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Thursday, March 17

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

State A Boys Tourney in Rapid City
School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Shamrock nuggets, smiley potato, broccoli, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ham loaf, sweet potatoes, peas, Acini DePepi fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Jan & Don Price

Birthday: Myron Fahrenwald

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Quilting

1:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran WELCA

Friday, March 18

State A Boys Tourney in Rapid City
School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

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
USDDL Funded

 south dakota department of
labor and regulation
Your workforce experts.
www.sdjobs.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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JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St.
Groton, SD 57445

Office: 605/397-2424
Home: 605/397-8565



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Groton Prairie Mixed

Team Standings: Coyotes 16, Chipmunks 15, Shih Tzus 14, Pocket Gophers 11, Jackelopes 10, Foxes 6

Men's High Games: Roger Spanier 266, Brad Waage 201, Tony Madsen 201

Women's High Games: Vicki Walter 169, Dar Larson 166, Darci Spanier 169

Men's High Series: Roger Spanier 573, Brad Waage 536, Randy Stanley 510

Women's High Series: Vicki Walter 466, Darci Spanier 443, Nicole Kassube 422



Groton Area Girls State Representatives

Back Row - Erin Smith, Gabbie Kramer (both representing Groton) and Halie Yarborough (representing Columbia)

Front Row - Keri Pappas (representing Groton) and Macy Knecht (representing Claremont)



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!

Governor Signs Bills Into Law

PIERRE, S.D. – In addition to the internal controls bill, Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed the following bills into law yesterday:

SB 48 – An Act to revise the General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016.

SB 92 – An Act to continue a math pilot project at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency.

SB 98 – An Act to revise and repeal certain provisions regarding pork production.

SB 104 – An Act to set the time period for when an agency may promulgate rules.

SB 112 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning tax increment districts.

SB 140 – An Act to eliminate life sentences without parole for defendants under the age of eighteen at the time of the crime.

SB 143 – An Act to require the Legislative Planning Committee to implement a performance management review process.

SB 172 – An Act to appropriate money for the ordinary expenses of the legislative, judicial, and executive departments of the state, the expenses of state institutions, interest on the public debt, and for common schools.

HB 1079 – An Act to permit the prescription and possession of an opioid antagonist in certain instances.

HB 1094 – An Act to increase the commercial fertilizer inspection fee for purposes of fertilizer-related research and education and to create the Nutrient Research and Education Council to promote such research and education.

HB 1110 – An Act to provide medical care for certain unborn children.

HB 1118 – An Act to limit the amount of instructional time that may be spent administering statewide academic assessments.

HB 1137 – An Act to revise the distribution of registration fees from noncommercial gross weight vehicles.

HB 1140 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding county zoning.

HB 1146 – An Act to authorize the Governor to enter agreements with Indian tribes regarding the high school equivalency tests administered on Indian reservations.

HB 1157 – An Act to require that a doctor provide a woman additional information as a part of informed consent prior to performing an abortion.

HB 1190 – An Act to enhance customer convenience in firearms transactions, improve public safety, and provide for the issuance of an additional concealed pistol permit.

HB 1238 – An Act to revise the powers and duties of the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council.

Prom *Open House*

Monday, March 21st
3:30pm-7pm

Saturday, March 26th
10am-2pm

*Designers on hand for specialized ordering

*Choose designs specific for you

*Gems, ribbons, and jewelry





**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Larry Zimmerman
Secretary**

SPRING CLEANING

Spring is in the air and my wife is in "Operation Spring Cleaning" mode. She knows better than to give me a "to do" list because I get distracted by things like polishing the motor cycle, polishing the golf clubs, scrubbing the grill, and organizing my flip flops and Bermuda's. Perhaps, that is my own form of spring cleaning!

No matter what appears on your spring cleaning "to do" list, please add "thank my veterans." Spring is a good time to refresh our support for our veterans.

Flowers budding, grass greening, and trees leafing out are visible. Veterans are camouflaged in civilian clothes and are not visible. Seek out veterans at work, in your neighborhood, at church, at your local restaurant, etc. Give them words of encouragement and tell them thank you. Let them know you are grateful for the sacrifices for the freedom and liberty that you enjoy.

Our veterans have fought two wars - one on the battlefield and one in their souls after they return home. Let's help these men and women forget the nightmare of war. Give these veterans a word of encouragement. Let them know their dedication to excellence, their discipline and their integrity are appreciated.

Fishing on the river, attending church, visiting a library, writing letters to the editor, sending our children to school are freedoms we enjoy because of the men and women who donned the uniform and served this great country.

To all the men and women who have served our country, thank you and Happy Spring!

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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Mike Kerrigan Benefit

Sunday, March 20, 4 p.m.

Conde Community Center

Taco Feed ~ Silent Auction ~ Free Will Donation
To help defray costs of Mike's medical expenses

Drop donations off at

Harvey's Sinclair, Conde

For more information contact Ron

Worlie at 605/382-7606

City of Columbia has opening for city finance officer and city maintenance worker. Call at 396-2655 apply before April 4th application deadline.

Come and go bridal shower for Sarah Geary, bride-to-be of Sam Thorson, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. The couple is registered at Bed Bath and Beyond and at Target.

The Livestream logo features a red stylized 'L' icon to the left of the word 'livestream' in a lowercase, sans-serif font.The Dollar General logo consists of the words 'DOLLAR GENERAL' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within a bright yellow rounded rectangular background.

Special Exception Hearing
Monday, March 28th, 7 p.m.

Groton Community Center

If you can't make it to the hearing, watch it live on

gdilive.com



Open House

March 17-19

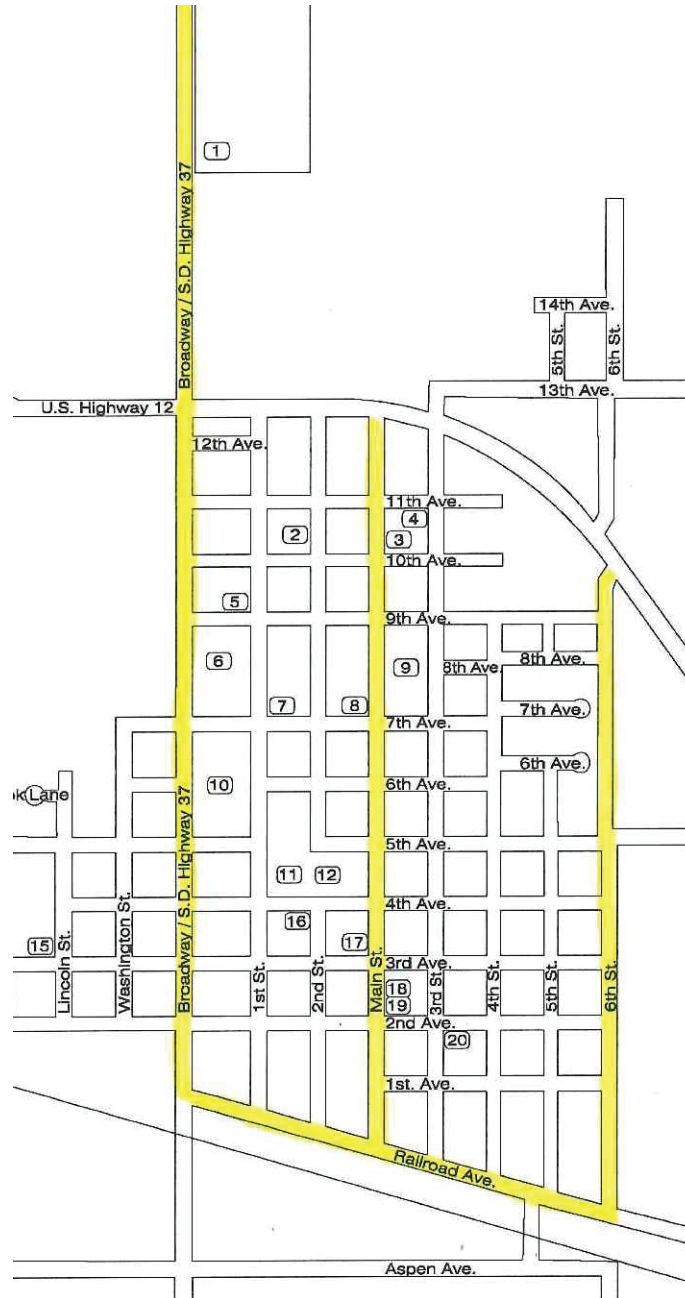


Discounts - Door Prizes - Samples
Fun!

101 North Main Street - Groton - Thur & Fri 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm

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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!!



OPEN HOUSE

March 17-18-19



Hop on in for savings!

Sign up for door prize!

Lori's
Pharmacy

CARDS, GIFTS & NOVELTIES

1205 N 1st St., Groton

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Today in Weather History

March 17, 1997: High winds of 30 to 50 mph, gusting to over 60 mph, occurred over much of northeast South Dakota through the morning and into the early afternoon hours. Several homes and businesses sustained some roof damage. In Aberdeen, the high winds tore a large piece of the roof off the bowling alley and also tore a piece of a roof off an appliance store. The wind damaged some power lines and connections in Aberdeen, including some traffic lights. In Aberdeen, the power was out for 2500 customers for a few hours in the morning. The wind also damaged two old farm buildings west of Aberdeen. One barn lost 75 percent of its roof. The second barn was pushed six inches off of its foundation suffering minor structural damage. The Edmunds County Highway Department Shop, under construction east of Ipswich, suffered much of damage as many rafters came down and the sidewall frame shifted. Finally, much small to medium-sized branches were brought down by the high winds. Some peak wind gusts across the area included 58 mph in Aberdeen and 63 mph in Watertown.

1892: A winter storm in southwestern and central Tennessee produced 26.3 inches of snow at Riddleton and 18.5 inches at Memphis. It was the deepest snow of record for those areas.

1906: The temperature at Snake River Wyoming dipped to 50 degrees below zero, a record for the U.S. for the month of March.

1906: A magnitude 7.1 earthquake caused significant damage in Taiwan. According to the Central Weather Bureau in China, this earthquake caused 1,258 deaths, 2,385 injuries, and destroyed over 6,000 homes.

1952: The ban on using the word "tornado" issued in 1886 ended on this date. In the 1880s, John P. Finley of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, then handling weather forecasting for the U.S., developed generalized forecasts on days tornadoes were most likely. But in 1886, the Army ended Finley's program and banned the word "tornado" from forecasts because the harm done by a tornado prediction would eventually be greater than that which results from the tornado itself?. The thinking was that people would be trampled in the panic if they heard a tornado was possible. The ban stayed in place after the Weather Bureau, now the National Weather Service, took over forecasting from the Army. A tornado that wrecked 52 large aircraft at Tinker Air Force Base, OK, on 3/20/1948, spurred Air Force meteorologists to begin working on ways to forecast tornadoes. The Weather Bureau also began looking for ways to improve tornado forecasting and established the Severe Local Storm Warning Center, which is now the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK. The ban on the word "tornado" fell on this date when the new center issued its first Tornado Watch.

1987 - A powerful spring storm produced severe thunderstorms over the Central Gulf Coast States, and heavy snow in the High Plains Region. A tornado caused three million dollars damage at Natchez MS, and six inches of rain in five hours caused five million dollars damage at Vicksburg MS. Cactus TX received 10 inches of snow. Western Kansas reported blizzard conditions. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A winter storm produced heavy snow from the northeast Texas panhandle to the Ozark area of Missouri and Arkansas. Up to fifteen inches of snow was reported in Oklahoma and Texas. Snowfall totals in the Ozark area ranged up to 14 inches, with unofficial reports as high as 22 inches around Harrison AR. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong northerly winds ushered snow and arctic cold into the north central U.S. Winds gusted to 58 mph at Sydney NE and Scottsbluff NE, Cadillac MI received 12 inches of snow, and International Falls MN reported a record low of 22 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990: Showers and thunderstorms associated with a slow moving cold front produced torrential rains across parts of the southeastern U.S. over a two-day period. Flooding claimed the lives of at least 22 persons including thirteen in Alabama. Up to 16 inches of rain deluged southern Alabama with 10.63 inches reported at Mobile AL in 24 hours. The town of Elba AL was flooded with 6 to 12 feet of water causing more than 25 million dollars damage, and total flood damage across Alabama exceeded 100 million dollars. Twenty-six counties in the state were declared disaster areas.

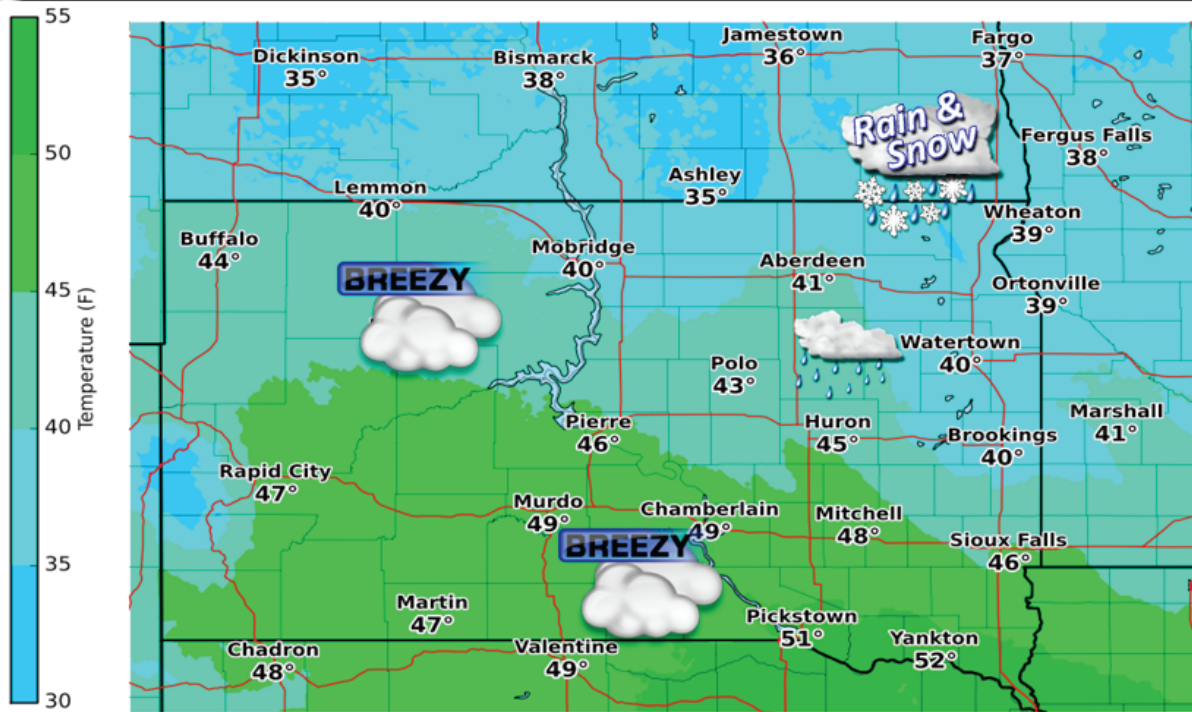
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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
30%	20% 20%	30% 30%	30% 20%	20%		
Breezy. Mostly Cloudy then Chance Rain/Snow	Slight Chance Rain/Snow then Slight Chance Snow	Chance Snow then Chance Rain/Snow	Chance Rain/Snow then Slight Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow then Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 41 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 39 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 41 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 43 °F



The Cooling Trend Continues



National Weather Service
Aberdeen SD
03/17/2016 05:04 AM CDT

Follow Us:
weather.gov/aberndeen



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 3/17/2016 5:24 AM Central

Published on: 03/17/2016 at 5:28AM

An upper level low pressure system will bring light rain, possibly mixed with snow to northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota today. Mostly cloudy skies and breezy northwesterly winds can be expected elsewhere.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 51.4 at 3:28 PM

Low: 26.2 at 6:04 AM

High Gust: 40 at 4:02 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 77° in 2012

Record Low: -10 in 1906

Average High: 40°F

Average Low: 20°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.55

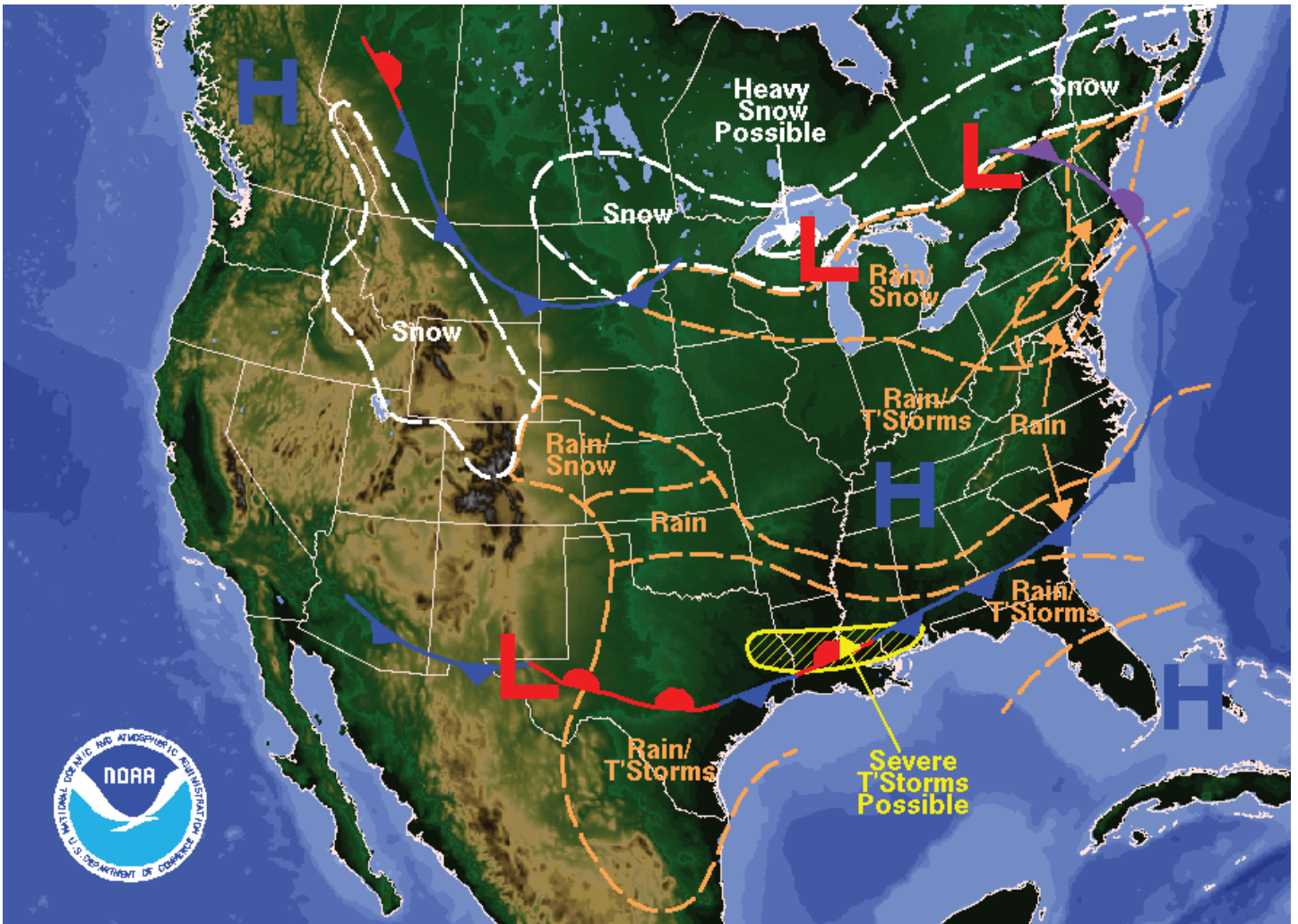
Precip to date in March.: 0.35

Average Precip to date: 1.57

Precip Year to Date: 0.95

Sunset Tonight: 7:41 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:39 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Mar 17, 2016, issued 4:18 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



SAVED BY A STORM

For months a homeless woman wandered the streets of her city alone and in agony. She did not know where she was, where she was going or even her name.

One day while walking in a park, a severe thunderstorm broke out. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning struck a tree close beside her and gave her a jolt. Immediately, memory returned, and she remembered where she lived. As the details emerged, she found her way back to her family and friends.

We read in the Psalms of a king who had a similar experience. Though no doubt he knew who he was and where he was, he had been wandering aimlessly. Once he asked God to teach him good judgment and knowledge, reminding Him that he was aware of His commandments and knew their value for his life. He admitted that he had gone astray and as a result was "afflicted." Then he added, "It was good for me that I was afflicted that I might learn Your statutes."

If we let them, the storms in our lives may serve to bring us back to, or perhaps even, much closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. It always seems as though the grass is greener after the rain.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, when we experience the storms of life, help us to realize that You are there and that You want to bring us closer to You: in Your Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:65-72 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

News from the Associated Press

SDSU Extension, others to host grassland fire workshops

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State University Extension wants to teach landowners ways to properly plan for and conduct a prescribed fire.

SDSU Extension has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and some conservancy groups to host two fire-planning workshops in March.

Workshop topics include USDA rules, firebreak development, tools, weather and safety.

Landowners wanting to use prescribed fire as a management method in their Conservation Reserve Program contracts are required to follow an USDA-approved burn plan.

SDSU Extension range field specialist Pete Bauman says the workshops will offer guidance on the most current version of the USDA plan.

Workshops are scheduled for March 23 in Watertown and March 24 in Huron.

AG: Couple who died stole grant money; 3 others charged

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PLATTE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota couple who died in a murder-suicide last year stole hundreds of thousands of dollars intended to be used to help improve Native Americans' college readiness, among other things, state Attorney General Marty Jackley said Wednesday.

Investigators believe the total amount that Scott and Nicole Westerhuis stole exceeded \$1 million, based on a review of financial records. Three other people associated with Mid-Central Educational Cooperative and the GEAR UP college-readiness grant program are also facing felony charges stemming from the investigation launched after Scott Westerhuis shot his wife and their four children before setting fire to their house near Platte and killing himself.

The deaths occurred just hours after the state informed Mid-Central that it was losing a \$4.3 million federal contract for GEAR UP because of financial problems and accounting failures. The two initially tried to hide the alleged illegal activity that started as early as 2010, but became more brazen near the time of the September 2015 fire, according to a court affidavit.

They spent at least part of the money on home improvement projects, Jackley said at a news conference in Platte six months after the deaths.

Scott Westerhuis served as Mid-Central's business manager and Nicole Westerhuis was the assistant business manager. In addition to working at the cooperative, the two had ties to nonprofit organizations that received GEAR UP funding, including the American Indian Institute for Innovation.

According to court documents, the couple took money from Mid-Central's bank account without authorization to fund the American Indian Institute for Innovation's payroll. At the end of November 2015, the institute owed Mid-Central as much as \$826,000 for payroll, Stephanie Hubers, a former business employee at Mid-Central, told a state investigator.

Scott and Nicole Westerhuis stole money from the Institute, including writing checks to themselves from its bank account for their own use, according a court affidavit.

Hubers faces felony charges related to theft or receiving stolen property.

Dan Guericke, Mid-Central's director, has been charged with six felony counts for falsifying evidence and conspiring to offer forged or fraudulent evidence. Stacy Phelps, who previously served as chief executive of the American Indian Institute for Innovation, is charged with four felony counts for those alleged crimes.

In a statement released through an attorney, the Institute's board said they have cooperated with investigators.

Scott Westerhuis and "other employees" made a significant number of fraudulent purchases and misappropriated funds from the Institute's bank accounts, according to the statement. It says board members

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were provided with "falsified and/or incomplete" information about the group's operations for years.

Guericke and Phelps are accused of backdating two contracts between Mid-Central and the American Indian Institute for Innovation in August 2015 before they were made available to the state Department of Legislative Audit. Investigators say in the court records they believe the contract changes were an attempt to avoid a potential audit of the Institute.

Guericke is also accused of conspiring with Scott and Nicole Westerhuis to backdate contracts with other individuals.

Hubers is accused of receiving money from the American Indian Institute for Innovation totaling more than \$50,000 that she wasn't entitled to or that she knew had been stolen.

The three people charged voluntarily turned themselves in on arrest warrants and have been released on bond conditions, Jackley's office said.

Hubers' attorney declined to comment on her behalf or make her available for an interview, and court records didn't list lawyers for Guericke and Phelps. Mid-Central's lawyer, Scott Swier, said he isn't authorized to provide attorney information for Guericke. Mid-Central governing board Chairwoman Pamela Haukaas said Guericke has been placed on administrative leave.

Swier has previously said the cooperative was aware of Scott Westerhuis' ties to the nonprofits but wasn't aware of the extent of the affiliation.

"I know our family still misses the children very much," Platte resident Kristi Pheifer said. "If you live a life of money and secrets, it ends in tragedy."

South Dakota US senators oppose taking up Garland nomination

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Joining fellow Republicans, South Dakota's two U.S. senators say they oppose the Senate taking up consideration of President Barack Obama's nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court.

U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds on Wednesday said they believe the next president should choose the replacement for the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

Obama on Wednesday nominated appeals court judge Merrick Garland for the vacancy.

The GOP-led Senate must confirm Garland's nomination for him to serve on the nation's highest court, but Republicans have pledged to leave the seat empty until after the presidential election.

Thune says the next president should appoint Scalia's replacement since the presidential election is already under way.

Rounds says the Senate must ensure that the American people's "voice is heard in the upcoming elections."

High five: NCAA women's bracket has distinct Florida flavor

JOE REEDY, Associated Press

IT has been a season of firsts for women's college basketball teams Florida, and the roll will continue in the NCAA Tournament.

When the field of 64 was announced on Monday, it marked the first time that five teams from the Sunshine State were selected.

Florida State, Florida and Miami — who are five seeds — have combined for 41 appearances, but this is the first year all three are in the tournament at the same time. South Florida, a six seed, has made the field two of the past three seasons and No. 16 seed Jacksonville is making its debut after winning the Atlantic Sun Tournament.

"It's kind of neat. I think this shines a really bright light on our state and the level of basketball we're playing down here," Florida coach Amanda Butler said.

Florida State coach Sue Semrau added that the development is also due to "the high school coaches and club teams in this state have made it important enough in what many people would say is a football state."

Five teams making the field started to look like a possibility in mid-January when four were ranked in the Top 25, and that was the first time that had happened for Florida teams. Florida State and South Florida have been ranked all season and were eventually joined by Miami and the Gators.

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Miami coach Katie Meier routinely talks about the mutual respect between the programs and how they are often recruiting the same players. It should be no surprise then that all of them have similar traits.

The programs had experienced rosters this season and have had great guard play.

South Florida senior Courtney Williams led the American Athletic Conference in scoring, averaging 22.0 points per game, and Miami junior Adrienne Motley (15.6) was fifth in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Jacksonville junior Sherranda Reddick (12.4) was a first-team pick in the Atlantic Sun. Florida junior Ronni Williams lead the team in scoring (11.1) and rebounding (7.9).

Florida State is getting in down in the frontcourt as the Seminoles leading scorers — sophomore Shakayla Thomas (17.1) and senior Adut Bulgak 12.7 — are forwards.

The Seminoles (23-7) reached the Elite Eight last season and had hopes of hosting the first two rounds. They had an 11-game win streak in mid-February and were ranked 10th but dropped three of its last five to and being the tournament on the road. The Seminoles, who are in the Dallas Region, open Saturday against Middle Tennessee State in College Station, Texas.

"We would have loved to play here but we've been a historically good road team," Semrau said. "It's going to be tough but a great environment."

Meier thought that Miami's 74-56 win over Florida State in the ACC Quarterfinals might have had a role in the Hurricanes (24-8) moving up a spot. They will meet South Dakota State on Saturday at Stanford, California, in a Lexington Region matchup.

"We kind of had an amazing season that was under the radar nationally. Our performance in the conference tournament really opened some eyes," she said.

Florida (22-8) and Jacksonville (22-10) are both in the Sioux Falls region and will play on Friday. The Gators will face Albany in Syracuse, New York, and the Dolphins meet top-seeded South Carolina in Columbia.

"The past couple days have been great," Jacksonville coach Yolett McPhee-McCuin said. "For sure, this will be the biggest challenge our team and me as a coach have faced. But I look forward to it."

South Florida (23-8) also opens play on Friday against Colorado State in Los Angeles. USF coach Jose Fernandez expected the seeding but he was surprised to be in the same region as Connecticut. If both teams get to the Elite Eight, it would be their fourth meeting of the season.

"To be honest last two years we've played UConn more than anyone in the country and better. To put us in the same region was unexpected," he said.

Officials issue reminder of fire restrictions in Black Hills

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials are reminding people about fire restrictions in the Black Hills. Open fire is not allowed within the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District except in established metal fire rings or grills that are in designated sites within a developed campground, recreation area or picnic ground.

In areas where there is still snow cover, burn permits are available until March 31.

Violations of the restrictions can result in a prison term of up to six months and a fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization.

No one hurt in Pierre crash involving ambulance and SUV

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — No one was hurt when a Highmore ambulance carrying a patient collided with a sport utility vehicle in Pierre.

Police say the crash happened Monday evening at a city intersection. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

The crash is still under investigation, and a damage estimate wasn't immediately available.

10-Things-to-Know-Today

The Associated Press

1. OBAMA'S PICK FOR THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY TO START COURTESY CALLS WITH SENATORS
Judge Merrick Garland plans to visit Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid and Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy as Democrats hope to put unbearable election-year pressure on Republicans refusing to consider any Obama nominee.

2. HOW "SELF-FUNDING TRUMP" WOULD PAY FOR A GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN
The answer could be, in part, the Republican National Committee, which has resources he lacks for a general election.

3. EUROPEAN LEADERS PUSH AHEAD ON CONTESTED PLAN TO SEND MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES BACK TO TURKEY

With European unity fraying in the face of more than 1 million arrivals over the last year, Turkey is seen as the key partner to contain the influx.

4. WHERE YOU CAN VIEW THE HUMBLING LIMITS OF INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA

The Masik Pass ski resort has amenities including a luxury hotel, European chocolates and Heineken beer that defy U.N. efforts to bar trade in luxury items.

5. GOV. RICK SNYDER SAYS MICHIGAN AGENCY REPEATEDLY ASSURED HIM WATER FOR FLINT RIVER WAS SAFE

In prepared testimony for a House hearing, Snyder says he took immediate action finally learning of the contamination, nearly 18 months after the city began drawing its water from the Flint River.

6. SCAN OF KING TUT'S BURIAL TOMB SHOWS HIDDEN ROOMS
Analysis of the scans shows the rooms could contain metal or organic material, with one prominent researcher theorizing that the remains of Queen Nefertiti might be inside.

7. WHAT GETS ARGENTINE PRESIDENT MAURICIO MACRÍ ESPECIALLY RILED UP
In an interview with the AP, Macri becomes particularly animated when talking about about possibly his biggest challenge: cracking down on rampant corruption.

8. EX BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT TAKES CABINET POST SEEN AS ATTEMPT TO SHIELD HIM FROM PROSECUTION

The swearing-in ceremony for Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva comes a day after the release of tapes that a judge says show attempts to curry favor for the former president.

9. TO GAY GROUPS, NEW YORK'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY ENDS AN ERA OF EXCLUSION
The change stands to close a long chapter of controversy at the oldest U.S. celebration of Irish heritage, which will be broadcast live in Ireland and the United Kingdom for the first time.

10. WHERE A BALLET AND MUSIC SCHOOL STRUGGLES AGAIN TO SURVIVE
After enduring war, sanctions and dictatorship, Iraq's only music and ballet school faces a funding crisis that could see it closed.

Survey: More acceptance of social changes _ except divorce

MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans are more accepting of gay relationships and couples living together before marriage — but they've grown less comfortable with divorce, a new survey shows.

The government periodically asks thousands of teens and younger adults what they think about changes in U.S. family relationships. The results released Thursday indicate a shift over a decade on a range of topics. But most surprising was what they said about divorce.

Asked if divorce is the best solution when a marriage is on the rocks, 38 percent of women agreed, down from 47 percent a decade earlier. For men, it was 39 percent, down from 44 percent.

Divorce in the U.S. has become more common through the generations, and there's an assumption that acceptance would be holding steady or perhaps increasing, some experts said.

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There could be several explanations for the decline, said Wendy Manning, a family and marriage researcher at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Marriage rates are down and people are older when they first get married. So those who do marry are more likely to be in it to win it, she said.

"Marriage is becoming so selective that maybe people think if you achieve this status, you don't want to end it," said Manning.

Also, the survey was conducted on the heels of a national economic downturn, when some couples didn't have the money to divorce and set up separate households, she noted.

Other findings, which reflect an increase over a decade:

— Think it's OK for a young couple to live together before they're married; about three-quarters of men and women.

— Approve of single women having and raising a baby; 78 percent of women, 69 percent of men.

— Say same-sex relationships are fine; about 60 percent of women, 49 percent of men.

— Agree gay and lesbian adults should have the right to adopt children; 75 percent of women, 68 percent of men.

— Approve of premarital sex among 18 year olds; about 54 percent of women and 64 percent of men.

But there was no significant change when it came to sex among 16 year olds. Only 15 percent of women and 21 percent of men said it's OK.

And fewer than 10 percent think it's necessary to have children to be happy in life. That hasn't been changing, either.

The 2011-2013 survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention involved in-person interviews of 10,000 participants ages 15 to 44.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 17, the 77th day of 2016. There are 289 days left in the year. This is St. Patrick's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 17, 1966, a U.S. Navy midget submarine located a missing hydrogen bomb which had fallen from a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber into the Mediterranean off Spain. (It took several more weeks to actually recover the bomb.)

On this date:

In 1776, the Revolutionary War Siege of Boston ended as British forces evacuated the city.

In 1861, Victor Emmanuel II was proclaimed the first king of a united Italy.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt first likened crusading journalists to a man with "the muckrake in his hand" in a speech to the Gridiron Club in Washington.

In 1912, the Camp Fire Girls organization was incorporated in Washington, D.C., two years to the day after it was founded in Thetford, Vermont. (The group is now known as Camp Fire USA.)

In 1936, Pittsburgh's Great St. Patrick's Day Flood began as the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers, swollen by rain and melted snow, started exceeding flood stage; the high water was blamed for more than 60 deaths.

In 1941, the National Gallery of Art opened in Washington, D.C.

In 1956, comedian Fred Allen, 61, died in New York.

In 1969, Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel.

In 1970, the United States cast its first veto in the U.N. Security Council. (The U.S. killed a resolution that would have condemned Britain for failure to use force to overthrow the white-ruled government of Rhodesia.)

In 1976, Italian movie director Luchino Visconti ("The Leopard") died in Rome at age 69.

In 1988, Avianca Flight 410, a Boeing 727, crashed after takeoff into a mountain in Colombia, killing all

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143 people on board.

In 1996, French movie director Rene Clement ("Forbidden Games") died in Monaco at age 82.

Ten years ago: Federal regulators reported the deaths of two women in addition to four others who had taken the abortion pill RU-486; Planned Parenthood said it would immediately stop disregarding the approved instructions for the drug's use. Fashion designer Oleg Cassini died on Long Island, New York, at age 92. Former Federal Reserve Chairman and former treasury secretary G. William Miller died in Washington, D.C., at age 81.

Five years ago: The U.N. Security Council paved the way for international air strikes against Moammar Gadhafi's forces, voting to authorize military action to protect civilians and impose a no-fly zone over Libya. U.S. drone missiles hit a village in Pakistan; U.S. officials said the group targeted was heavily armed and that some of its members were connected to al-Qaida, but Pakistani officials said the missiles hit a community meeting, killing four Taliban fighters and 38 civilians and tribal police. Michael Gough, the British actor best known for playing Bruce Wayne's butler Alfred in a series of Batman movies, died in England at age 94. Country music entertainer Ferlin Husky, 85, died in Westmoreland, Tennessee.

One year ago: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party won a resounding victory in parliamentary elections after an acrimonious campaign, giving him a mandate to form the next government. U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock, R-Ill., abruptly resigned following a cascade of revelations about his business deals and lavish spending on everything from overseas travel to office decor in the style of "Downton Abbey."

Today's Birthdays: The former national chairwoman of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams, is 83. Former NASA astronaut Ken Mattingly is 80. Singer-songwriter Jim Weatherly is 73. Singer-songwriter John Sebastian (The Lovin' Spoonful) is 72. Former NSA Director and former CIA Director Michael Hayden is 71. Rock musician Harold Brown (War; Lowrider Band) is 70. Actor Patrick Duffy is 67. Actor Kurt Russell is 65. Country singer Susie Allanson is 64. Actress Lesley-Anne Down is 62. Actor Mark Boone Jr. is 61. Country singer Paul Overstreet is 61. Actor Gary Sinise is 61. Actor Christian Clemenson is 58. Former basketball and baseball player Danny Ainge is 57. Actor Arye Gross is 56. Actress Vicki Lewis is 56. Actor Casey Siemaszko (sheh-MA'-zshko) is 55. Writer-director Rob Sitch is 54. Actor Rob Lowe is 52. Rock singer Billy Corgan is 49. Rock musician Van Conner (Screaming Trees) is 49. Actor Mathew St. Patrick is 48. Actor Yanic (YAH'-neek) Truesdale is 47. Rock musician Melissa Auf der Maur is 44. Soccer player Mia Hamm is 44. Rock musician Caroline Corr (The Corrs) is 43. Actress Amelia Heinle is 43. Country singer Keifer Thompson (Thompson Square) is 43. Actress Marisa Coughlan is 42. Rapper Swifty (D12) is 41. Actress Natalie Zea (zee) is 41. Actress Brittany Daniel is 40. Country musician Geoff Sprung (Old Dominion) is 38. Pop/rock singer/songwriter Hozier is 26. Actress Eliza Hope Bennett is 24. Actor John Boyega (Film: "Star Wars: The Force Awakens") is 24. Actor Flynn Morrison is 11.

Thought for Today: "May your neighbors respect you, trouble neglect you, the angels protect you, and heaven accept you." — Irish saying.

California dog presumed drowned found safe 5 weeks later

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Fishermen like to tell stories, but Nick Haworth will have a whopper of a tale.

The California man's beloved dog, Luna, has returned more than a month after she fell overboard in the Pacific Ocean and was presumed drowned.

The 1 ½-year-old German shepherd was spotted Tuesday on San Clemente Island, a Navy-owned training base 70 miles off San Diego.

The blue-eyed pup disappeared Feb. 10 as Haworth, a commercial fisherman from San Diego, worked on a boat two miles from the island.

"They were pulling in their (lobster) traps, and one minute Luna was there, and the next minute she was gone," said Sandy DeMunnik, spokeswoman for Naval Base Coronado. "They looked everywhere for her. They couldn't see her. The water was dark, and she's dark."

Haworth notified Navy personnel.

"He insisted that he was 90 percent sure that she made it to shore because she was such a strong swimmer," DeMunnik said.

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Haworth searched the waters for about two days and Navy staff searched the island for about a week but found no sign of Luna.

She was presumed lost at sea. Until Tuesday morning, that is, when staff arriving for work at the island's Naval Auxiliary Landing Field spotted something unusual — a dog sitting by the side of the road. Domestic animals aren't allowed on the island for environmental reasons.

It was Luna.

"She was just sitting there wagging her tail," DeMunnik said. The staff called to Luna, and she came right over.

A biologist then examined the dog and found her a little thin but otherwise healthy.

"It looks like she was surviving on rodents and dead fish that had washed up," DeMunnik said.

The biologist called Haworth, who was out of state working in the middle of a lake.

"He was overwhelmed. He was so happy and grateful and thrilled," DeMunnik said.

On Wednesday afternoon, Luna was flown to a Navy base on the mainland and handed over to Haworth's best friend, who will care for the dog until her owner returns Thursday night.

Luna, meanwhile, has a souvenir of the experience. Her dog tag was lost but the Navy gave her a new one, DeMunnik said.

Along with her name, it bears a key lesson in the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) course taught on the island to Navy and Marine personnel. The tag reads: "Keep the Faith."

Texas officer who killed teen arrested on murder charge

ADDISON, Texas (AP) — An off-duty suburban Dallas police officer who fatally shot a 16-year-old and wounded another juvenile was arrested Wednesday on charges of murder and aggravated assault, authorities said, while a funeral service for the teen was underway.

Farmers Branch officer Ken Johnson was taken into custody Wednesday night by Addison police officers and was being booked into Dallas County Jail.

The shooting happened Sunday evening at a gas station in Addison. Officials have said that Johnson saw a vehicle being burglarized in his apartment complex parking lot and that he gave chase when the suspects fled. After the suspects' vehicle spun out about a half-mile away, an altercation led to the shooting.

Jose Raul Cruz was killed and the other juvenile, who also was shot, was hospitalized. Cruz's family held a funeral Wednesday night.

Johnson's attorney, Chris Livingston, has said he feared for his life. Livingston could not be immediately reached Wednesday to speak on Johnson's behalf.

Authorities have not said whether the juveniles were armed. Johnson was not injured.

Addison police Chief Paul Spencer said in a statement Wednesday that there was "probable cause" to arrest Johnson but that the investigation will likely take several more weeks.

Cruz's cousin, Nora Rubi, said that she was happy that Johnson had been arrested.

"When I first heard about it, I was crying nonstop. I thought it was a joke," she said.

Farmers Branch police spokesman David Laisure declined to comment Wednesday, deferring to Addison police. Spencer previously has said that Johnson had no disciplinary record. He also noted that department policies do not allow off-duty officers to chase suspects in their own vehicles.

According to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, Johnson has worked for Farmers Branch police for a year. He worked as a peace officer for Dallas Area Rapid Transit for almost eight years before that.

Woman who buried baby alive gets 14 years in prison

COMPTON, Calif. (AP) — A woman who buried her newborn daughter alive in a Los Angeles suburb has been sentenced to 14 years in state prison.

Thirty-three-year-old Porche Washington was sentenced Wednesday after pleading no contest to attempted murder and causing great bodily injury to the infant.

Authorities say Washington hid her pregnancy from family and friends before giving birth last Novem-

ber. Days after she was released from the hospital, Washington placed the girl in a hole near a Compton riverbed and left her.

Two sisters walking on a nearby bike path heard the child's cries and called authorities, who found the infant wrapped in a hospital blanket under loose dirt and chunks of asphalt.

Los Angeles County has a "safe surrender" law allowing mothers to anonymously leave newborns at hospitals and fire stations.

Q&A: A look at the investigation of a train derailment

The Associated Press

Investigators are looking into the derailment of a passenger train early Monday in western Kansas. Here's a look at where the investigation stands:

WHAT CAUSED THE DERAILMENT?

Authorities say they are still investigating the derailment of Amtrak's Southwest Chief train along a stretch of track near the rural community of Cimarron.

Earl Weener, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said Tuesday that a feed truck belonging to Cimarron Crossing Feeders LLC hit the section of track, shifting a rail about a foot before the train derailed. He stressed, though, that investigators hadn't determined whether the track damage caused the derailment.

Gray County Attorney Curtis Campbell said Wednesday that although he hadn't received a written report about the case, he doesn't expect to file charges based on what he's been told about the truck hitting the rail. He said it appears the truck's brakes may have slipped or weren't set before it rolled down a slight hill and into the tracks.

WHO IS INVESTIGATING?

The National Transportation Safety Board is leading the investigation. It has said that Cimarron Crossing has been "very cooperative" and granted investigators access to its truck. The NTSB hasn't said when or how the truck struck the tracks and the company has declined to comment. The business is licensed to feed up to 20,000 head of cattle. The NTSB says forward-facing video from the lead locomotive showed a "localized distortion" in the track in the area of the impact. It's unknown how long the investigation might take.

WHAT IS THE AREA LIKE WHERE THE TRAIN DERAILED?

The railroad tracks run alongside the south side of a paved highway and are not fenced off from it. Fresh tire tracks were found on both sides of the highway near the derailment. Cimarron Crossing is located north of the highway, and there is a gap in the fence separating that land from the highway where the tire tracks were found. The tire tracks were not located at a designated rail crossing.

WHAT ARE THE RULES REGARDING RAILROAD CROSSINGS?

The Federal Railroad Administration says pedestrians and vehicles are to cross railroad tracks only at designated crossings. The agency said in an email that trespassing on rail tracks is illegal and that 511 people were killed due to trespassing last year, representing more than 62 percent of all rail fatalities in 2015.

WHEN WAS THE RAIL LINE INSPECTED?

BNSF Railway, which owns the tracks, says the section where the derailment occurred was last inspected Thursday, March 10, and is inspected twice a week according to federal guidelines. BNSF says the examinations are conducted by an inspector on a hi-rail, which is a truck that drives on the tracks while a person on the truck performs the inspection.

WHERE WAS THE TRAIN HEADED?

The Southwest Chief was making a 43-hour journey from Los Angeles to Chicago when it derailed near

Cimarron, which is about 160 miles west of Wichita. Eight cars derailed and four of them ended up on their sides.

HOW ARE THE TRACKS NOW?

BNSF said it repaired about 1,000 feet of track on Tuesday, which allowed train service to resume. It said it averages between 30 and 35 trains a week on the route. Amtrak said Wednesday that normal Southwest Chief service has returned in western Kansas.

HOW ARE THE INJURED FARING?

Four of the injured remained hospitalized Tuesday, including two people who were in critical condition at a hospital in Amarillo, Texas. A spokeswoman for that hospital did not respond to messages Wednesday seeking updates on the patients' conditions. One other patient was listed in good condition in Garden City, Kansas, on Wednesday. A spokeswoman for a Dodge City hospital, where another patient was being treated didn't respond to messages Wednesday.

COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED?

Bob Comer, an Ohio rail safety expert who has investigated more than 400 train accidents and testified as an expert witness for plaintiff's lawyers, said as far as he knows this sort of incident is fairly rare. Comer, who had not been to the scene but reviewed television video footage of the derailment site, said Wednesday he's unaware of technology that could have alerted the railroad of track damage. He also raised the possibility of putting barriers between the railroad tracks and a highway that runs alongside the tracks, but questions who would pay for such barriers.

Officials: Teen's death in custody due to heart condition

BRUCE SCHREINER, Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — A Kentucky teenager in state custody died in her sleep from a heart condition, and a martial arts hold used to restrain her was not a contributing factor, the state's justice secretary said Wednesday.

At a news conference, Justice Secretary John Tilley reported findings from three independent inquiries into the death of 16-year-old Gynnya McMillen at Lincoln Village Juvenile Detention Facility in January.

A state police review uncovered no evidence of foul play, he said, adding that medical examiners found no evidence of lethal blunt force injury and attribute the death to a sudden cardiac arrhythmia.

"Medical examiners can now confidently say that this child, sadly, died in her sleep from an irregular heartbeat," Tilley said. "Multiple investigations confirmed that the restraint was not a factor in this death and resulted in no apparent injuries."

Eleven other pathologists reviewed the autopsy and concurred with the findings, other officials attending the news conference said.

Employees at the detention center used the so-called Aikido restraint when the girl refused to cooperate as they tried to pat her down, said Tilley, who noted the technique is commonly used by juvenile facilities across the country to prevent injuries to the youths and staff. After the technique was used, the girl did not complain of any injuries, and surveillance video showed her walking and talking with staff employees, Tilley said. Investigators looked at use of the restraint as part of their investigation.

While no evidence of wrongdoing was found, a review by the Justice Cabinet's internal investigations branch uncovered a pattern of employee misconduct at the detention facility, including failure to complete regular bed checks and falsification of information logs, Tilley said. He warned of "swift and certain" consequences for any juvenile justice employees who flout policies.

"Some of the misconduct just smacks of outright indifference," he said.

Observation logs indicated 117 checks of the teenager were conducted, but only 75 were confirmed through a video review, said Barney Kinman, head of the Justice Cabinet's internal investigations branch.

The longest void between checks spanned nearly two hours, he said.

Six employees at the Elizabethtown detention center were identified by the cabinet's internal probe as failing to complete regular checks and falsifying information on logs. One employee was terminated, two are on special investigative leave and three others face suspension, though one has resigned, Tilley said.

"Even though these failures did not contribute to the death, they will not be tolerated," he said.

Tilley said the investigations will spur a systemwide review of Kentucky's juvenile justice policies and procedures. The message for employees: "You're on notice: Change is coming," he said. The Justice Cabinet also will enlist an outside agency to do an independent review and recommend changes, he said.

The teen was under constant video surveillance for all but about 17 minutes while at the detention facility, Kinman said. More than 12 of those minutes were when she was showering.

About four minutes of the gap occurred during the restraint when she was on the floor and a counter partially obstructed the camera, he said. A second camera would have captured those events but was malfunctioning at the time, he said.

The teen arrived at the detention center on Jan. 10 after allegedly having a domestic dispute in Shelbyville. She was found dead the following day.

Tilley said he met with the teen's family on Wednesday to update them on the investigative findings.

Her family will receive a full copy of the surveillance footage once state police close their investigation, he said. In doing so, he is waiving the juvenile justice department's standard policy not to release video inside a detention facility due to privacy and security concerns.

"We want to be as open and responsive as possible to give this family the answers they deserve," he said.

A Louisville attorney who has been representing the teen's estate and her mother did not return a call Wednesday seeking comment.

AP sources: Autonomous braking to be in most cars by 2022

TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Major automakers and the U.S. government have reached an agreement to make automatic emergency braking standard equipment on most cars by 2022, two people briefed on the deal said.

The agreement will be announced Thursday by 20 automakers and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Automakers will phase in the equipment on nearly all models except some with older electronic capabilities and some with manual transmissions, said the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because terms of the agreement haven't been announced.

Automatic emergency braking uses cameras, radar and other sensors to see objects in the way and slow or stop a vehicle if the driver doesn't react. The technology already is available as an option on many models, but automakers are struggling with how to fit it into current product plans that might not be ready for the electronics. Making the feature standard equipment on nearly all cars will speed adoption of the technology.

NHTSA chief Mark Rosekind wouldn't comment on the announcement at an autonomous car conference Wednesday in Dearborn, Michigan, but he indicated that the agreement would cover tractor-trailer rigs as well as cars and other light vehicles.

"Safety should be universal," he said. "For us it's all vehicles on the road."

Cars with automatic braking can cut rear-end crashes by about 40 percent, eliminating about 700,000 police-reported crashes per year based on 2013 data, according to a study released in January by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. That number represents 13 percent of all crashes, according to the study.

The automatic braking systems are the biggest safety advancement since electronic stability control, said Jake Fisher, auto testing chief for Consumer Reports magazine. The systems bring life-saving features of autonomous cars to the public, he said.

"It's the first time we're seeing a system that will see a problem and react for you," Fisher said. "That's kind of a new frontier, I think, in automotive safety."

In September, 10 automakers committed to the government and a private safety group that they will

include automatic emergency braking in all new cars, but the announcement didn't specify a timetable for making the change.

Safety advocates were swift to criticize the effort as a backroom deal that allows automakers to avoid the possibility that the Transportation Department will impose a legal requirement for inclusion of the braking systems in cars and set binding standards for the technology.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx has said such agreements will speed up crash-prevention technology instead of having to wait years for it to go through the government's cumbersome rule-making process.

Mormon scolded by Christian group is at center of Kansas law

MELISSA HELLMANN, Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Daniel Arkell was leading a bible study for a Christian group at Washburn University Law School in Kansas back in 2004 when the group's president reprimanded him for saying that people's eyes offer a glimpse into their souls. Arkell, who is a Mormon, was asked to sign a statement recognizing the Bible, not the Book of Mormon, as the word of God.

He refused, and the organization temporarily lost its public funding after Arkell complained to the dean. That led to a legal dispute at the center of a proposed law Kansas is expected to enact soon, which would allow such faith-based groups to limit membership to the like-minded.

"I thought it was inappropriate for them to discriminate against me ... when they were receiving public funding," Arkell told The Associated Press.

The Republican-dominated Kansas Legislature on Wednesday approved the bill allowing college religious groups to restrict membership, even though the U.S. Supreme Court ruled nearly six years ago that universities can require membership in such groups to be open to all.

If conservative Gov. Sam Brownback signs the measure into law as expected, Kansas would be the second state after Oklahoma to have such a religious objections law. And moving forward with the law could put Kansas on a collision course with civil liberties groups.

"I believe that every student association should have the right to stand for something and they should have the right to practice their own beliefs as they so feel," said Arkell, 41, who now practices law at his own firm in Dodge City, Kansas. "However, when public funds come into play, there needs to be a little bit more leeway."

Supporters of the Kansas proposal said it was a response to pressure on school religious organizations to accept anyone as a member, even if their beliefs conflict with those of the group. But opponents say it would sanction discrimination in the name of religion, could risk the loss of federal aid and would waste money defending it in court. American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas executive director Micah Kubic said the group was assessing whether it would file a lawsuit challenging the Kansas measure.

Republican Rep. Craig McPherson of Overland Park spoke in favor of the bill during debate Tuesday, adding that the measure counteracted a trend in which religious organizations are penalized for their beliefs.

"The people of Kansas should rise with somewhat righteous indignation against the contention that protecting religious liberty is equivalent with being discriminatory," McPherson said.

The bill stems from a handful of on-campus incidents in Kansas, including Arkell's complaint 12 years ago, and some in other states.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruling originated from a California incident. The Christian Legal Society at the University of California-Hastings College of Law was refused recognition and funding after it required all members to sign a form that they would abstain from pre-marital or same-sex sexual conduct. In a 5-4 decision, the high court backed the university's right to do so.

Kansas already has a religious objections law that prevents state or local governments from limiting people's freedom to express their religion, though the law doesn't touch on organizations at universities.

The extension of the culture war over religious liberty to universities has some Kansas institutions nervous.

"Kansas State University expects that there would be significant legal costs due to inherent legal conflicts with these federal laws," said Maureen Redeker, assistant general counsel of Kansas State University,

referring to the Supreme Court ruling.

The Kansas debate follows an uproar last year over a religious objections law in Indiana, and to a lesser extent a similar measure in Arkansas. Critics in those cases said the laws would allow discrimination against gays and lesbians by allowing providers of services such as flowers to deny them for same sex weddings. Both states revised their laws following the criticism, although they still allow certain religious objections.

This year, the Missouri Senate passed a proposal to include religious protection in the state constitution for those who object to gay marriage. The measure is pending.

SeaWorld says it will end killer whale breeding program

FREIDA FRISARO, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — SeaWorld is ending its practice of killer whale breeding following years of controversy over keeping orcas in captivity.

The company announced Thursday morning the breeding program will end immediately. The company also announced a partnership with the Humane Society.

The company will also end theatrical shows and introduce “new, inspiring natural orca encounters.” The new shows will begin next year at the SeaWorld Entertainment Inc.’s San Diego park.

SeaWorld president and CEO Joel Manby said in a statement that the company introduced more than 400 million guests to orcas and is proud of its part in contributing to the human understanding of the whales.

He says the company is “reimagining” how guests will encounter orcas while providing visitors to the theme parks with “experiences that matter.”

Vietnam’s southern delta faces worst drought in history

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Officials say Vietnam’s southern Mekong Delta, the country’s main rice growing region, is experiencing the worst drought and saline intrusion in recent history.

State media quoted a government report as saying some 575,000 people were short of fresh water. According to the Foreign Ministry, neighboring China has doubled the amount of water discharged from a dam to help alleviate the crisis.

Officials blame the drought on the El Nino weather phenomenon and excessive construction of hydro-power dams on the upper stream of the river.

Ma Quang Trung, a department director at the Agriculture Ministry, said Thursday that the level of inland saline intrusion was unprecedented, resulting in damage to some 180,000 hectares (444,780 acres) of paddy fields.

2 jets evacuated in bomb scares at New Delhi airport

NEW DELHI (AP) — Security personnel evacuated two aircraft at New Delhi’s international airport Thursday after receiving an anonymous phone call of explosives being placed on the planes in a third such scare affecting Indian airlines in less than 24 hours.

It was not immediately known if any explosive was found. Passengers and crew were taken off an Air India domestic flight from New Delhi to the eastern city of Bhubaneswar and their baggage was being checked, Press Trust of India said.

Separately, passengers of a Royal Nepal Airlines jet from New Delhi to Nepal’s capital, Kathmandu, were also ordered off the plane at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. Both aircraft were taken to isolation bays and were being searched.

The airport control room received a call from a man who said there was a bomb on the Nepal-bound plane. He also said there was a “problem” with the Air India aircraft, police said. They did not give any further details.

All 155 passengers and nine crew members of the Kathmandu flight and the 186 passengers and crew of the Air India flight were evacuated.

Late Wednesday, the passengers and crew of an Air India jetliner were evacuated at Bangkok's international airport after an apparent bomb hoax.

DC subway shutdown ends, but systemic problems remain

BEN NUCKOLS, Associated Press

JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Commuters in the nation's capital were able to return to their regular routines Thursday morning after an unprecedented daylong shutdown of the Washington subway system.

Metro tweeted early Thursday morning that it has resumed service on all lines. Local television stations showed commuters walking into stations and waiting on platforms.

But the problems that led to the closure won't be fixed so easily and will continue to cause headaches for riders, some of whom have already abandoned the aging system because of safety and reliability concerns.

The 29-hour shutdown, which ended at 5 a.m. Thursday, was ordered to allow workers to inspect 600 third-rail power cables throughout the Metro transit system. An electrical fire on the tracks Monday, similar to one that killed a passenger last year, raised grave safety concerns, Metro General Manager Paul Wiedefeld said.

The inspections revealed 26 areas of concern requiring replacement or repair, Wiedefeld said, including three he called "show-stoppers." Most of the issues were fixed during the closure, but Wiedefeld said the next step was to understand why the problems occurred.

Riders take more than 700,000 trips on Metro trains every day because it's still a convenient way to get downtown from Maryland, Virginia and the city's outer neighborhoods. But the system has become less reliable and ridership has declined.

Many riders shrugged off the closure, saying it's what they've come to expect.

One popular Twitter feed about the system, @unsuckdcmetro, was running a poll on whether the shutdown would solve "Metro's flaming cables problem." Thousands voted, with more than three-quarters saying no.

"Metro sucks," said Bob Jones, 26, of Arlington, Virginia, as he waited for a bus. The subways are "always slow, always crowded," he complained.

Members of Congress representing the region are also getting fed up. Rep. Gerry Connolly, a northern Virginia Democrat, said in a statement that federal and regional leaders must commit to providing the funding and oversight needed to improve Metro. But he also said some high-level managers need to be fired.

"Those responsible for allowing these issues to languish should step down or be removed," Connolly said.

Wiedefeld, who took over in November after running the Baltimore-Washington airport, acknowledged in a public letter this month that the agency must "improve safety and security, deliver more reliable service, and continue reforms to get our financial house in order."

The system has closed for days for weather, but this was believed to be the first shutdown for mechanical reasons.

Delayed trains, closed escalators and other annoyances have become frequent, but the Metro has had deadly accidents as well, including a 2009 collision between two trains that killed nine people. Last year, a passenger died when malfunctioning electrical equipment filled a train with smoke. Monday's fire was "disturbingly similar," Wiedefeld said in a statement. No one was hurt because it occurred before the system was open.

Michaun Jordan, 51, appreciated Metro's caution.

"At first I was a bit disappointed. Then I thought about it — it's best to be safe," said Jordan, who took a \$15 taxi for part of her commute that is normally a far cheaper rail ride.

Leander Talley, 52, who lives in Dale City, Virginia, and works in Alexandria, wasn't surprised by the shutdown.

"I kind of figured it would happen because of all the problems they've been having, but not on such short notice," said Talley, who woke up an hour and a half early to get a head start on a grueling com-

mute, saying he had to "catch five buses."

Federal workers were encouraged to take the day off or telecommute. District of Columbia public schools, which don't have dedicated buses, said tardiness and absences would be excused. Motorists slogged through a busy morning rush hour, and a city official said more than 500 people signed up for a free 24-hour bike-sharing membership.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx told a Senate Committee on Wednesday that he has directed the Federal Transit Administration to identify any federal grants to the Washington Metro with unspent money and redirect that money to improve safety.

In addition to the electric cables, Foxx said he is concerned about red-light running, the use of emergency brakes and track integrity. "The culture down there has to change and we can't enable these safety failures any longer," he said.

Kurdish group claims responsibility for second Ankara attack

ISTANBUL (AP) — A Kurdish militant group has claimed responsibility for a suicide car-bomb attack in the Turkish capital which killed 37 people.

In a statement posted Thursday on its website, the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons said the attack in Ankara was in response to Turkish military operations against Kurdish rebels in the southeast.

The Turkey-based group is considered an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and has carried out several attacks in the past including one in Ankara in February that killed 28 people.

More than 200 people have died in five suicide bombings in Turkey since July that were blamed either on the Kurdish rebels or IS.

Survey: More acceptance of social changes _ except divorce

MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans are more accepting of gay relationships and couples living together before marriage — but they've grown less comfortable with divorce, a new survey shows.

The government periodically asks thousands of teens and younger adults what they think about changes in U.S. family relationships. The results released Thursday indicate a shift over a decade on a range of topics. But most surprising was what they said about divorce.

Asked if divorce is the best solution when a marriage is on the rocks, 38 percent of women agreed, down from 47 percent a decade earlier. For men, it was 39 percent, down from 44 percent.

Divorce in the U.S. has become more common through the generations, and there's an assumption that acceptance would be holding steady or perhaps increasing, some experts said.

There could be several explanations for the decline, said Wendy Manning, a family and marriage researcher at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Marriage rates are down and people are older when they first get married. So those who do marry are more likely to be in it to win it, she said.

"Marriage is becoming so selective that maybe people think if you achieve this status, you don't want to end it," said Manning.

Also, the survey was conducted on the heels of a national economic downturn, when some couples didn't have the money to divorce and set up separate households, she noted.

Other findings, which reflect an increase over a decade:

— Think it's OK for a young couple to live together before they're married; about three-quarters of men and women.

— Approve of single women having and raising a baby; 78 percent of women, 69 percent of men.

— Say same-sex relationships are fine; about 60 percent of women, 49 percent of men.

— Agree gay and lesbian adults should have the right to adopt children; 75 percent of women, 68 percent of men.

— Approve of premarital sex among 18 year olds; about 54 percent of women and 64 percent of men.

But there was no significant change when it came to sex among 16 year olds. Only 15 percent of women and 21 percent of men said it's OK.

And fewer than 10 percent think it's necessary to have children to be happy in life. That hasn't been changing, either.

The 2011-2013 survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention involved in-person interviews of 10,000 participants ages 15 to 44.

Brazil judge sees efforts to curry favor for ex-president

MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

JENNY BARCHFIELD, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Tapped phone calls between ex-President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and prominent public figures suggest attempts were made to curry favor for the former leader in his judicial woes, according to the magistrate in charge of the sprawling corruption investigation at Brazil's state-run Petrobras oil company.

Judge Sergio Moro released nearly 50 audio recordings Wednesday, hours after President Dilma Rousseff appointed Silva as her chief of staff — a move that critics called an attempt to help shield him from potential detention as part of the corruption probe.

In his filing, Moro justified the release by saying democracies "demand that the people know what their officials are doing, even when they attempt to act under the cover of shadow." He also stressed there was no indication the attempts to secure favors for Silva bore fruit, but the day's rollercoaster of events seemed to stoke more anger at Silva, Rousseff and the governing Workers' Party.

Police used tear gas and stun grenades against an estimated 5,000 anti-government protesters who massed outside Congress late Wednesday. Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro also saw protests. In the southern city of Curitiba, where Moro is based, hundreds gathered in front of the court to show support for the magistrate and his "Car Wash" investigation into a corruption scheme at Petrobras that prosecutors say involved billions in bribes for inflated contracts.

On Sunday, an estimated 3 million people turned out for anti-government demonstrations nationwide.

Silva's appointment is being widely viewed as a way to shield him from his legal woes because under Brazilian law, only the Supreme Court can authorize the investigation, imprisonment and trial of Cabinet members and legislators. That special judicial status now applies to Silva because his appointment has appeared in a special edition of the government's official gazette. A swearing-in ceremony was set for Thursday morning in Brasilia, the capital.

In his filing, which was made public late Wednesday along with nearly 50 recordings, Moro said: "I observe that in some dialogues, there is talk apparently of attempting to influence or obtain help from officials in the public prosecutor's office or the magistrate in favor of the ex-president."

However, he added, "there is no indication inside or outside the dialogues that those mentioned in fact proceeded in an inappropriate manner."

"From the tenor of the taped conversations, it is clear that the ex-president already knew or at least suspected he was being taped," the judge added.

In a twist, recordings made Wednesday appeared to have been made after Moro ordered the tapping stopped. In a statement, police said they requested phone companies halt the taps as soon as they received Moro's order, but it may have taken time for it to be implemented. The police said it was Moro's decision on which recordings to include in the probe.

In a statement late Wednesday, the presidential palace called the release of the tapes an "affront to the rights and guarantees of the presidency." It said that "all the appropriate judicial and administrative measures will be taken to repair the flagrant violation of the law and the constitution committed by the judge behind the leak."

An attorney for Silva, Cristiano Zanin Martins, condemned the recordings, saying their release was sparking a "social convulsion ... which is not the role of the judiciary."

The filing by Moro was the latest twist in a dramatic saga that has drawn comparisons to the country's famous prime-time soap operas, known as "novelas" to Brazilians.

Silva's appointment as Rousseff's chief of state came after days of intense speculation about the move.

Speaking at a news conference after the announcement, she vehemently denied Silva accepted the post to delay investigations against him, stressing that Cabinet ministers' special judicial standing does not grant them immunity.

"It doesn't mean that he will not be investigated," Rousseff said. "It's a question of whom he will be investigated by."

Rousseff, who herself was chief of staff for Silva in 2005-2010, said she was "very happy" to have Silva in her government.

"His joining my government strengthens my government," she said.

A dexterous political operator, Silva had been seen as Rousseff's best hope for shoring up support for the administration and its agenda by sealing alliances with key centrist and right-leaning parties in Congress and securing the support of social movements.

Silva was also regarded as crucial to fending off the impeachment proceedings against Rousseff over accusations of fiscal mismanagement unrelated to the Petrobras probe.

The opposition excoriated his appointment, and analysts said it could dramatically weaken Rousseff.

Rousseff had been untouched by the Petrobras turmoil. But the Supreme Court on Tuesday accepted a plea bargain by a former Senate leader for the Workers' Party who alleged Rousseff at least knew about wrongdoing at Petrobras, which she formerly oversaw.

Both Rousseff and Silva have repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Governor, EPA chief agree: Michigan agency failed Flint

MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality repeatedly gave assurances that water from the Flint River was safe, when in reality it had dangerous levels of lead, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder says.

Snyder tells Congress that he did not learn that Flint's water was contaminated until Oct. 1, 2015 — nearly 18 months after the city began drawing its water from the Flint River in April 2014 to save money.

Snyder said he took immediate action, reconnecting the city with Detroit's water supply and distributing water filters and testing residents — especially children — for elevated lead levels.

"Not a day or night goes by that this tragedy doesn't weigh on my mind — the questions I should have asked, the answers I should have demanded," Snyder says in prepared testimony for a House hearing Thursday.

Ultimately, Snyder says, he wonders how he could have prevented the disaster. "That's why I am so committed to delivering permanent, long-term solutions and the clean, safe drinking water that every Michigan citizen deserves," he said.

Snyder will be a star witness at a hearing Thursday before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The session is the second of two Flint-related hearings the panel is conducting this week.

Environmental Protection Agency chief Gina McCarthy also is set to testify. McCarthy faults state officials for the crisis, which occurred when Flint switched from the Detroit system and began drawing from the Flint River to save money. The impoverished city was under state management at the time.

"The crisis we're seeing was the result of a state-appointed emergency manager deciding that the city would stop purchasing treated drinking water and instead switch to an untreated source to save money," McCarthy says in prepared testimony. "Without corrosion control, lead from pipes, fittings and fixtures can leach into the drinking water. These decisions resulted in Flint residents being exposed to dangerously high levels of lead."

The Associated Press obtained copies of testimony by Snyder and McCarthy in advance.

Snyder, a Republican, asked to testify to Congress last month, bowing to demands by Democrats that

he explain his role in a cost-cutting move that resulted in a public health emergency that has rocked Flint and caused ripples in the presidential campaign, where Democrats have called for Snyder to step down.

A state investigation has "uncovered systemic failures at the Michigan DEQ," Snyder says. "The fact is, bureaucrats created a culture that valued technical compliance over common sense - and the result was that lead was leaching into residents' water."

In response to the crisis, the state has approved \$67 million in emergency spending, with a request for \$165 million more, Snyder said. The governor called for Congress to approve a bipartisan bill that would spend \$220 million to fix and replace lead-contaminated pipes in Flint and other cities. Senators from both parties have reached a tentative agreement, but the bill remains on hold amid objections by Sens. Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Bill Nelson, D-Fla.

Snyder said he is glad to be appearing Thursday alongside McCarthy, saying the EPA also made mistakes. Top officials silenced an EPA water expert who tried to raise alarms about Flint's water, he said

Thursday's hearing follows a contentious session Tuesday in which former city and federal officials pointed fingers at one another for failing to protect the 100,000 citizens of Flint. Committee Republicans targeted for blame a regional EPA executive who resigned last month as the crisis worsened.

Amid withering criticism, Susan Hedman sought to defend the EPA's actions, saying that while the crisis was not EPA's fault, "I do believe we could have done more." Hedman was director of the EPA's Chicago-based Midwest office when the Flint crisis occurred.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, chairman of the oversight panel, said officials "need to understand how the system failed the residents of Flint so badly. But more importantly, we need to understand what is being done to fix the problem and help the people of Flint recover from this tragedy."

Prince Harry to visit Nepal, tour quake-hit areas

BINAJ GURUBACHARYA, Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — When Britain's Prince Harry visits Nepal this weekend, ordinary people hope his tour of earthquake-hit areas will draw attention to the country's struggle to recover from last year's disaster. Rebuilding is slow, and tens of thousands remain homeless.

"Hopefully when a big prince comes to these alleys and the world's media will see how miserable our lives are, we will get some help," said Ram Kaji, who was selling potatoes on the street near his damaged home in Patan, a historic district near the capital of Kathmandu.

The April 25, 2015, quake killed nearly 9,000 people, destroyed about 1 million homes and damaged many old temples, palaces and other old structures in Patan and the capital.

During his five-day trip, the 31-year-old prince will also visit a camp for displaced survivors and stay with a family whose men served in the famed Gurkha regiments in the British army — units that Harry served with in Afghanistan.

"He has a huge amount of admiration for the resilience of the people of the country, particularly in response to the earthquakes last year," Kensington Palace said in a statement.

Harry is the first British royal to visit the Himalayan country since the monarchy was abolished in 2008 following street protests. Since then, Nepal has turned into a republic, with a president chosen by a parliament. The prince will meet with President Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

Authorities, however, have been slow to push ahead with rebuilding efforts. A government reconstruction agency was finally appointed in December but has yet to provide promised aid money to displaced families and guidelines to build new houses and structures.

People who live around the shiny Golden Temple in Patan — which Queen Elizabeth visited about 30 years ago — hope Harry's visit will generate greater awareness about rebuilding needs and bring in funds to repair damages to the many of historic structures.

The Buddhist shrine that dates back 1,400 years was mostly spared by the earthquake but the adjoining

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monastery, prayer house and assembly halls have been damaged. Only plastic sheets are keeping the rain off and the damaged areas are closed to the public due to danger of collapse. Harry will also negotiate a narrow alley alongside brick and mud houses that are supported by wooden beams.

Puspa Raj Bajracharya, who is on the committee that takes care of the Golden Temple, said they have sent requests and proposals to the government, saying it was getting dangerous for the devotees who come to the temple, but have not received any response. Repairs are estimated to cost about 25 million rupees (\$227,000), but so far only a fraction of that has been collected from private donors.

"His grandmother had visited the temple in the 1980s when she came to Nepal with her husband and now the young prince is coming," Bajracharya said. "We hope when the prince comes to our temple we will get the attention of the world to come help us."

Prince Harry will also travel to Bhaktapur, a historic town east of Kathmandu that suffered even more damage, and visit a nearby temporary camp for about 250 people made homeless by the disaster, a quarter of whom are children.

In Pokhara, a lakeside town that is a base for trekkers in central Nepal, Harry will meet several retired Gurkha soldiers and their families. The prince served with a Gurkha battalion during a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

The Gurkhas have served in the British army for 200 years and have a reputation for being brave, tenacious fighters. Thousands of young Nepali men attempt to pass the grueling test to become a Gurkha, but only a few get through.

Harry will honor those killed in battle and spend a night with a local family.

For years, the Gurkhas fought for equal pay and pension to their British counterparts until a landmark 2008 court ruling that ended most discriminatory practices. Gurkha soldiers now receive equal salary and pension, and their families are allowed to settle in Britain. However, those who retired before 2008 still get roughly one-third of the pension.

The Gurkhas are proud of their heritage and identity, and Harry's visit is a "big event for us Gurkhas," said Krishna Kumar Ale, who served in the British army between 1969 and 1998 when he retired as a major. He recalled seeing the young Harry during a visit to a military exercise in Britain, and said Harry once had a Gurkha orderly.

"He is a good friend of the Gurkhas," he said, "and has always been close with the Gurkhas."