across the street and over a curb.

The Free Press of Mankato (<http://bit.ly/1Ruc58b>) reports a passer-by discovered the dog sitting in the driver's seat when he jumped into the truck to stop it.

David Stegora was at the store when he heard the truck smash into a tree and a parked car. He couldn't see the driver, but saw the dog climb up near the driver's side.

Police say the truck was taken off the road. The driver had left the unoccupied truck running in a nearby parking lot.

Gay-friendly NYC St Patrick's parade to find new focus

VERENA DOBNIK, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The founder of a gay-friendly St. Patrick's Day parade said Saturday that the inclusive celebration will go on even though the city's big St. Patrick's Day procession in Manhattan has dropped

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its ban on gay groups.

St. Pat's for All founder Brendan Fay said he expects 2,000 marchers at Sunday's event in the borough of Queens.

Organizers of the Manhattan parade, on Fifth Avenue, had banned gay groups marching under their own banners. But the groups will be allowed at this year's event, the nation's largest, on March 17.

Fay said, "The original reason for the St. Pat's for All is gone, but it has grown more diverse and more inclusive over the years."

He said the Queens parade will now focus on diversity in all forms. Participants this year include members of several ethnic communities, including Koreans, Mexicans and Puerto Ricans, and poets, artists, musicians and athletes.

The parade will start with a moment of remembrance honoring men and women who spent years fighting for gay rights, especially activists who tried to walk in the Manhattan celebration and were arrested.

Meanwhile on Saturday, Mayor Bill de Blasio, a Democrat, was among the marchers in the Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade in the Rockaways, a waterfront community once known as the Irish Riviera for its large ethnic Irish population.

De Blasio, serving his first term as mayor, had declined to march in the big Manhattan event the last two years, but he said this week he has ended that boycott now that it has fully dropped its longstanding ban on allowing gay and lesbian groups to march under their own banners.

Schools add 'cli-fi' _ climate fiction _ to lit curriculums

WILSON RING, Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Colleges and universities worldwide are incorporating into their curriculums the evolving genre of literature that focuses on the changes coming to Earth as the result of climate change — "cli-fi."

Some of the books and movies now being considered part of the genre are old classics, while others were written more recently in direct response to today's changing climate.

"It's a very, very energized time for this where people in literature have just as much to say as people who are in hard science fields, or technology and design fields, or various social-science approaches to these things," said Jennifer Wicke, an English professor at the University of Virginia who will be teaching a course this June on climate fiction at the Bread Loaf campus of Middlebury College in Ripton, Vermont.

The Bread Loaf School of English is mainly for elementary- and high school-level English teachers who can, in turn, take what they learn back to their classrooms to get their students to understand how literature can reflect current events.

"This course gives them a kind of model for helping to create and imagine English courses that will be particularly relevant to helping the young people whom they teach to understand that reading literature, looking at the arts, looking at film isn't something you do as an aside," said Bread Loaf school Director Emily Bartels, also a professor of English at New Jersey's Rutgers University. "It's something you do as you learn how to navigate your own moment in the 21st century."

Climate fiction, a term that emerged less than a decade ago, is now being discussed by academics across the nation and world. Next month, about three dozen academics are expected to attend a workshop in Germany called "Between Fact and Fiction: Climate Change Fiction," hosted by the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Institute for Advanced Study in the northwestern city of Delmenhorst.

The website for the workshop lists some contemporary examples of books that fit the definition: Barbara Kingsolver's "Flight Behavior," about an Appalachian town to which confused monarch butterflies have migrated; Nathaniel Rich's "Odds Against Tomorrow," the story of a mathematician coping with catastrophe in New York; and Paolo Bacigalupi's "The Water Knife," about water wars in the southwestern United States.

But some of the literature now being recognized as cli-fi was written decades, or even centuries, ago. Some of Shakespeare's works focus on humanity's relationship with nature. Works of fiction such as H.G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds" or "The Time Machine" also fit the profile of climate fiction, Bartels said.

Retired Hampshire College Professor Charlene D'Avanzo, a marine scientist who spends her summers

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in Yarmouth, Maine, is about to publish her first novel, "Cold Blood, Hot Sea," the first of a three-volume series of what she describes as "cli-fi eco-lit novel and amateur sleuth mystery novels" sparked by what she sees as the harassment of scientists studying climate change.

She said that there's much uncertainty in the scientific study of climate change and that readers are more willing to accept uncertainty in fiction. In her first book, the protagonist is an amateur sleuth who investigates the mysterious death of a colleague who was crushed to death by a buoy on a research vessel off Maine.

"You have to make people care," she said.