

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, March 10

Groton Area is the Band of the Day at the State A Tourney in Watertown

SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

State A GBB Tourney in Watertown

Senior Menu: Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rice and raisins, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Jennifer Little, Kerry Tullis. Malorie Harder, Todd Lerew, Alyssa Taylor, Kyleigh Englund

Friday, March 11

SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

State A GBB Tourney in Watertown

Senior Menu: Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, sherbet, whole wheat bread.

Birthday: Nora Rix

Come meet with local hiring businesses!

Discover career opportunities • Meet recruiters • Distribute your resume • Learn about many companies

2016 ABERDEEN AREA JOB FAIR

Thursday, March 17

12:30 – 5 p.m.

Aberdeen Civic Arena
215 S Washington St
Please use West entrance

Sponsored By :

- South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation
- Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce
- Aberdeen Area Human Resource Association
- Aberdeen Development Corporation
- Aberdeen News Company
- Northern State University, Career Development and Placement Center
- Dakota Broadcasting, LLC
- Hub City Radio
- The Training Place

Let the Department of Labor and Regulation help you prepare

Write your resume • Fill out applications • Practice interviewing skills

There is no
cost to attend!

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
USDOL Funded


south dakota department of
labor and
regulation
Your workforce experts.
www.scdjjobs.org
americanjobcenter

For more information:
DLR Aberdeen Local Office
420 S Roosevelt St
605.626.2340



SD-2076330D

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Groton Chiropractic Clinic

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

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Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Coyotes 14, Shih Tzus 14, Chipmunks 12, Jackelopes 9, Pocket Gophers 7, Foxes 4

Men's High Games: Mike Siegler 225, Roger Colestock 220, Ron Belden 211, Brad Larson 206, John Sippel 203, Mike Wiley 202

Women's High Games: Vicki Walter 171, 162, Dar Larson 170, 164, Nicole Kassube 158, Karen Spanier

Men's High Series: Mike Siegler 583, Ron Belden 559, Roger Colestock 559

Women's High Series: Vicki Walter 467, Dar Larson 466, Nicole Kassube 428

Governor Signs Bills Into Law

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed the following bills into law today:

SB 16 – An Act to establish a fee for a nursery license and to increase fees for nursery inspection.

SB 17 – An Act to make an appropriation for costs related to suppression of wildfires in the state and to declare an emergency.

SB 23 – An Act to extend the time allowed for conditional land exchanges.

SB 34 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the chemical testing of commercial drivers.

SB 42 – An Act to increase certain fees for boxing, kickboxing, and mixed martial arts competitions.

SB 50 – An Act to revise the allocation of certain fees collected by the Department of Corrections.

SB 53 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning the bank franchise tax.

SB 55 – An Act to revise certain provisions relating to the HOPE probation program.

SB 59 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the application of the special annual road funding levy.

SB 71 – An Act to revise the provisions regarding the issuance of small game licenses and fishing licenses to certain veterans at reduced fees and to revise certain provisions regarding special pheasant hunts for disabled veterans.

SB 73 – An Act to clarify certain provisions regarding open meetings.

SB 74 – An Act to authorize members of certain governing bodies who are displaced by a natural disaster to continue their term of office.

SB 75 – An Act to establish a grant program for adult community residential services designed to reduce the risk of recidivism, to provide a report to the Legislature, to make an appropriation therefor, and declare an emergency.

SB 150 – An Act to revise provisions related to the legislative intern program.

HB 1119 – An Act to revise the criteria for incorporation of a new municipality.

HB 1120 – An Act to revise the definition of agricultural purposes used for the administration of the sales tax.

HB 1136 – An Act to eliminate the Council on Higher Education Policy Goals, Performance, and Accountability and to transfer its functions to the Legislative Planning Committee.

HB 1188 – An Act to exempt certain operations of school buses from commercial motor vehicle fees.

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!

Arda Mae (Grimes) (Sanderson) Zambo



Arda Mae Grimes was born Feb. 28, 1932 in Aberdeen, S.D. to Lynn and Edna (Sterling) Grimes. At the time of her birth, she was the closest birth to being a leap year baby for Aberdeen. She was one of four children in the family. She grew up with a sister Donna, and two brothers, Forey and Ike. Her early years were spent in Aberdeen, S.D. She still has a copy of a newspaper clipping from 1939 showing her involvement with a dance troupe for the Sons of Norway convention held in Aberdeen. She attended Bristol High School where she had many fond memories of friends and classmates. While in high school she also served as a secretary to the Superintendent to help pay for some of her expenses in high school. In her younger years she always enjoyed riding horses and spending time outside. She graduated as the Salutatorian of her class in 1950 and then married Richard Sanderson and lived many years on a farm near Crandall, S.D. While married to Richard they had three children: Dana, Lynn and Mike. During this time she worked hard on the farm, took care of the house, raised her three children, played softball for fun with a team in Conde and was an active member in the rural community.

She later married Densley Zambo on April 7, 1972 in Milbank and they lived on a farm near Conde, S.D. This marriage provided her with two step

children, Pam and Kathy.

She is remembered for being a good mother, a very hard working and smart farmer, a good cook, a person with outstanding organizational and decision making skills, an excellent bookkeeper with good business sense and always interested in learning more about the world. She was very proud of her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed traveling, spending time with pets around the farm and especially her rescued antelope called Joey, which became a feature news story in Yankton Daily Press & Dakota newspaper. She was instrumental in encouraging her three boys to go on to college so that they could have a better life. She also enjoyed seeing the many friends who stopped by the farm for a cup of coffee and fellowship, seeing high school classmates and relatives at reunions and being a part of community projects. For several years she invested many hours in caring for the Conde Cemetery where her family is buried and enjoyed the friendship of her fellow caretakers as well.

Arda had a good life, filled with many great experiences and good memories. Her life came to an end at the Golden Living Center in Groton on March 9, 2016.

She was preceded in death by her parents Edna and Lynn Grimes, her brothers Forey and Ike Grimes and two sons Mike and Lynn Sanderson.

She is survived by her husband, Densley Zambo of Conde, S.D., her son, Dana (Brenda) Sanderson of Wagner, S.D., her daughter-in-law, Rosemary Sanderson of Conde, her sister, Donna (Warren) Wilkens of Minnesota, two step-daughters, Pam Wiseman of Missouri and Kathy Zambo (Dale Lesmeister) of Eagle Butte, and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The Life of Derald Stange

Derald W. Stange, age 87, of Florence Oregon, formerly of Lebanon Oregon, passed away the morning of Wednesday March 2, 2016 at OHSU Hospital. Derald is survived by Edna, his wife of 59 years, son David Stange (Carol), daughters Linda Brush (Les) and Coral Hutchcraft (Glen), sister, Geraldine Hansen, brothers, Charles Stange, Carl Burke and Robert Burke. Grandchildren, Michelle Stange, Caroline Stange-Foundation, James Buckingham, Greg Buckingham and Cheryl Edwards. Three great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Derald was born April 12, 1929 in Velva North Dakota to William Stange and Emma Bartz, he spent his early life in Stratford South Dakota and Los Angeles California. He joined the Navy at age 17 serving aboard the USS Iowa and USS Columbus. A genetic disease, Leber Hereditary Optical Neuropathy (LHON) took his eyesight at age 21. Derald never let his blindness become a disability and went on to work as a small appliance repairman for Goodwill and Sears, ranch in Eastern Oregon, operate a dairy farm in Minnesota, own a laundromat in California, and retire as a machinist from the Linn Gear Company of Lebanon, Oregon.

Derald enjoyed going to the horse races, fishing, playing cards, traveling and mostly, spending time with his family and friends. He was a joy to know and made everyone he met feel like they were the most important person in the world. He will be missed by all that knew him.

Amanda Katherine Paggett



Memorial service for Amanda Katherine Paggett, 34, of Groton was held Monday, March 7, 2016 at First United Methodist Church at Aberdeen. The Rev. Ross Reinhiller officiated. Burial was in Riverside Memorial Park.

Amanda died Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at her home.

Amanda Katherine Paggett, daughter of Gary and Katherine "Kathy" (Wuertz) Paggett was born January 20, 1982 at Aberdeen. She attended O.M. Tiffany, Holgate and Central High School. She moved to California when she was 15 years old and lived there until the age of 19. While there she attended West Valley College at Cupertino, CA. Amanda returned to South Dakota for a short time. Her daughter, Ingrid was born in 2008. They then moved back to California to live with her mother. In 2011, they moved to Groton.

Amanda loved her daughter and being a part of her life. She was the very best mother she could be. Music and movies were favorite pastimes of hers. She was a member of First United Methodist Church.

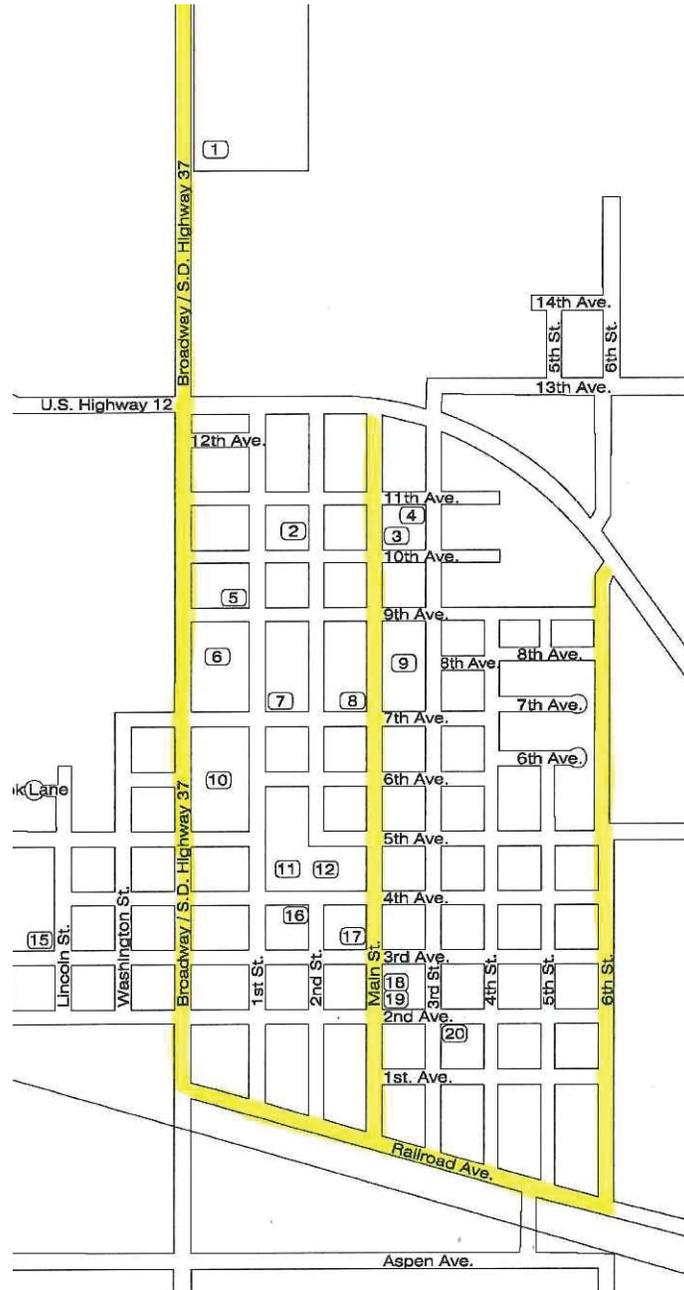
Grateful for having shared Amanda's life are her daughter, Ingrid Katherine Paggett of Groton; mother, Kathy Paggett of Groton; father, Gary Paggett of Aberdeen; maternal grandparents, Robert and Carol Wuertz of Aberdeen; paternal grandparents, Larry Paggett of Sioux Falls and Gloria Pitz of Aberdeen; aunt, Cynthia Paggett Jorgensen and uncle, Jon (Linda Aberle) Paggett.

The family prefers memorials to Ingrid Paggett College Fund, c/o Carol Wuertz, 814 N. Penn St., Aberdeen, SD 57401.

The organist was Mary Beth Kelly.

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Effective March 8th, 2016 until further notice

To Help Preserve Our Streets

GROTON Garbage Pickup Service

Will only be on Railroad Ave, Main St, 6th St, & Hwy 37

Residents of Cottonwood Trailer Park need to take their garbage to Hwy 37.

Residents north of 13th Avenue (Olson and Jacobson Development) need to

bring their garbage to the Bus Barns.

Please bring your garbage bags & cans to these streets for Tuesday pickup

Thank you for your cooperation!!

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Today in Weather History

March 10, 2005: High winds of 35 to 45 mph with gusts to near 70 mph occurred across all of central and northeast South Dakota from early morning to early evening. The high winds overturned a semi-truck near Mound City; knocked a large branch down onto a pickup truck in Selby; blew a glass door off a store in Clark; tore a sign down in Aberdeen; and ripped the roof off a mobile home in South Shore.

March 10, 2009: A strong low pressure system tracking across the panhandle of Oklahoma into the Great Lakes region produced moderate to heavy snow across northeast South Dakota from the morning to the evening of the 10th. Strong north to northwest winds gusting to 45 mph resulted in blizzard conditions. Travel became difficult, if not, impossible across northeast South Dakota. Interstate 29 between Watertown and the North Dakota border was closed for several hours. Several minor accidents occurred along with some injuries. Snowfall amounts included; 3 inches near Milbank; 4 inches near Columbia, Summit, and at Sisseton; 5 inches at Waubay and Wilmot; 6 inches 10 miles northeast of Sisseton, Britton, and Roy Lake; 7 inches in Webster and Westport.

Bitter cold air filtered in behind the low pressure system bringing record cold to the area. On the 11th, Aberdeen and Sisseton broke their record low highs for the date with afternoon highs only reaching zero. The record at Aberdeen had been in place since 1896. Sisseton also set a record low of 14 degrees below zero on March 12th.

1884: John Park Finley issued the first experimental tornado prediction. Finley had studied the atmospheric parameters that were present during previous tornadoes. Many of these same criteria are still used by operational forecasters today. But use of tornado forecasts would be banned just a few years later, and would remain banned until 1952.

1986: Severe thunderstorms and tornadoes hit Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. A total of 19 tornadoes occurred. Three of the tornadoes in Indiana reached F3 intensity. A densely populated subdivision of southeast Lexington, Kentucky was heavily damaged by a tornado. Twenty people were injured and 900 homes were damaged or demolished. A very strong thunderstorm downburst hit the Cincinnati area. At the Greater Cincinnati Airport, windows were blown out of the control tower, injuring the six controllers on duty. At Newport, Kentucky, 120 houses were destroyed from winds estimated from 100 to 140 mph.

1989: Thirty-four cities in the central and southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The high of 85 degrees at Hanksville, Utah was a record for March, and Pueblo, Colorado equaled their March record of 86 degrees. Hill City, Kansas warmed from a morning low of 30 degrees to an afternoon high of 89 degrees.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Patchy Fog then Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Chance Showers	Chance Showers
High: 59 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 39 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 64 °F

Through Next Week

				
Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
	Breezy With Record Highs	Record Highs	Scattered Showers	
Highs: Mid 50s to Mid 60s	Highs: 70s	Highs: Around 70	Highs: 60s	Highs: 60s

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen

National Weather Service Aberdeen

@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 3/10/2016 4:53 AM Central

Published on: 03/10/2016 at 4:57AM

Temperatures will be much above normal to record levels over the next few days. We could even see our first 80 degree readings Friday! Mostly dry conditions will prevail as well.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 40.4 at 4:28 PM

Low: 24.1 at 11:55 PM

High Gust: 14 at 1:23 AM

Precip: 0.35

Today's Info

Record High: 68° in 1911

Record Low: -24 in 1948

Average High: 37°F

Average Low: 18°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.30

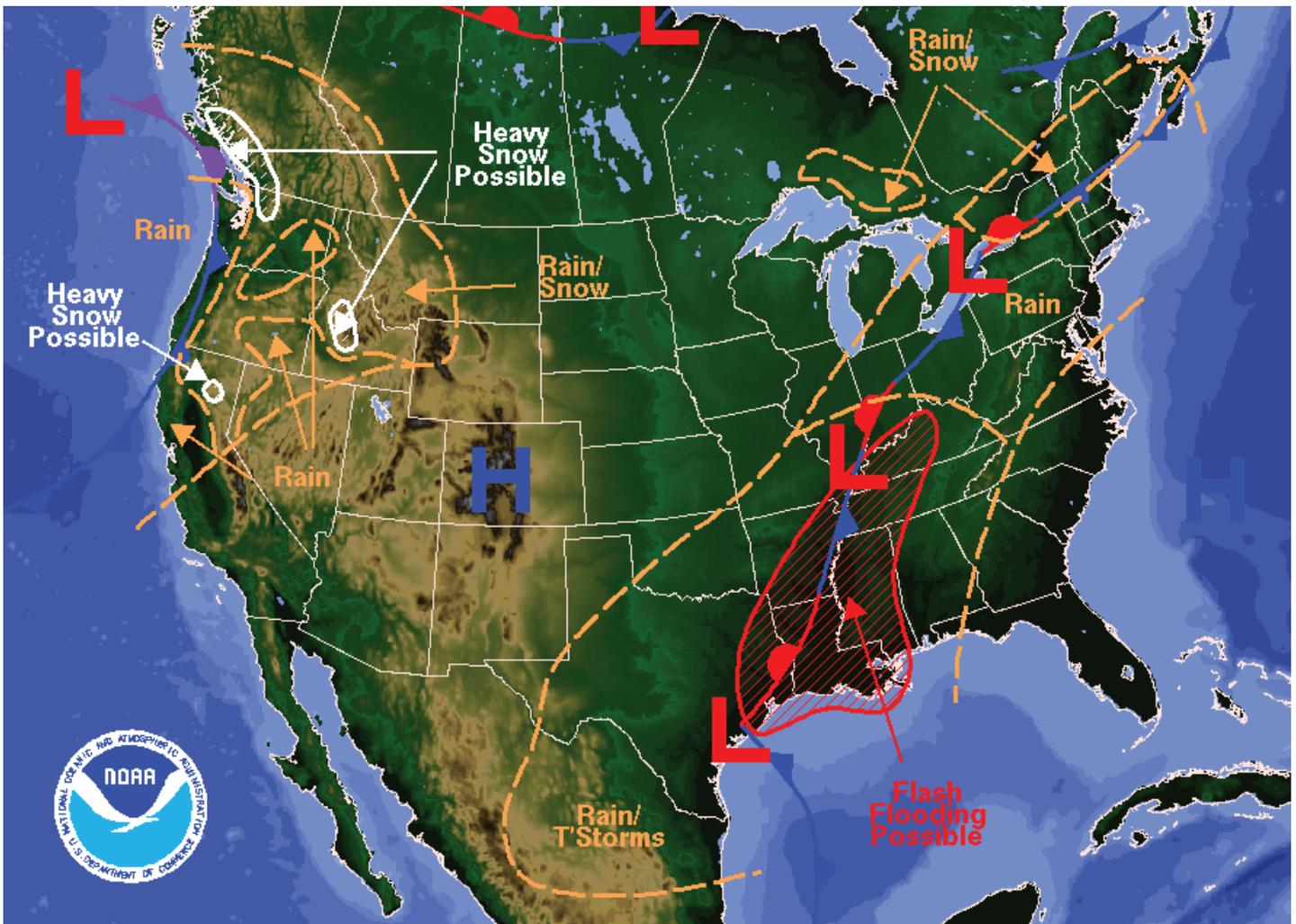
Precip to date in March.: 0.35

Average Precip to date: 1.32

Precip Year to Date: 0.95

Sunset Tonight: 6:33 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:52 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Mar 10, 2016, issued 4:04 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



HANDICAPS

One of the world's greatest speakers from ancient Greece was Demosthenes even though he was born with a severe speech defect. To overcome his problem he would practice speaking with small pebbles in his mouth. After years of practice he overcame his difficulty.

The Apostle Paul said of himself: "I did not come with eloquence..." my "bodily presence is weak and (my) speech contemptible..." and "though my condition put you to the test you did not scorn or despise me." Yet he was and is recognized as one of the greatest missionaries, theologians and teachers who ever lived.

Handicapped? Have problems? Lacking in skills and talents? Need to improve on the gifts God has given you? Listen to Jesus: "My grace is all you need, for my power is strongest when you are weak."

When we look at ourselves and feel inadequate, we need to turn our thoughts to God and realize that we are His handiwork. He has important work for each of us to do. But we must be willing to give our all to Him and let Him work His miracles through us.

Prayer: Help me, Father, to take what You have given me, work with it, and use it to honor You in all that I do. You have been gracious in what You have given me, and I give it back to You for Your glory. Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Rapid City toddlers crash car into parked bus, escape injury

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A 2-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl escaped injury when they somehow managed to drive a car into a parked bus in Rapid City.

Police say the toddlers on Wednesday morning somehow got behind the wheel of the car, which crashed into a YMCA bus.

It wasn't immediately clear how the incident happened, but police spokesman Brendyn Medina told the Rapid City Journal that authorities did not find any adult negligence other than not having car insurance.

The amount of damage to the car and bus was not immediately known.

City of Pierre installing LED light fixtures throughout city

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Electricians from the city of Pierre are installing new LED street light fixtures to brighten South Dakota's capital city.

Officials say the new fixtures produce a whiter light and use about 45 percent less energy than the traditional fixtures they are replacing.

City Electrical Superintendent Ryan Grant says the city anticipates tens of thousands of dollars in savings during the lifespan of the fixtures. They also have a life span of 50,000 hours — five times the life span of the old lights.

LED lights have already been installed on Governors Drive, North Harrison Avenue near Kennedy Elementary, Historic Pierre Street, and Dakota Avenue.

The city's electrical utility serves more than 7,300 customers.

Legislature sends 20-week abortion ban measure to governor

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill that would outlaw non-emergency abortions in South Dakota at or beyond 20 weeks of pregnancy is headed to Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

The Senate voted 26-7 on Wednesday to accept changes the House made to the bill.

The proposed ban is based on the disputed premise that a fetus can feel pain at that stage.

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has gathered evidence that fetal pain is unlikely until weeks later.

The proposal offers some exemptions for women in medical emergencies, but not in cases of rape or incest.

A spokeswoman for Daugaard has said he is against abortion, but is reserving judgment on the bill until it reaches his desk.

The Guttmacher Institute, an abortion rights nonprofit, says South Dakota currently limits abortions at 24 weeks.

Woman pleads not guilty to involuntary manslaughter in crash

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota woman has pleaded not guilty to an involuntary manslaughter charge stemming from accusations that she caused a fatal crash when she was using her cellphone while driving on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The office of the U.S. Attorney in South Dakota on Wednesday said 26-year-old Sophia Janis entered her plea Friday. The Porcupine resident was indicted last month. She faces up to eight years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 if convicted.

Authorities say Janis failed to yield to oncoming traffic at an intersection on July 30 while she was driving between Wounded Knee and Pine Ridge. Authorities say Janis was checking a website on her cellphone

when the incident happened, killing a woman.

Janis's attorney didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Daugaard: STAR Academy juvenile facility to close in April

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A state-run juvenile corrections facility near Custer that has seen a significant decline in population in recent years is going to be shut down in April, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Wednesday.

The average daily population of youth in STAR Academy programs has dropped precipitously from 166 in budget year 2007, Daugaard said in a statement. Five youth offenders were there on Wednesday, said Kristi Bunkers, director of juvenile services at the Department of Corrections.

Likewise, the juvenile population under the Department of Corrections' jurisdiction has been cut in half over the last decade, Daugaard said.

An overhaul of the state's juvenile justice system approved by lawmakers last legislative session that is aimed at decreasing the number of youth offenders in state-sponsored care is expected to contribute to that trend into the future.

Bunkers said about 460 youths are currently committed to the Department of Corrections. Though STAR Academy is closing, the state has contracts with 20 private providers — 10 in state and 10 outside of South Dakota — where juvenile offenders can be sent if necessary, she said.

The governor's office says about \$6 million annually is allocated under the overhaul to juvenile community-based programs across South Dakota. The programs are meant to allow youth offenders to stay in their communities while addressing issues such as drug abuse, anti-social tendencies and family challenges.

The body of research on successfully rehabilitating juvenile offenders emphasizes keeping young people with their families and in their schools, said Sarah Bryer, director of the National Juvenile Justice Network in Washington, D.C.

The South Dakota overhaul shifts priorities toward committing only violent and more serious offenders and using diversion options for others.

"We're no longer locking up kids that we're frustrated with, but the kids that present a significant public safety threat," Bunkers said.

Corrections Secretary Denny Kaemingk said the impending closure comes with "mixed emotion." The department's goals are to see fewer commitments, a lower recidivism rate and more community resources, but it's a "sad day" for employees at STAR Academy, he said.

The 64 employees working there were given layoff notices. Some staff members are expected to remain into June to finish up administrative and security duties for closing the campus.

It will take some time and staff to keep the facility in working order until the state decides what to do with the property, Jim Seward, general counsel to Daugaard, said in a statement.

The Department of Corrections has made adjustments as the population at STAR Academy has dropped. The agency in 2015 closed the East Campus for girls in Custer State Park and consolidated programs at the West Campus.

Hospitality company buys South Dakota land from Costner

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A hospitality company has bought from actor Kevin Costner 103 acres in the Old West gambling town of Deadwood in western South Dakota's Black Hills.

The Ramkota Companies Inc. bought land that includes the site of the ill-fated Dunbar casino resort, a \$100 million project that would have included a golf course and a steam-powered passenger train.

The land is in two parcels on each side of U.S. Highway 85. The hospitality company plans to build a resort with hotel, cabins, conference center, indoor water park and restaurant and lounge. The company says it will take five years to complete.

Costner filmed much of his Academy Award-winning movie "Dances with Wolves" in South Dakota. The Dunbar casino, named for Costner's movie character, Lt. John J. Dunbar, never materialized.

Lawmakers approve overhaul of education funding formula

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Legislature has sent to Gov. Dennis Daugaard an overhaul of South Dakota's education funding formula to incorporate the half-cent sales tax increase that lawmakers recently approved for teacher pay.

The Senate voted 25-10 on Wednesday to accept changes the House made to the bill.

Daugaard's office says the new funding system would improve accountability over today's formula. The proposal would base the funding system on a target average teacher salary of \$48,500 and target student-teacher ratios for schools.

Daugaard's Chief of Staff Tony Venhuizen (VEHN'-hy-zuhn) has said the measure will make it easier to have a good public discussion about how school dollars are spent.

The Legislature also approved a proposal Monday aimed at improving school efficiency that's part of the package of education changes.

Leader of Western governors: Change endangered species plan

DAN ELLIOTT, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The nation needs to change the way it protects endangered species because the current practice is bogged down in lawsuits and weakened by mistrust, the head of the Western Governors Association said Wednesday.

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead said Wednesday the problem is nationwide and that he hopes to build bipartisan support for changes in the federal Endangered Species Act, the primary tool for protecting species on the brink of extinction.

He stopped short of suggesting specific changes but said yearslong legal battles frustrate landowners, local governments and industry and eat up resources that could be used to protect other other species.

Mead, a Republican serving a one-year term as chairman of the Western Governors Association, said the problem is partly in the law itself and partly in the way it's put into practice. Deciding whether to protect a species is nearly always a long, contentious struggle because federal intervention can result in rules that limit oil and gas drilling, mining, agriculture and other land uses.

"I don't think it's collapsing, but I do think there's definite chinks," Mead said after speaking to wildlife managers, conservationists and business interests meeting in Denver to review how well the Endangered Species Act works. Mead directed the Western Governors Association to conduct the review.

Mead's initiative comes as southwestern states are battling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over re-introducing endangered Mexican gray wolves in Arizona and New Mexico, and the federal government is attempting to lift protection from grizzly bears around Yellowstone National Park.

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat, agreed that decisions about protecting individual species drag on too long with no definitive conclusion. "There's got to be a point ... where we can declare victory," he said.

Hickenlooper, who also spoke at Wednesday's gathering, declined to say whether the law needs major or minor changes.

Eric Holst of the Environmental Defense Fund agreed the process of protecting species should be faster and less complicated, but he said changes could be made without rewriting the law.

"We believe that the law has sufficient flexibility in it to solve some of the legitimate problems that folks in this forum (in Denver) have pointed out," he said.

Mead and Hickenlooper cited a sweeping conservation effort just getting under way to save the greater sage grouse as a model for how endangered species can be protected with support and guidance from a wide range of interest groups.

The federal government decided in September not to list the ground-dwelling sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act, instead opting for new rules and land use policies for federal lands.

The birds, known for their elaborate mating ritual, range across a 257,000-square-mile region spanning

11 states.

Environmental groups, mining companies, ranchers and some state governments have filed multiple lawsuits challenging the conservation plan, arguing it either goes too far or not far enough.

Mead said such protected legal battles threaten to leave residents and state and local officials disillusioned.

Mead also argued that court challenges make it too difficult to remove a species from protection, even if it has recovered. Since the Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973, only 1.4 percent of the 2,200 protected species have been removed from the list because they have recovered, he said.

He pointed to wolves, which were briefly removed from federal protection in Wyoming but then put then returned to protected status after environmental groups filed lawsuits challenging state management plans.

"You have to have a way to reach the goal line," Mead said.

North Dakota regulators OK Xcel Energy settlement refund

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Xcel Energy customers in North Dakota will get a refund as part of an ongoing settlement in the utility's dispute with the federal government over the storage of spent nuclear fuel.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission on Wednesday approved the refund, which totals about \$700,000 and will average about \$3 per customer.

The Minneapolis-based utility had extra costs because the U.S. Department of Energy did not remove spent fuel from two Minnesota nuclear plants by a 1998 deadline.

Xcel reached a \$100 million settlement in 2011 with the federal government over costs the company incurred. Xcel has since refunded money to its customers in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and the Dakotas.

North Dakota Xcel customers have been credited or reimbursed about \$11 million to date, or about \$47 per customer.

Too many turkeys: Staten Island calls foul over bird woes

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is tackling a turkey problem on Staten Island.

CBS New York (<http://cbsloc.al/1pyYCFK>) says residents are tired of turkeys trotting through traffic.

Turkey troubles have plagued one intersection for eight years.

City Councilman Steve Matteo says "the novelty's worn off."

Resident Marina DiNatale says she likes nature, but enough is enough.

Turkeys also have invaded the grounds of Staten Island University Hospital. Matteo says there are concerns that people could have bird droppings on their shoes when they enter the hospital.

The USDA will round up 100 turkeys and take them to a sanctuary upstate.

Officials close Ohio high school after finding bed bugs

ALLIANCE, Ohio (AP) — A northeastern Ohio high school is closed after officials say they found four bed bugs in the building.

Jeffery Talbert, superintendent of Alliance City Schools, said the decision to close the school Thursday was a precautionary measure to put people at ease.

The Review reports (<http://bit.ly/1QOE1Us>) a Canton pest control company has treated the school twice in the past week.

Talbert says the situation is not considered an infestation and says there's no sign of the bugs in other district buildings. Classes are set to resume Friday.

Bed bugs are parasites that prefer warm areas including bedrooms and feed on blood. Their bites can cause itching and welts.

Who's best for Hispanics? Clinton, Sanders debate

NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

LISA LERER, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Fighting for Florida and beyond, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders tangled in an intense debate over who's the true friend of American Hispanics, trading accusations over guest worker programs "akin to slavery" and the embracing of "vigilantes" against immigrants.

They had even worse things to say about Republican front-runner Donald Trump.

Facing off Thursday evening, just six days before Florida gives its verdict on the presidential race, Clinton faulted Sanders for repeatedly voting against a 2007 comprehensive immigration reform bill; he faulted her for opposing a 2007 effort to let people who were in the country illegally obtain driver's licenses.

Had the immigration package passed back then, Clinton said, "a lot of the issues we are still discussing today would be in the rearview mirror."

Sanders retorted that he opposed the legislation because it included a guest worker program "akin to slavery."

The debate opened with a question that appeared to startle Clinton.

Univision's Jorge Ramos asked her if she would drop out of the race if indicted over the handling of her email while secretary of state.

"Oh for goodness, that is not going to happen," Clinton declared. "I'm not even answering that question."

The FBI is investigating the possibility that Clinton mishandled sensitive information that passed through her private email server.

Sanders, as he has in the past, declined to bite on the issue, saying, "The process will take its course." He said he'd rather talk about the issues of wealth and income inequality.

Both candidates were bidding for momentum after Sanders surprised Clinton with an upset victory in Michigan on Tuesday.

Clinton stressed that she has a strong lead in the delegates, declaring, "This is a marathon, and it is a marathon that can only be carried by the kind of campaign I am running."

Sanders said his Michigan surprise was evidence that his message is resonating.

"We are going to continue to do extremely well," he said, adding that he expects to convince superdelegates who are backing Clinton to switch to his column.

Immigration commanded considerable attention for good reason: Florida is home to nearly 1.8 million Hispanics, including about 15 percent of the state's Democrats.

Hispanic voters have made up about 10 percent of voters in the Democratic primaries so far this year, and Clinton has been getting about two-thirds of their votes to about one-third for Sanders. The Vermont senator stresses that he's making progress on winning over younger Hispanics.

Clinton at one point accused Sanders of supporting legislation that would have led to indefinite detention of people facing deportation, and for standing with Minutemen vigilantes. He called that notion "ridiculous" and "absurd," and accused Clinton of picking small pieces out of big legislative packages to distort his voting record.

"No, I do not support vigilantes and that is a horrific statement and an unfair statement to make," he said.

For all the disagreements, the overall tone of the candidates was considerably less tense than their Sunday faceoff. Sanders even paused at one point to make fun of his own pronunciation of "huge" as "yuge."

Both found agreement in pointing to GOP front-runner Trump as markedly worse on immigration than either of them.

Clinton mocked Trump's plan for a wall on the Mexican border, saying he'd build "the most beautiful tall wall, better than the great wall of China" to be "magically" paid for by Mexico. That, she said, is a fantasy.

Sanders said that in the immigration debate "we do not, as Donald Trump and others have done, resort to racism and xenophobia and bigotry."

There were any number of areas of agreement, including the need to reduce student loan debt. Sanders said he'd come up with a plan "many months before she did."

"Thanks for copying a very good idea," he said.

The candidates squared off soon after a testy debate in Michigan on Sunday in which they argued about

trade and economic issues of particular interest in the industrial Midwest.

With Missouri, Illinois and Ohio among the states that will be voting on Tuesday, the candidates returned to a pointed matter they'd already argued about three days earlier, scuffling over Sanders' vote against 2009 legislation that bailed out the auto industry, among others. Sanders said he opposed the bill because it also bailed out big banks that had fueled the recession to begin with. Clinton stressed she'd made a different judgment to side with the automakers.

Overall, 691 delegates are at stake on Tuesday, including 214 in Florida, which awards its delegates proportionally.

Clinton has won 762 pledged delegates compared to 549 for Sanders, with 10 delegates from recent primaries still to be allocated. When superdelegates are included, Clinton leads 1,223 to 574, more than halfway to the 2,383 needed to win the Democratic nomination.

More rain for an already soaked northern Louisiana

GERALD HERBERT, Associated Press

CHEVEL JOHNSON, Associated Press

BOSSIER CITY, La. (AP) — Thousands had been evacuated by Thursday morning as a second round of rain hit an already inundated northern Louisiana, where flooding in some places was up to the rooftops and in others submerged cars, stranded families.

Three people drowned in Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana.

In Bienville Parish, authorities said a man died and a woman was being treated for injuries after their car was swept off a flooded Louisiana road Wednesday and into a creek. In rural southeastern Oklahoma, a 30-year-old man drowned Tuesday night after trying to drive his SUV across a low-crossing bridge covered by floodwater. In Texas, a 22-year-old man drowned Monday night after his canoe capsized in Dickinson Bayou, southeast of Houston near Galveston Bay.

In Bossier City, 3,500 homes were evacuated as a precaution because a bayou was approaching the top of its levee. National Weather Service meteorologist Jason Hansford said Thursday morning that the bayou may top the levee or be breached.

Heavy rain continued across much of north Louisiana on Wednesday night and early Thursday morning with another 3 inches, Hansford said.

State police report several sections of Interstate 20 were closed from Bossier City to near Gibsland in north central Louisiana.

The forecast is for the rain to end by Friday afternoon. Flash flood watches remained in effect for areas from Port O'Connor, Texas, to near Springfield, Illinois.

Air Force Tech Sgt. Drew Scott and another military friend brought in a boat Wednesday to help evacuate up to 200 mobile homes in the Pecan Valley Estates community in Bossier Parish. Scott said he had gone in his truck earlier Wednesday to pick up his in-laws but couldn't get into the park.

"Water, coming up from the Flat River, was waist deep or higher and going into the houses. There were lots of cars flooded out. At the deepest point, I'd say, it was up to my chest and I'm 6 feet," he said.

Scott said he and his friend assisted the sheriff's office, firefighters and others in getting those who were stranded out of harm's way.

"When things like this happen, people start helping others and that helps restore faith in the country and humanity," he said. "That's the way I was raised and the way I raise my family. I would hope that if the shoe was on the other foot and I needed help that someone would do the same for me."

Sharon Anderson, her three children and four grandchildren were rescued from her south Bossier Parish mobile home after rising water threatened to trap them. Several other families already had been trapped, and the water was still rising, she said.

"This morning it was touching the bottom of the houses," she said. "Now the steps on my back porch are under water, and if you walk down the driveway, it's over the knee."

Anderson said they were pretty much surrounded by the water. The road into the area is flooded and

another outlet that has a bridge is closed because of water.

"We're literally trapped," Anderson said. "You have to get a boat to get to our doors in this neighborhood."

Several Louisiana parishes have declared a state of emergency, and the National Guard was sent in to help.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards issued the order affecting Acadia, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, Desoto, East Carroll, Grant, Lincoln, Morehouse, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Union, Webster and West Carroll parishes after nearly a foot of rain fell Tuesday night and Wednesday.

Louisiana State Police closed a section of Interstate 20 near Gibsland after both the eastbound and westbound lanes were covered with a foot of water, making the road impassible.

Meteorologist Matthew Duplantis of the National Weather Service in Shreveport said Wednesday rain brought an additional 2 to 4 inches to the area.

Northwestern State University's campuses in Natchitoches and Shreveport will be closed Thursday due to weather conditions, as are Bossier Parish public schools.

Over southeast Louisiana, including the New Orleans metro area, forecasters say the slow-moving low pressure system was expected to bring a few rounds of heavy rainfall beginning Thursday morning and continue through early Saturday. Rainfall totals could reach 10 inches in some areas and could result in some flooding.

Ohio woman receives HS diploma at 93; marriage foiled degree

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — A 93-year-old Ohio woman has received the high school diploma she was denied because of rules that expelled married students.

Dorothy Liggett was a few weeks from graduation from Akron's North High School in 1942 when officials discovered she was married.

The Akron Beacon Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/1LTmUnE>) that Akron Superintendent David James hand-delivered the diploma to Liggett in suburban Fairlawn on Wednesday as part of a surprise ceremony.

Liggett's daughter Janice Larkin had written James about her mother. James said it was wrong that Liggett was denied the diploma after being a good student all her years in school.

Liggett and her late husband, John Huston, ran away to Kentucky to get married after her husband was called into the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

Search on for suspects in Pa. shooting that left 5 dead

WILKINSBURG, Pa. (AP) — Police were searching early Thursday for at least two gunmen who opened fire during a backyard party in suburban Pittsburgh, killing five people and wounding three others.

Four women and a man were killed late Wednesday during the party in Wilkesburg. Allegheny County police said people scrambled toward the house as bullets began flying. Four of the victims were found dead on the back porch. The other died at a hospital.

Two men were in critical condition and a woman was stable, police said.

Lt. Andrew Schurman of the Allegheny County homicide unit said the gunmen barged into the party just before 11 p.m. and opened fire in an ambush-style attack. He said gunshots came from two distinct locations, but police don't believe anyone at the party fired back.

"It looks like right now they were all fleeing toward the backdoor of the residence when the second gunman fired from the side of the yard," he said. "They all seemed to get caught on the back porch."

The suspects fled on foot.

Wilkesburg is a poorer, largely blighted suburb just east of Pittsburgh that is known for drug trafficking and gun violence. But, neighbors described the street on which the shooting occurred as generally quiet and expressed shock.

Resident Kayla Alexander told WPXI-TV that she heard a barrage of gunshots — more than 20.

After the shooting, groups of residents gathered on the street, some of them sobbing and saying they lost family members.

James Boyd, 70, has lived in a home three doors away from the shooting for 24 years. He told the Pitts-

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burgh Post-Gazette that the gunfire “went on for almost a minute.”

“I thought it was maybe the pipes bursting. But then we realized it was gunshots. We’ve had trouble in this neighborhood before but never this close to home,” Boyd said. “I’ve never seen anything like this before.”

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. TRUMP PIVOTS TO GENERAL ELECTION IN HIS OWN UNORTHODOX WAY

The over-the-top billionaire is forecasting flexibility on his hardline immigration policies, pledging to moderate his often bullying tone.

2. CLINTON, SANDERS TANGLE OVER WHO IS BEST FOR HISPANICS AHEAD OF FLORIDA PRIMARY

The Democratic rivals traded accusations over their immigration stances, and Clinton batted aside a question on whether she would drop out of the race if indicted over her handling of the email controversy.

3. HOW SERIOUS ARE THE TENSIONS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Despite North Korea’s threats, missile launches and nuclear bomb test, the current state of affairs is not even close to past standoffs between the Koreans.

4. WHO WILL DINE ON COLORADO LAMB AT WHITE HOUSE

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau brings his famous name and hopes of strengthening ties with the Obama administration on a high-profile visit to Washington.

5. FUKUSHIMA CLEAN-UP WORKERS FROM BOTTOM OF CASTE-LIKE CONTRACTOR SYSTEM

The 26,000 men are vulnerable to exploitation, and Japan’s government is not making sure their radiation levels are individually tested.

6. AUNG SAN SUU KYI WILL NOT BE MYANMAR’S NEXT PRESIDENT

Unofficially the Nobel laureate has vowed to be the de-facto leader by calling the shots from behind the scenes, but her party nominated two Suu Kyi loyalists for president.

7. FIVE PEOPLE KILLED IN AMBUSH-STYLE SHOOTING IN SUBURBAN PITTSBURGH

At least two gunmen are at large, and the motive for the shooting at a backyard party is unknown.

8. WHERE SOME HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE GETTING MEDICAL CARE

Physicians like Brett Feldman of Pennsylvania treat the homeless where they live, a health care niche known as street medicine that could become more mainstream.

9. HOW TO PLAY THE ANCIENT CHINESE BOARD GAME OF GO

The rules of the game that is the focus of a man-vs-machine battle are beautifully simple, but actually playing it is not.

10. SUPER BOWL CHAMPS FIND THEMSELVES SCRAMBLING FOR A QB

Denver Broncos GM John Elway has a huge hole to fill with Brock Osweiler bolting to the Houston Texans just days after Peyton Manning’s retirement.

Anti-Trump Republicans come to terms with Cruz nomination

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Anxious Republican officials are coming to terms with the idea that their second least favorite GOP presidential candidate — polarizing Texas conservative Ted Cruz — may be the party’s best last chance to stop Donald Trump.

Possible Cruz supporters include reluctant Senate colleagues and former presidential rivals with strong ties to major donors, who have long feared Cruz’s purist ideology but dread the prospect of a Trump nomination even more. The first-term Texas senator on Wednesday announced the backing of one former primary opponent, Carly Fiorina, and is seeking the backing of another, Jeb Bush, on Thursday.

“It’s an outsider year, and the most logical person to take on Trump based on past performance is Ted Cruz,” said another former presidential opponent, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham. Earlier in the year,

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Graham likened the choice between Cruz and Trump to "being shot or poisoned."

"He's not my preference," Graham said of Cruz. "But we are where we are. And if Trump wins Florida and Ohio, I don't know if we can stop him."

Indeed, next Tuesday's winner-take-all contests in Florida and Ohio have injected a sense of urgency into the GOP's anti-Trump movement.

The billionaire businessman is calling on mainstream Republicans to unify behind his candidacy ahead of next week's primaries, which could give him an insurmountable delegate lead.

"If I win those two, I think it's over," Trump told CNN's "Anderson Cooper's 360."

"Instead of fighting it, they should embrace it," he added on Fox News Channel.

Bush planned to confer with all the candidates — save Trump — ahead of Thursday's GOP debate. He met privately with Florida Sen. Marco Rubio on Wednesday, and planned to meet with Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich on Thursday.

Bush and Trump engaged in heated confrontations throughout Bush's campaign, repeatedly referring to each other as "loser."

The GOP establishment's overwhelming favorite, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, picked up where Bush left off, but struggled badly in Tuesday's round of primary contests, failing to pick up a single delegate. Trump won three of the contests and Cruz won one.

Now, in the midst of a weeklong march through Florida to save his candidacy, Rubio concedes that he went too far in insulting Trump.

"My kids were embarrassed by it and if I had it to do over again I wouldn't," Rubio said on MSNBC Wednesday night.

Rubio's weak standing has forced some of his supporters to consider Cruz.

"I could see myself as a Cruz supporter," Nevada Sen. Dean Heller, a Rubio supporter, said Wednesday. "I agree with Cruz 80 percent of the time. There are things I don't agree with him on, but if we are agreeing 80 percent of the time and he's a conservative, we are going to get along just fine."

Still, no Republican senator has endorsed Cruz, who called Majority Leader Mitch McConnell a liar and helped engineer the 16-day partial government shutdown in 2013. Half a dozen Senate Republicans said Wednesday that they hadn't heard from either Trump or Cruz.

Trump has one Senate endorsement, from Alabama's Jeff Sessions, while Rubio has endorsements from 14 senators.

Fiorina, though, offered Cruz an immediate dose of credibility with his party's skeptical donor class. She told a Miami crowd on Wednesday that she's "horrified" by Trump.

"The truth is that Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are two sides of the same coin," she charged, standing alongside Cruz. "It is time now to unite behind the one man who can beat Donald Trump, who can beat Hillary Clinton."

In the latest Democratic debate, Clinton and Bernie Sanders tangled Wednesday night over who's a true advocate for Latinos.

Facing off just six days before Florida's primary, Clinton faulted Sanders for repeatedly voting against a 2007 comprehensive immigration reform bill; he faulted her for opposing a 2007 effort to allow people who were in the country illegally to obtain driver's licenses.

Sanders surprised Clinton with a win Tuesday night in Michigan, a victory that breathed new life into his White House bid. But Clinton, who won Mississippi, padded her delegate lead and is now halfway to the number needed to clinch the nomination.

On the Republican side, things are far more chaotic.

"The Republican establishment is in its death throes," said longtime tea party leader Mark Meckler. "The only remaining candidates are 100 percent anti-establishment."

Super Bowl champs find themselves scrambling for a QB

ARNIE STAPLETON, AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — John Elway is scrambling again.

The general manager of the Super Bowl champions has a huge hole to fill with Brock Osweiler bolting to the Houston Texans 48 hours after Peyton Manning's retirement.

That leaves Trevor Siemian as the only quarterback on the Denver Broncos' roster. The second-year pro from Northwestern has taken just one NFL snap, a kneel-down at that.

If Elway's sweating it, he's certainly not showing it.

"We've stayed true to our philosophy of building a team with players who want to be Denver Broncos and want to be here. That's been a successful approach for us," Elway said. "While we did offer a very competitive and fair long-term contract to Brock, we ultimately had to remain disciplined while continuing to assemble a roster that can compete for championships."

So, now the man who famously declared there was no Plan B when he lured Manning to Denver four years ago must find a passer who will defend Denver's title in 2016.

"We've now turned our attention to other options at quarterback and we are confident that we'll find the right player and person for our team," Elway said. "Our organization thanks Brock for his contributions and wishes him all the best."

Elway could turn to free agents such as Robert Griffin III or Ryan Fitzpatrick — whose agent, Jimmy Sexton, also represents Osweiler. Or he could pursue a trade — Colin Kaepernick, anyone? He'll almost certainly select a quarterback in the early rounds of next month's draft, too.

Osweiler made \$660,000 last year and Denver offered him about \$16 million a year. ESPN reported Osweiler's four-year deal with the Texans is worth \$18 million annually with \$37 million guaranteed.

"Shocked," tweeted Broncos cornerback Chris Harris Jr. "I thought Brock wanted to play with us lol"

Instead, he'll play against them — the Texans are among the teams that'll visit Denver next season when the Broncos become the sixth team to open defense of its Super Bowl championship with a new QB under center.

They're the first to lose their top two quarterbacks and face this level of uncertainty.

The Broncos also will have to replace defensive end Malik Jackson, who went to Jacksonville for six years and \$90 million, and linebacker Danny Trevathan, the leading tackler on the league's No. 1 defense, who rejoined John Fox in Chicago on a four-year deal worth \$28 million.

They have in-house candidates for those vacancies.

In the midst of the big Broncos breakup Wednesday, Denver did agree to a three-year deal with versatile tackle Donald Stephenson, who spent his first four seasons with the Chiefs, to bolster its offensive line.

The Broncos knew they'd lose several key members of their team after beating the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl 50, although Osweiler's price tag took may by surprise.

Elway's main offseason priority was keeping Von Miller, so he placed the exclusive franchise tag on his star linebacker. That bought him more time to work out a long-term deal with the Super Bowl MVP — and paved the way for Osweiler's big payday.

Osweiler's value skyrocketed when Kirk Cousins and Sam Bradford re-signed with their respective teams in recent days, leaving Osweiler as the top QB available, and then the Texans decided he was their man.

Osweiler served as Manning's apprentice for 3 1/2 years, then went 5-2 when Manning was sidelined with a torn ligament in his left foot last season.

Manning worked his way back into shape with the help of an orthotics guru who set up shop in his garage and stealthy workouts with practice squad receiver Jordan Taylor and sidelined tight end Jeff Heuerman. Finally, Manning was summoned from the bench in the third quarter of the season finale against San Diego when Denver's offense sputtered under Osweiler. Manning led a comeback that secured the AFC's top playoff seed and coach Gary Kubiak named him the starter for the playoffs.

Although he was disappointed at being demoted, Osweiler pledged his full support for Manning and Kubiak. At the Super Bowl, Osweiler provided encouragement on the sideline as Manning struggled, com-

pleting just 13 passes for 141 yards.

Thanks to Denver's dominant defense, it was enough.

And in the aftermath of Denver's win, Elway said he wanted Osweiler back, proclaiming: "We wouldn't have been world champs without Brock."

Denver's recent offer sat for several days without a reply, however, and another ominous sign came Monday when Osweiler was a no-show at Manning's farewell news conference.

Osweiler was the only quarterback ever drafted with the explicit intent of one day succeeding the icon the late Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams dubbed "the Great Peyton Manning."

Instead, he's replacing Brian Hoyer.

Nancy Reagan begins final journey to husband's side

JOHN ROGERS, Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — From quiet, tearful individuals to multigenerational families, more than 3,000 people passed by the casket of Nancy Reagan to pay their respects in the first day of a public viewing.

Roy Dillard, who at 80 was typical of the age of most of the visitors, also brought two of his daughters and his 3-year-old great-granddaughter to honor the legacy of what he called "the greatest president of my lifetime" at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, where the former first lady lay in repose on Wednesday, the first of three days of mourning that conclude with Friday's funeral.

Dillard's daughter Bobbie Eldridge said she admired how the first lady "stood by her man, the great and beautiful love that they had and how she became his caretaker" in old age.

Dillard's family had driven more than 100 miles from Bakersfield to the library in Simi Valley. Retired teacher Mary Ellen Gruendyke drove nearly as far from her Riverside home, and appeared with a colorful Ronald Reagan souvenir scarf around her neck.

"Ronald Reagan was one of the best presidents we've ever had," Gruendyke said, "and I admired them both as a couple for their love story and the support they showed to each other."

Many cited that love story as the thing most in their thoughts as they stood at the casket, including 52-year-old Daniel Blatt of West Hollywood, who left in tears after paying his respects.

"He wouldn't have been anything without her by his side," Blatt said.

Shuttles bused groups of mourners to take turns walking quietly in a circle around the casket covered in white roses and peonies — Mrs. Reagan's favorite flower.

Another day of public viewing comes Thursday.

Wednesday began at a Santa Monica funeral home with a 45-mile motorcade that carried Nancy Reagan's casket down an empty freeway lined with saluting firefighters and mourners holding hands over their hearts in tribute.

Mrs. Reagan, who died Sunday at 94, will be laid to rest just inches from the president on a hillside tomb in the hills above Simi Valley, facing west toward the Pacific Ocean.

At the library, a military honor guard carried the casket between two identical towering portraits of the diminutive Mrs. Reagan wearing a long, red dress and then past a gurgling courtyard fountain. The casket was placed in a lobby behind a bronze statue of a smiling Ronald Reagan holding a cowboy hat.

The Reagan's daughter Patti Davis, dressed in black, was among about 20 family members and close friends who attended a short prayer service beside the closed casket.

"May angels surround her and saints release her to Jesus," the Rev. Stuart Kenworthy, vicar at the Washington National Cathedral, said during a short eulogy.

The Rev. Donn Moomaw, the Reagan family's pastor, read from the 23rd Psalm, which begins, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Attendees included the children of Ronald Reagan's son Michael and Dennis Revell, the widower of the president's late daughter Maureen. Michael Reagan and the president's other son, Ron Prescott Reagan, are expected at Friday's funeral.

After the prayers, Davis led mourners in taking turns to pay their respects, standing quietly by her

mother's casket. The final one was Mrs. Reagan's spokeswoman, Joanne Drake, who fought back tears. When the private service ended, House Speaker Paul Ryan bowed his head at the casket, made the sign of the cross and clasped his hands in prayer for about a minute.

Whether or not his steak's for sale, Trump's brand thrives

BETH J. HARPAZ, Associated Press

Whether or not you can buy Donald Trump's steaks, and whether or not he wins the Republican presidential nomination, one thing is for sure: Trump the Brand is alive and well.

Trump brandished steak, wine and water at his press conference Tuesday night at the Trump National Golf Course in Jupiter, Florida. The press conference took place after Trump won Republican primaries in Michigan and Mississippi. But what got as much attention as Trump's success at the polls was his display of Trump products.

"I think what Trump did last night was absolutely genius for his brands," said Devorah Neiger, who owns Medshop.com, a New York City-based online medical supply company. "It is the dream of every company to get their name in major publications. ... What Trump did last night, in one fell swoop, was get his brands talked about across every single major media outlet without spending a penny."

Justin Hamel, founder of MastaMinds, Inc., a Michigan-based online specialty retailer, agreed. "He is further building his brand recognition, awareness and it's all for free," said Hamel. "Even if Trump loses his presidential bid, he still wins."

Trump ostensibly displayed the items to refute Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP presidential nominee who last week said of Trump: "A business genius he is not." In his speech, Romney listed a number of Trump-branded products that no longer exist.

The details get a little messy when you try to connect the products Trump showed with what Romney was referring to.

The steaks at the press conference appeared to be from the butcher that supplies the club at the golf course, and not Trump Steaks, a now-defunct brand once sold by The Sharper Image.

The Trump-branded water, sold at Trump's hotels and clubs, was not Trump Ice, his defunct bottled water business.

Not everyone was impressed by Trump's product showcase. Speaking as a marketing strategist, Samuella Becker found herself "bewildered." The products, noted Becker, founder of TigressPR, "either are not available for purchase — steaks no longer offered by Sharper Image," or are "aimed at an internal audience — water and magazines for resort guests." (Trump also showed off a magazine.)

"If his aim was to show his startup business prowess, it didn't succeed," she said.

But Timothy de Waal Malefyt, a professor of brand strategies and marketing at Fordham University in New York, said Trump is "an amazing brandmeister of the 'brand called you.' Trump champions the self-made man theme in America, one who perseveres against all odds, with struggles and trials — failed casinos and failed marriages — but has a dream — emblazoned in his name everywhere — to succeed against all odds. That brand of you is an inspiring message" for "downtrodden" voters.

But don't spend too much time trying to figure out what Trump's strategy is politically.

"You have to stop thinking of this as a presidential nominating contest and start thinking about this as reality TV," said Matt Kerbel, chair of the political science department at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. Trump's rallies and press conferences look like traditional political forums but they're not: "He's always talking about himself."

Gary Frisch, founder of New Jersey-based Swordfish Communications, says Trump gains nothing by pitching products that mostly aren't for sale. "But he is a showman," Frisch said. And since it's not unusual for entrepreneurs to experience "hits and misses," Frisch said there may be a benefit in "highlighting his grand ideas, the same thought process that has inspired soaring, well-appointed towers, lush golf clubs and, yes, a run for the highest office."

Frisch added that he drank a bottle of Trump Ice water once at a golf club. "It tasted," he said, "like every other bottled water I've had."

Lawmakers celebrate raw milk, deny being sickened by it

JONATHAN MATTISE, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Some West Virginia lawmakers and Capitol staffers had a very bad weekend after drinking raw milk to celebrate a law loosening restrictions on the product. Now state health officials are investigating whether the milk was to blame for their fever, vomiting and diarrhea, and weighing allegations the raw-milk party broke the law.

So far, state and county health officials say they haven't received medical reports of illnesses related to the dangerous bacteria that can live in raw milk, which include *Campylobacter*, *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and *E. Coli*. The lawmaker involved, Del. Scott Cadle, who also stayed home sick on Monday, blames his and other illnesses on an unrelated stomach virus circulating the Capitol.

"Everybody up there is getting it," said Cadle, a Mason County Republican. "It's a stomach virus. It didn't have nothing to do with that milk."

Some lawmakers were already sick before Thursday and did not drink the milk, including House Speaker Tim Armstead, R-Kanawha, House spokesman Jared Hunt noted.

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin signed a bill last Thursday that will let people share milk-producing animals and drink raw milk if people sign a document acknowledging the health risks, and if the animals have passed health tests within the previous year. The law, which takes effect in late May, maintains selling and distribution bans. Selling or even offering raw milk is illegal and still will be, subject to fines of \$50 to \$500, unless the new requirements are met.

Tomblin, a Democrat, vetoed a similar bill last year, saying raw milk contains bacteria particularly dangerous for children, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems. Asked Wednesday why he changed his mind this time, the governor said "I think the one this year gave a little bit more oversight to our state Department of Health and Human Resources."

"I still have concerns," Tomblin added. "When you listen to the health experts, there are people who do become ill sometimes because of tainted raw milk that has not been pasteurized. I would just caution anybody that you should know the source of your milk, that it's safe and clean before you drink it."

Cadle said he brought in raw milk last week to share with friends after the governor signed the bill into law. He wouldn't say where he got it.

"I might have been breaking the law," Cadle told the Charleston Gazette-Mail. "Hell, I don't know. I gave it away."

State health officials got involved after someone filed a complaint Tuesday alleging that the distribution of raw milk in the halls of the Capitol violated the law, and could have been to blame for illnesses over the weekend. Officials don't release the names of people who file complaints.

It's not clear how many people got sick, or whether any of them were tested by doctors, who are required by law to report confirmed cases to the state health department.

State Health Officer Dr. Rahul Gupta said his department investigates about 200 possible outbreaks of all kinds of illnesses every year, so this one isn't unusual, nor is it confirmed.

"It's important to note that a lot of the information out there is alleged," Gupta said. "It's important to conduct an investigation to figure out exactly the facts."

Zookeeper in North Dakota carrying orphaned kangaroo

WAHPETON, N.D. (AP) — A keeper at a North Dakota zoo has become a first-time mom. But the baby she carries around the clock in a colorful flannel pouch is not a little human, it's an orphaned kangaroo.

Amanda Dukart is a zookeeper at the Chahinkapa (cha-HINK'-ah-pah) Zoo in Wahpeton. For the next six months, she will carry the joey wrapped around her throughout the day to help it develop.

WDAY-TV (<http://bit.ly/1M70CcR>) reports the zoo is hoping the joey survives after its mother died unexpectedly several weeks ago. Dukart says most of the animal's development happens inside the mother's pouch.

Dukart says she can now "sympathize with working moms" because she works all the time and also cares for baby Barkley.

Barkley will join the zoo's kangaroo exhibit when it turns 18 months old.

12 Beatles hits produced by George Martin over the years

The Associated Press

The Beatles captured the hearts and ears of a generation with music that continues to resonate today. Here are 12 hits by the Beatles, produced by George Martin, whose contributions ranged far beyond the traditional producer role, from arranging to composing to playing instruments:

— “Please Please Me” (1962): After “Love Me Do,” this was the song that rocketed the Beatles to fame on both sides of the Atlantic. Martin is said to have sped up what was initially a slower song. Lead vocals: John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

— “A Hard Day’s Night” (1964): Song featured in the Beatles’ first film, with that title — taken from drummer Ringo’s response to a comment that he looked tired: “Yea, I’ve had a hard day’s night, you know.” Lead vocals: John Lennon with Paul McCartney.

— “Yesterday” (1965): Wistful love song, featuring Paul McCartney with string quartet, an innovative idea for a rock and roll band that McCartney said was Martin’s idea. It initially made him hesitate but ended as a “thrilling” experience. McCartney says the song became “one of the most recorded songs ever” with Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra and many others offering their versions of it. Lead vocals: Paul McCartney.

— “Michelle” (1965): Some English speakers got their first taste of the French language with this tender love tune. Lead vocals: Paul McCartney.

— “In My Life” (1965): A confessional coming-of-age song brightened by the warm harmonies of Lennon and McCartney. Martin composed and performed the harpsichord interlude himself. Lead vocals: John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

— “Strawberry Fields Forever” (1967): An iconic if more complex Beatles with strings and horns. Two versions were recorded, and Martin was tasked with blending the two at John Lennon’s request — no easy feat with analog tapes. Lead vocals: John Lennon.

— “With a Little Help From My Friends” (1967): Casually sung by drummer Ringo Starr on the Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band album.

— “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds” (1967): Said to have been inspired by a drawing by John Lennon’s then-young son Julian of a classmate. Lennon told Rolling Stone in 1970 the images were inspired by Lewis Carroll’s “Alice in Wonderland.” Lead vocals: John Lennon.

— “All You Need Is Love” (1967): Perhaps the defining song of the Summer of Love. Martin introduced it with La Marseillaise, the French national anthem, and added a fragment of Glenn Miller’s classic “In the Mood.” He also played piano. Lead vocals: John Lennon.

— “Hey Jude” (1968): “Take a sad song and make it better,” a universal message that struck a chord. With little notice, Martin found 40 musicians for the final recording, short of the 100 Paul McCartney requested. At over seven minutes long and recorded on experimental eight-track studio equipment, it was an unlikely hit for the Beatles’ new Apple label. Lead vocals: Paul McCartney.

— “Here Comes The Sun” (1969): George Harrison’s song of hope. Light vocal creation that he is quoted as saying was written during a long British winter at the home of Eric Clapton. Lead vocals: George Harrison.

— “Let It Be” (1970): The Beatles’ final single before breaking up, produced by Martin. The song became the title track on the Beatles’ last album, produced by Phil Spector. The lyrics’ references to “times of trouble” and “comfort” had quick universal appeal in turbulent times, including among the Beatles, becoming something of a hymn. Lead vocals: Paul McCartney.