

Groton Daily Independent

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Schuster goes to Sioux Valley

Former Groton Area Superintendent Laura Schuster, went from Groton to Canby, Minn. The next school year, she will be returning to South Dakota where she will be superintendent at Sioux Valley School in Volga. Volga is located near Brookings.

Davies Bridal Shower

Open house bridal shower for Traci Davies will be held Saturday, February 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Groton. The bride is registered at Target.

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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Monday, February 15

NO SCHOOL - President's Day
Presidents' Day

Birthdays: Bennett Shabazz, Penny Stolle, Shirley Larson

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

3:00pm: JH BBB at Roncalli (7th at 3 pm, 8th at 4 pm)

5:15pm: BBB at Roncalli (C game at 5:15, JV at 6:30, Varsity at 8:00)

7:30pm: St. John's Lutheran Christian Literature Circle

Tuesday, February 16

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

Birthdays: Pernell Graf

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

7:00 pm: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

Wednesday, February 17

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, fruit, juice, milk.

Birthdays: Darien Shabazz, Lila Olson, Marie Gengerke

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: St. John's Confirmation

6:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Lenten Meal (SS Serves)

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

7:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Lenten Service

Thursday, February 18

State FFA Proficiency Judging at Webster

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

Birthdays: Crystal Young, Zach Herron

FROST
CONSTRUCTION INC.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
605.290.1535
custom homes | remodels | additions

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Follow The Groton
Activities On-Line



gdilive.com

Coming up this week at gdilive.com

Monday, Feb. 15: BBB at Aberdeen Roncalli (Varsity Only)

Thursday, Feb. 18: GBB at Redfield (Varsity Only)

Friday, Feb. 19: BBB host Redfield-Doland (Varsity Only)

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

Ready to bring your heart and expertise to a team that feels more like a family? Bring your passion for patient care to the Golden LivingCenter in Groton. The Groton facility is now hiring for CNAs and Nurses. They have new wages with an excellent benefits package. All shifts are open. Join the team today by calling Jessica at 397-2365. The Golden LivingCenter of Groton is looking for you!

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Lana's Annals

**Lana
Greenfield
District 2
State
Representative**

Greetings to all. As the air temperature is beginning to fluctuate, so is the weather inside the capitol. We have had a difficult week of decision and indecision!

Our Health and Human Services Committee listened to HB1198, which is an act to recognize dyslexia as a learning disability. This one surprised me as I thought, based on my years of teaching, that this recognition and implementation for individual treatment was already in place. We heard many testimonies that, while it may be diagnosed in some schools, others have not used methods to properly identify it. The bill calls for screening if dyslexia is suspected; we inquired about the cost and were told that the screeners cost about 30 dollars. No action was taken, and we will resume discussion this week. Another bill was to provide for pre-natal care of unborn babies of mothers based on citizenship

status. While we did vote to move it forward, new testimony has been introduced in the House about funding of these unborn already in place, and again, the final vote of the bill was deferred till this week.

Our Local Government Committee heard HB1140, which sets up county zoning board rules. This was about procedure to move projects, such as CAFOs, forward and putting them to a vote. According to testimony, CAFOS have been stalled for a long time by several singular aggrieved parties. Each case has been heard as to why they are aggrieved and want to halt action. My question to Todd Wilkinson, a DeSmet farmer and lawyer, was whether the owners of CAFOs are bound to fix county or township roads if heavy equipment or usage causes major damage. I was assured that that was not a problem. We voted to pass the procedural bill and move it onto the House floor with a 11-2 vote.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the introduction of HB1182. Many came to hear testimony on it, but a rule 5-17 was invoked to halt the discussion. When we got onto the House floor, we were greeted with a variety of amendments to HB1182, which we had not read. Therefore it was necessary to spend some time studying revisions or insertions to the bill. We now are scheduled to take it up again on Tuesday. Let me address this bill. I have gotten many, many e-mails, mostly from teachers, who want it passed. I have read and re-read this bill; it is simply a tax bill which raises our excise, machinery, and sales and use tax (and anything that moves) by one half per cent. Nothing mentioned about teachers receiving a raise is stated in HB1182. It is a blank check we would be sending on to the Senate to be possibly be plugged into Senate bills 131, 132, and 133. Once in that chamber, the funding formula stands to undergo revision, a possibility making me most uncomfortable. If changed, it would appear that the new funding formula will create winners and losers. The small schools, which are not compliant with what was deemed to be the correct student:teacher ratio, will not be able to meet the target. So they are faced with less funding or eliminating teachers in order to do so. It now makes sense that the Governor mentioned the elimination of 400 teachers in the Argus a couple of weeks ago...375 now as Grant-Duel is closing in a year. This seems contrary to what we are trying to do, and that is to attract teachers. Along with that, I have heard from some of the ag sector that reminded me as to how HB1182 would affect them. While a half cent does not seem much, on a 250,000 dollar machine purchase, it is quite a chunk. I remind you that I am not in a popularity contest but am trying to study a viable option, fair to all. I am very much in favor of raising teacher pay and am currently studying necessary, alternative funding sources, which do not require the raising of taxes. Teaching was my life for 37 years. During that time, we were promised sustainable teacher raises by using yearly video lottery income. The money ended up in the general fund and was said to go for property tax relief, so HB1182 has a very familiar, historical ring. I hope you now understand how complex and many-sided this bill is. When I handed out my brochures, I focused on supporting education and also to have no new taxes. I want to make good on BOTH.

Until next week, may God bless your journey with health and comfort, no matter what struggles you may be facing.

Rep. Greenfield

I can be reached at lane.greenfield@gmail.com or rep.lanagreenfield@state.sd.us Phone 773-3851

What pigs can teach us about eating

BROOKINGS, S.D. - No diet has been more analyzed than the human diet. Yet health problems related to diet like obesity, diabetes and heart disease continue to plague Americans. Could the answer to solving the human diet dilemma start with pigs?

The answer is yes, according to meat scientist Eric Berg. Pigs are an excellent substitute for humans when studying nutrition. "Like humans, pigs are omnivores and their anatomy and physiology are very similar," says Berg, a professor at North Dakota State University.

Pigs and humans have comparable gastrointestinal systems, body composition and nutrient requirements. This makes them much better candidates for human nutrition testing than rats. It also may be better than using humans who confound research trials with diverse genetics, environments, ages, and the inability to follow strict diets.

So Berg has forged ahead on research using pigs to study American diets with some eye-opening results.

Berg will give a presentation about his research on Thursday, Feb. 25, in Larson Concert Hall at 7 p.m. The presentation is part of the South Dakota State University 2016 speaker series and is sponsored by the SDSU Swine Club.

It's about protein

Berg is learning from his research that pigs do very poorly when fed a typical human diet that lacks balanced protein. In fact, pigs fed this diet were stunted and exhibited extra intramuscular fat compared to pigs fed a typical pig diet.

"We've known for 100 years that it is not just protein that's important, but the amino acids that make up the protein," Berg says. "Corn can be high in protein, but it is low in availability of essential amino acids. We would never just feed corn to pigs, but balance their diet with a legume like soybeans to balance essential amino acids and then add vitamins and minerals."

Unfortunately, human nutrition lags behind animal nutrition. "We snack ourselves into non-nutrition," Berg says. "We may have a whole-grain bagel for breakfast and then snack on something else for lunch. As a result, our diet is out of balance."

The biggest source of balanced protein is meat, including red and processed meat, according to Berg. All the essential amino acids are contained in a serving of meat.

Berg is widely recognized for his meat research, which spans 26 years of work. Last year he was asked to testify at hearings for the USDA Dietary Guidelines Advisory committee at the National Institute of Health.

Governor Signs Bills Into Law

To find out more information about a particular bill, go to
http://legis.sd.gov/Statutes/Session_Laws/menu.aspx?Session=2016

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

SB 29 – An Act to update the nurse practice act and to adopt a new Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact.

SB 35 – An Act to update references to certain federal motor carrier regulations.

HB 1002 – An Act to eliminate certain reporting requirements for the county general fund.

HB 1003 – An Act to revise certain administrative functions regarding county government.

HB 1016 – An Act to revise the authority granted to the Building Authority and to the Board of Regents to construct certain improvements at South Dakota State University in Brookings and the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

HB 1018 – An Act to define certain terms related to commercial fertilizer and soil amendments.

HB 1019 – An Act to revise certain provisions related to milk sampling and grading licenses and tester and grader licenses.

HB 1020 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning fire prevention and compacts related to the prevention and control of forest fires.

HB 1021 – An Act to allow child advocacy centers and tribal agencies that provide child placement services to obtain results from a check of the central registry for abuse and neglect.

HB 1022 – An Act to revise certain provisions related to the use of another planned permanent living arrangement as a permanency plan for certain children.

HB 1030 – An Act to revise certain codes and standards regarding fire prevention.

HB 1034 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning local government elections.

HB 1035 – An Act to revise and repeal certain provisions concerning voter registration, vote centers, and conducting elections.

HB 1036 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning campaign finance requirements.

HB 1037 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning petitions for initiated constitutional amendments, initiated measures, and candidates.

HB 1038 – An Act to update certain citations to federal regulations regarding pipeline safety inspections.

HB 1040 – An Act to revise and implement certain provisions regarding the regulation of risk retention groups.

HB 1041 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the recovery of certain insurance company premium and annuity taxes.

HB 1049 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding references to the Internal Revenue Code.

HB 1050 – An Act to repeal certain obsolete mini-storage tax refund provisions.

HB 1052 – An Act to revise certain alcoholic beverage business restrictions on Department of Revenue employees.

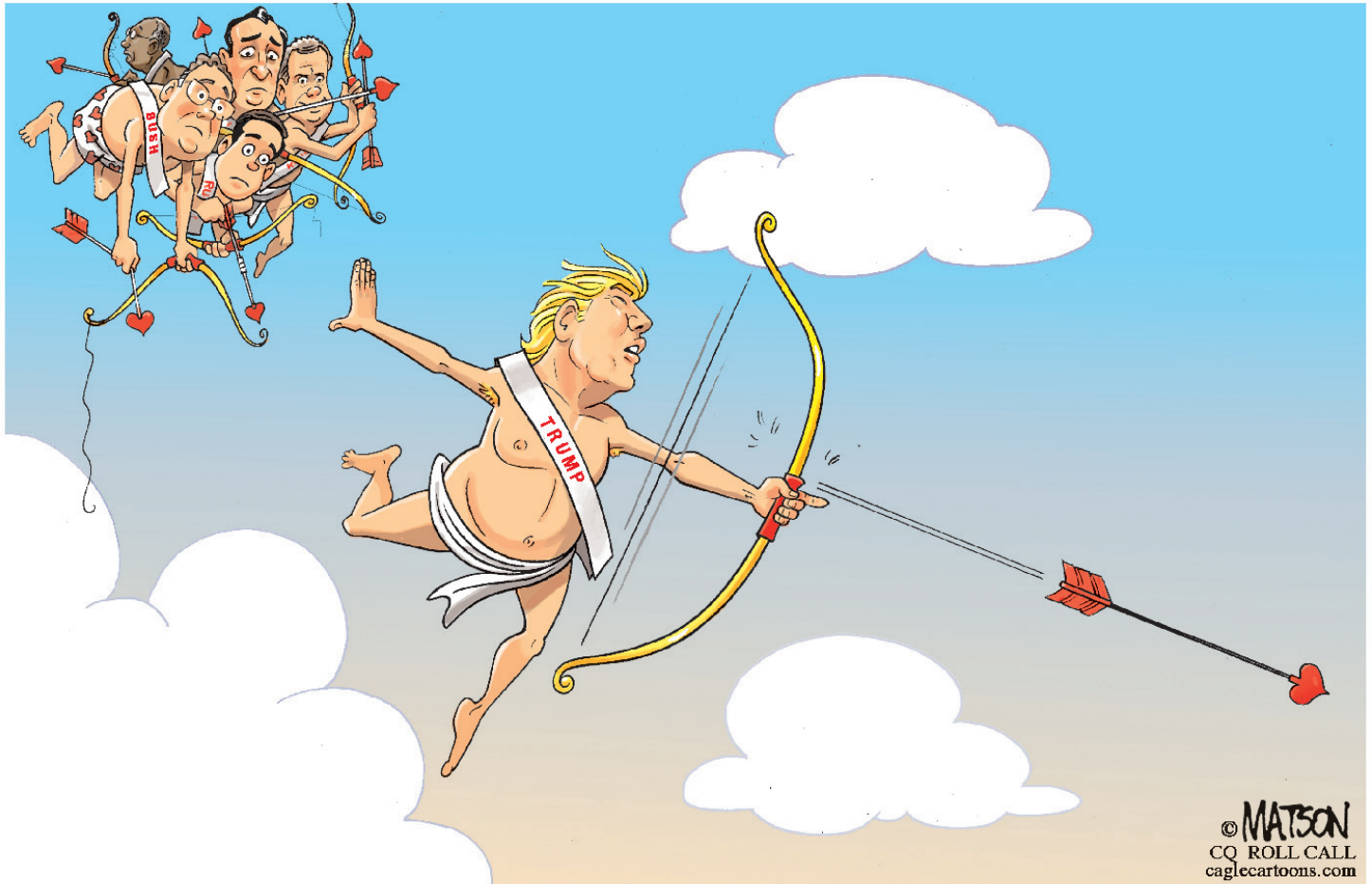
HB 1057 – An Act to revise the rule-making authority of the South Dakota Commission on Gaming.

HB 1058 – An Act to revise the procedure for recovery of abandoned mineral interests.

HB 1062 – An Act to permit an order changing the name of a minor child without prior publication in certain instances.

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"I COULD ACTUALLY SHOOT SOMEBODY AND THEY WOULD STILL LOVE ME!"

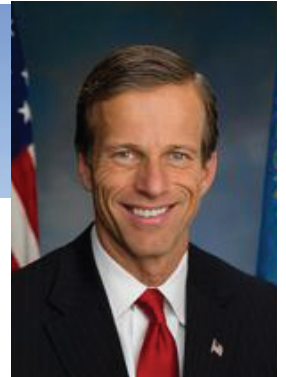
GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 – 7pm

Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Police Annual Report
- 4) Request for Curb Cut for handicap by Cheri's
- 5) Recreation 2015 reports
- 6) 2016 Recreation Charges
- 7) Paint SD
- 8) Heartland meeting results
- 9) Car Show June 19
- 10) Nominating Petitions
- 11) Exe Session – Legal or Personnel
- 12) Hire Baseball/Softball Coordinator & Pool Managers

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



CRP Provides Important Benefits and Alternatives for South Dakota Farmers

Landowners have until February 26 to enroll eligible land in the current Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up. Between the improvements that were made to CRP in the 2014 farm bill and today's low commodity prices, both point to CRP as a useful option for South Dakota farmers and ranchers in their farming operations.

From its highly productive East River cropland to its West River grasslands, and of course the Black Hills, South Dakota is blessed with a diverse landscape. CRP has helped farmers keep the South Dakota landscape so diverse because of the patchwork of CRP-enrolled grasslands, shelterbelts, wildlife food plots, and buffer strips located in what otherwise might be large unbroken blocks of cropped acres.

Thirty years ago this year, the first CRP contract acres were approved in South Dakota, and since the enrollment of those first contracts, South Dakota's CRP acreage grew to 1.5 million acres by 2007. Unfortunately, it has declined to about 940,000 acres today. CRP has been very popular with not only South Dakota landowners, but also with big game and upland game bird hunters, outdoor enthusiasts, and many others who enjoy outdoor recreation.

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee and now the Senate Agriculture Committee, I helped draft the last three farm bills and have paid special attention to CRP and how it could be improved. I think farmers who have not familiarized themselves with the most recent changes and improvements to CRP will be pleasantly surprised. Today there is greater flexibility in making CRP a fully working lands program, which allows for increased use of CRP vegetative cover through haying and grazing, making it a much more attractive option.

On September 30, nearly 60,000 acres of CRP-enrolled land will expire in South Dakota. Rather than remove these acres from CRP, I encourage contract holders to take a look at how much CRP has changed and improved since they first enrolled in the program 10 or 15 years ago and seriously consider re-enrolling. As spring planting season approaches, rather than applying expensive seed, fertilizer, and chemicals to grow crops that when sold will not meet production costs, I encourage farmers to consider CRP for their less productive land.

Agriculture is South Dakota's number one industry, and it's the farmers and ranchers who keep South Dakota one of the top agricultural states in the nation. With many of the improvements I helped include in the 2014 farm bill, CRP can do even more to help keep South Dakota at the top of the agriculture industry and continue to add to our state's diverse landscape, increase wildlife habitat, and maintain our state's more than \$225 million annual pheasant hunting revenue.



Kumla Dinner

Sunday, Feb. 28th, Serving 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Groton Community Center

Sponsored by Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont



Innovation over Regulation

Just when many of us were starting to feel the relief of lower gas prices, President Obama put forward a plan to increase the price at the pump by about 25 cents per gallon. Obviously, he does not recognize that many people are just trying to keep their heads above water financially. Why hike costs when people are finally getting some room to breathe?

Earlier this month, President Obama put forward his final budget proposal. Included in it was a \$10.25 tax on every barrel of oil. GasBuddy.com's Patrick DeHaan reacted saying, "This proposal would trickle down and be a \$10 per barrel tax on motorists – or 20 to 25 cents per gallon on refined fuels.... It will likely be completely passed to consumers in the years ahead." The White House confirmed DeHaan's assessment, saying: "We recognize that oil companies would likely pass on some of the costs."

Why would the President offer up such a hard-hitting tax? To support his environmental agenda.

Time and again, this administration has put its anti-energy agenda above your financial security. He rejected the Keystone XL Pipeline, which would have offered much-needed revenue for cash-strapped South Dakota counties. He also announced a rule last month that would stop coal production on federal land as well as one that would make it more difficult for companies to produce oil and natural gas on federal land.

Perhaps the most concerning was the administration's greenhouse gas proposal, which the President admitted would "necessarily skyrocket" energy costs for families. By that he meant electricity costs could increase by as much as \$17 billion nationwide and put a quarter-million people out of a job every year, by some estimates. In South Dakota, power providers have already said wholesale electricity rates could increase by 40 percent, if changes aren't made to the President's plan. Already, families in our state earning less than \$50,000 per year spend one-fifth of their after-tax income on energy costs, which is double the national average. Many can't afford to pay even more.

Fortunately, the Supreme Court blocked the administration's greenhouse gas proposal earlier this month – temporarily, at least. As the judicial system is doing its job, I've been working in Congress to stop the President's proposal as well. More specifically, we've passed legislation to stop it, although the President chose to veto it. I also cosponsored legislation, which has already passed the House, requiring bureaucrats to institute regulations based on sound data and at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers. It seems like commonsense – or something that should be happening already – but it isn't, so I'd like to write that requirement into law.

We all want to preserve our environment for future generations, and in a place like South Dakota where we largely make our living off the land, that is especially true. But that preservation should be done through innovation, not regulation. I've fought hard to make it easier to invest, produce, and build smarter technologies in America, but President Obama has opted for Washington bureaucracy instead of American ingenuity.

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Working To Increase Teacher Pay

This week, the legislative session reached its half-way point. Legislators are working hard as they consider bills on a wide range of topics.

Education funding is a major topic of discussion this year. At the beginning of session, I offered a plan to increase teacher pay and to reform the school funding formula. My plan is based on proposals made by the Blue Ribbon Task Force, which met throughout the past year.

We all know that the key to a good education is a great teacher, and that's why the public strongly supports increasing teacher salaries. I've been pleased to receive supportive comments from many South Dakotans. They understand South Dakota teacher pay must be competitive with other states if we want to recruit a new generation of great teachers.

Many legislators and other taxpayers have told me that they will support my plan, which includes a half-cent sales tax increase, if they have confidence that the money will get to teachers. They do not want the new funding to be spent on other things.

I agree with that. The funding formula bill I proposed, Senate Bill 131, includes a section that requires at least 90 percent of new funding to go directly to salaries and benefits for teachers. I understand that schools have other needs, but the goal of the Blue Ribbon Task Force was to increase teacher pay. That is the problem we are trying to solve.

Legislators are discussing additional ideas to ensure that new funding goes to teacher pay, and I am open to those ideas. I am confident that we can direct these dollars to the teachers, so that every legislator with this concern can vote for the proposal. School leaders have also told me that they support these accountability measures – they understand that education's greatest need is to increase teacher salaries, and they want to demonstrate that they are directing new dollars to this need.

The plan I offered to the Legislature includes three bills: Senate Bill 131, Senate Bill 133 and House Bill 1182. All three will be working their way through the legislative process in the coming weeks. The legislative process can be confusing or frustrating, but it is designed to give legislators time to consider and discuss these important issues.

We can be proud that our legislative process is also very open – every bill receives a full public hearing, and any South Dakotan can offer testimony or offer feedback. Whatever your view of my plan, or of the many other bills currently before the Legislature, I encourage all South Dakotans to stay informed about and engaged in the important work being done in Pierre.

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SCHOOL LAND LEASE AUCTION

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

16 125N 65W E2NE, E2SE

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



Attention Groton Businesses!

Are you
...looking for low-interest financing?
...wanting to expand?
...planning to increase your labor force?

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Contact us today!

CASEY CRABTREE
Heartland Director of Economic Development
(605) 256-6536 • ccrabtree@hcpd.com

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Today in Weather History

February 15, 1969: Heavy snow along with winds to 15 to 25 mph caused blowing and drifting snow which closed many roads. The heaviest snow fell in the southeast part of the state where up to one and half feet of snow was reported.

February 15, 1990: Heavy snow developed across southwest South Dakota early on the 15th and moved slowly across the state before ending early on the 16th. A narrow band of 10 to 12 inches accumulated in central South Dakota from Pierre to near Huron. Lesser amounts of 3 to 6 inches fell north and south of the heavy snow band. Some of the heavier snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Aberdeen and Sioux Falls, 10 inches Pierre, and 12 inches at Huron.

1899 - A great blizzard struck the eastern U.S. Washington D.C. received 20.5 inches of snow to bring their total snow depth to nearly three feet. The storm produced 36 inches of snow at Cape May NJ. (David Ludlum)

1940 - A "Saint Valentine's Day Blizzard" hit the northeastern U.S. Up to a foot and a half of snow blanketed southern New England, and whole gales accompanied the heavy snow stranding many in downtown Boston. (David Ludlum)

1982: A "meteorological bomb" exploded in the Atlantic southeast of Newfoundland. The term is used to describe a storm that rapidly intensifies. An intense cyclone off the Atlantic coast capsized a drilling rig killing 84 persons, and sank a Soviet freighter resulting in 33 more deaths. The cyclone produced 80 mph winds that whipped the water into waves fifty feet high.

1987 - A powerful storm spawned severe thunderstorms in Texas and Oklahoma, and produced heavy snow in the Rocky Mountain Region. Snowfall totals in Colorado ranged up to 27 inches at Telluride. Straight line winds gusting to 104 mph howled through Guadalupe Pass in West Texas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2000: Amarillo, Texas set unusual temperature records today. The high of 82 degrees smashed the old daily high of 76 degrees set in 1921. The morning low of 41 degrees broke the old high low record for the date of 40 degrees, which was also set in 1921.

2004 - Dallas receives 3 inches of snow, wreaking havoc with Valentine's Day flower deliveries. The greatest snowfall since 1978 caused numerous traffic accidents, power outages and flight cancellations at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.



**Livestream
your
wedding!**

How cool would that be?!

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Washington's
Birthday



Patchy Fog
then Chance
Rain/Sleet

High: 36 °F

Tonight



Wintry Mix
Likely then
Chance Snow

Low: 28 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 30 °F

Tuesday
Night



Chance Snow

Low: 17 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 31 °F

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 23 °F

Thursday



Mostly Cloudy

High: 42 °F

Pair Of Weak Systems Passing Through Mid Week

Much Warmer For The Second Half Of The Work Week

Today



Light rain for
central, evening
snow (1-2") for
eastern SD

Highs 35-45 F
Lows 25-30 F

Tuesday



Dry most of day,
chance for light
snow in the
evening/overnight

Highs 25-45 F
Lows 10-25 F

Wednesday



Partly sunny
skies, overall dry
and quiet weather

Highs 25-50 F
Lows 20-30 F

Thursday



Warm-up
accelerates!
Partly sunny
skies

Highs 40-65 F
Lows 30-40 F

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 2/15/2016 4:47 AM Central

Published on: 02/15/2016 at 4:55AM

A weak disturbance will push through during the evening today. Light rain may fall across central South Dakota but temperatures should cool off enough by the evening for snow to fall and perhaps accumulate to around an inch or two across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Slight chances for light snow will again exist Tuesday evening before we dry out Wednesday and then warm up quite substantially on Thursday. It looks to stay quite warm to end the week!



The Life of Rev. Dr. David Paul Olson

The Rev. Dr. David Paul Olson, age 73, died on February 12, 2016, after a nine month battle with cancer. He was with his wife and other family members at The Neighborhoods at Brookview in Brookings. A celebration of his life will begin with the visitation on Friday, February 19 at Ascension Lutheran Church in Brookings. Family will be present from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. A Prayer Service will follow the visitation. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 20, 2016, at Ascension Lutheran Church. Burial will be in the Groton (SD) Union Cemetery at 3:00 p.m. Saturday. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Ascension Lutheran Church (Memo Line: Debt Reduction) or SDSU Foundation (Memo Line: Endowed Chair for Dean of Nursing).

David was born in Sioux Falls, SD to Arthur H. and Irma (Israel) Olson on February 7, 1943. He grew up in Groton, SD. David was an excellent student and earned seven degrees in a variety of areas. His four graduate degrees were an

M. Divinity from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, an MSW (in Community Development) from Washington University, St. Louis, an M. Ed. From Kansas State University, and PhD in Sociology from South Dakota State University (SDSU).

David was employed in a variety of positions over his career. He served as a Community Developer in University City, MO; Development Officer for the Lutheran Music Program; Director of Community Development for the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance; and Community Development Program Director for SDSU Extension.

He married Roberta (Knickrehm) Olson on August 28, 1965 in Groton, SD. They lived in St. Louis, MO; Overland Park, KS, and returned to Brookings, SD in 1994 when Roberta became Dean of Nursing at SDSU.

David and Roberta have two sons: Aaron and Daniel. Aaron (Katherine), Amelia, and Milo Monagle-Olson, Berkeley, CA. Daniel (Cathryn) and Gregory Olson, Timonium, MD. He leaves behind a sister, Julie Olson Berry and her children, Dr. Tania Berry, Cia and Mackenson; Christopher (Laurie) Berry, Peter and Katie; Nathan (Erin) Berry, Lucy and Caroline; and David Berry. David was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Irma Olson, his parents-in-law, Robert and Inez Knickrehm, two stillborn daughters, and brother-in-law Jack Berry.

David will be remembered for his generosity and caregiving to others, love of gardening, and skill with making candles, wine, and beer.

Included in the Christmas/Epiphany letter this season he wrote the following concerning his journey with esophageal cancer that was diagnosed in May 2015:

I'll have to admit that I gave a start when the doctor said, "Well, now we know what you will die from. We just don't know when." However, my next response was, "OK. What's next?" I always know that there is a light at the end tunnel, and it is probably a train. But the train is not the end for me. It is the comfort and hope of the resurrection in Jesus Christ that has sustained me through life, does so now, and will in the future.

So my life question didn't change when I was diagnosed: What do I do until the resurrection comes?

My life journey has been to look for signs of God in other people especially in those who are different than I am and those who have different faiths. I believe God resides and works in them, too. Then I have tried to connect these different gifts of God so that people in their own communities work better together to make their communities better places in which to live.

So I'm still trying to do that. One new thing that I have learned is that I am not the best at being a care receiver. I have always focused on giving. The support of community people, staff, colleagues and the medical community with which we are dealing has been overwhelming. I now pray daily for those who cared about me.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 24.7 at 7:52 PM

Low: 13.7 at 2:24 AM

High Gust: 27 at 3:26 AM

Precip: 0.60 (6" of snow)

Today's Info

Record High: 65° in 1921

Record Low: -305 in 1939

Average High: 28°F

Average Low: 7°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.25

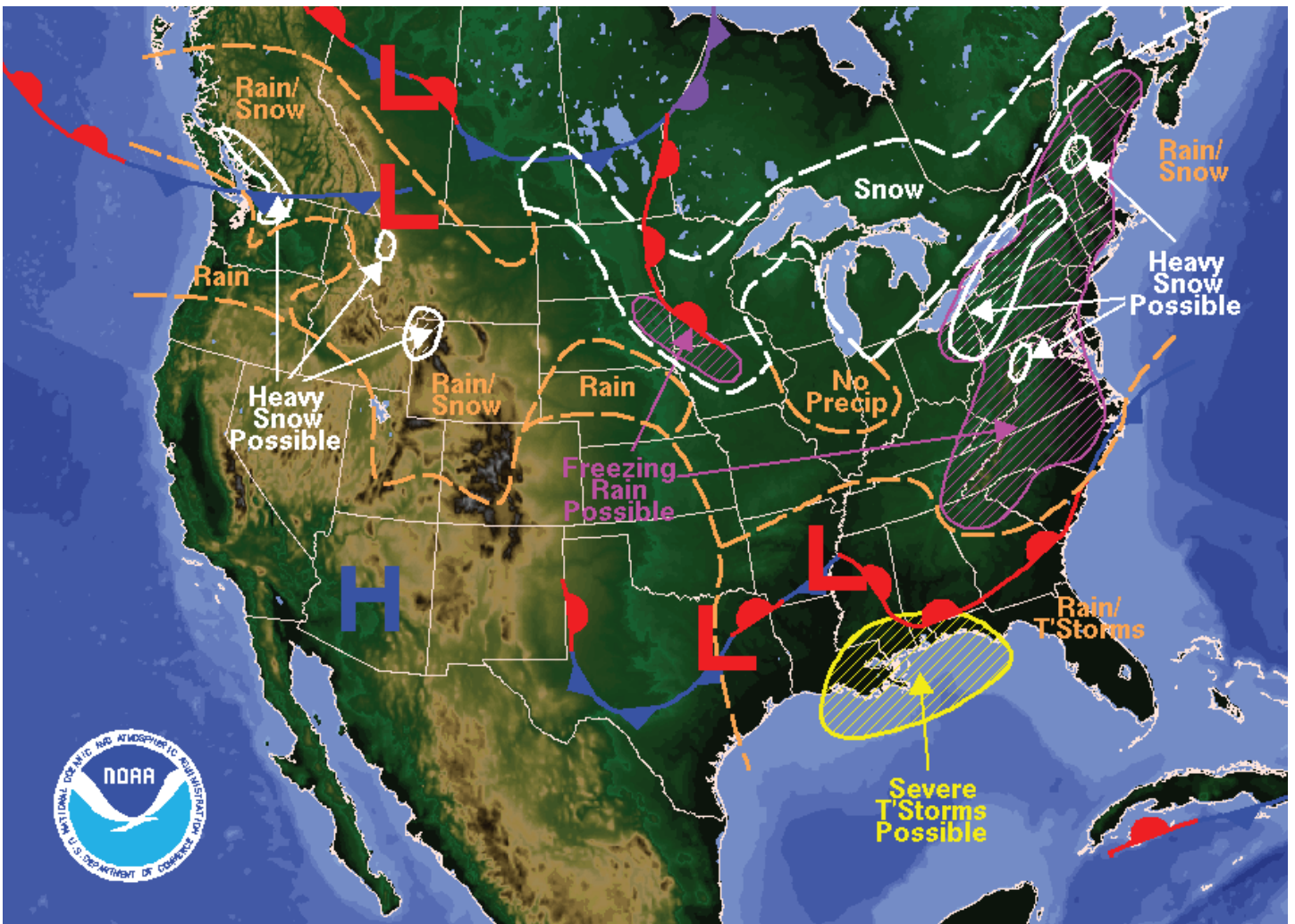
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.60

Average Precip to date: 0.72

Precip Year to Date: 0.60

Sunset Tonight: 6:00 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:34 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Feb 15, 2016, issued 2:50 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



HE NEVER SLEEPS

Little Lacy had finished her night time prayers with her mother. As she pulled the sheets up tightly under her chin, her mother turned off the light.

Looking out her window she said, "Mom, the moon is shining in my room. Is it God's light?"

"Yes," replied her mother.

"Will God turn out His light, too?" she asked.

"Oh, no!" came the reply. "The Bible promises us that He never goes to sleep."

God's Word gives us the assurance and hope, confidence and confirmation that He protects us day and night. Not only did God make the heavens and the hills, the earth and the sky but gave us a guarantee that He will protect us from anything that would destroy us. We are often tempted to trust in ourselves and the riches of this world, but then we are reminded of the poor decisions we make and the failures of the best laid schemes we could design.

It is important that we remind ourselves that the God Who created the universe is the God Who created us and watches over every detail of our lives. Nothing ever causes Him to forget us or lose sight of us and our special needs. We are always safe in His hands and protected by His power. We never outgrow our need for His attentive eye or His ear that is listening for our voice.

Prayer: We are grateful, Father, that You are always watching, never sleeping, and continually protecting us every day and every night of our lives. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 121 he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

News from the Associated Press

Augustana cancels public forum in wake of Scalia's death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Augustana University in Sioux Falls has canceled a forum following the death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who had been scheduled to speak at the event.

The 79-year-old Scalia was found dead Saturday at a resort ranch in Texas. Officials said he died of natural causes.

Scalia was to have been the featured speaker for an address on the U.S. Constitution March 9 at Augustana's Boe Forum on Public Affairs.

More than 3,000 people had reserved free tickets for this year's forum.

"Justice Scalia was an interesting individual. He was very controversial, and I think it's very unfortunate for the people in our community to miss the opportunity to hear from him, Augustana President Rob Oliver told the Argus Leader newspaper.

Scalia, a conservative jurist, joined the Supreme Court in 1986 and was the longest-serving justice on the court. He was to join a list of speakers at the Boe Forum on Public Affairs that through the years has included President George H.W. Bush, Vice President Al Gore, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Queen Noor of Jordan and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The Boe Forum on Public Affairs was created in 1995 to provide access to individuals who could address events, issues, or problems of national or worldwide concern and of broad public interest, according to Harry Thompson, executive director of Augustana's Center for Western Studies.

"Justice Scalia was, without question, such an individual," Thompson said in a statement.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has ordered that all flags in South Dakota be flown at half-staff to honor Scalia.

Rapid City police investigating suspicious death of woman

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police are investigating what they say is a suspicious death.

Officers responded to a report of a body shortly before 3:30 p.m. Sunday. The body of a 20-year-old woman was found underneath a utility trailer.

Authorities did not immediately release her identity.

West river veterinarians continuing to test for bovine trich

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Veterinarians across western South Dakota are continuing to test herds for a reproductive disease that causes cows to abort their young, though no new cases have been reported over the past month.

The most recent bovine trichomoniasis cases were discovered in January in a pair of Dewey County herds. Late last year, vets found trich in two Oglala Lakota county herds and one in Corson and Ziebach counties.

Assistant state veterinarian Mendel Miller says he doesn't expect an outbreak like one that hit western South Dakota in 2005, but the five occurrences are a jump from zero last year and just one the previous year. No cases have been found in North Dakota.

The disease poses no risk for humans, but its occurrence can cut into a rancher's bottom line.

Airstrike destroys MSF-supported hospital in northern Syria

BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — An airstrike in the northern Syrian province of Idlib destroyed a makeshift clinic supported by an international aid group on Monday, killing and wounding several people, activists and the group said.

In the neighboring Aleppo province, a missile struck a children's hospital in the town of Azaz, killing at least five people and wounding dozens on Monday. And in a nearby village, an air raid hit a school, killing

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seven and wounding others.

Doctors Without Borders — also known by its French acronym MSF — said in a statement that the hospital in the town of Maaret al-Numan in Idlib province was hit with four times in at least two attacks. It said the attacks were minutes apart, adding that at least eight members of staff are currently missing.

"This appears to be a deliberate attack on a health structure, and we condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms," said Massimiliano Rebaudengo, MSF's mission chief. "The destruction of the hospital leaves the local population of around 40,000 people without access to medical services in an active zone of conflict."

The aid group said the hospital had 30 beds, 54 staff members, two operating theatres, an outpatients department and an emergency room. The statement added that MSF has been supporting the hospital since September and covered all its needs, including providing medical supplies and running costs.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Russian warplanes targeted the makeshift hospital, destroying it and killing nine people. The Observatory, which tracks the casualties in Syria's five-year civil war, said dozens were also wounded in the attack.

Over the past week, Syrian troops have been on the offensive in the country's north under the cover of Russian airstrikes. The ground offensive has been focused on the northern province of Aleppo while Monday's airstrike struck the clinic in the nearby Idlib province.

"The entire building has collapsed on the ground," said opposition activist Yahya al-Sobeih, speaking by telephone from Maaret al-Numan. He added that five people were killed near the clinic and "all members of the medical team inside are believed to be dead."

Paramedics and volunteers were now working on removing the rubble, he added. The four-story building once was a cement company but had served as a makeshift clinic during the war, said al-Sobeih.

In the missile attack in Azaz near the Turkish border, five were killed at the hospital and more than 30 were wounded, the Observatory said. Activist Bahaa al-Halaby who is based in the northern city of Aleppo says it was a ballistic missile adding that it killed 10. The Observatory said the dead include three children and a pregnant woman.

In Turkey, the private Dogan news agency reported that more than 30 of those wounded in Russian air strikes in Azaz, primarily children, were transferred to a hospital in southern Turkey. It showed footage of ambulances arriving at the Kilis State hospital and medical personnel unloading children on stretchers and a girl wrapped in a blanket as well as a handful of adults

"They hit the school, they hit the school," wailed a Syrian woman who was unloaded from an ambulance onto a wheelchair.

The Observatory and al-Halaby also reported an air raid on the village of Kaljibrin near Azaz. Al-Halaby said the air raid hit a school, killing seven and wounding others while the Observatory said five were killed.

Meanwhile in Brussels, European Union officials on Monday called on Turkey to halt its military action in Syria after Turkish forces shelled positions held by a U.S.-backed Kurdish militia over the weekend.

The EU's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, said that "only a few days ago, all of us including Turkey, sitting around the table decided steps to de-escalate and have a cessation of hostilities."

She said more fighting "is obviously not what we expect."

Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, said "we have the plan for a cessation of hostilities and I think everybody has to abide by that."

Syria's main Kurdish faction, the People's Protection Units, has been most effective in combating the Islamic State group, but Turkey appears uneasy over the group's recent gains.

Supreme Court vacancy highlights stakes in presidential race

JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The presidential election just got real.

The unexpected death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia — and the immediate declaration from Republicans that the next president should nominate his replacement — adds even more weight to the

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decision voters will make in November's general election.

For months, the candidates have espoused theoretical, sometimes vague, policy proposals. Now, the prospect of President Barack Obama's successor nominating a Supreme Court justice immediately after taking office offers a more tangible way for voters to evaluate the contenders.

Candidates in both parties moved quickly to reframe the election as a referendum on the high court's future.

"Two branches of government hang in the balance, not just the presidency, but the Supreme Court," Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said in the latest GOP debate, held in South Carolina just hours after word filtered out Saturday about Scalia's death in Texas. "If we get this wrong, if we nominate the wrong candidate, the Second Amendment, life, marriage, religious liberty, every one of those hangs in the balance."

Democrat Hillary Clinton painted a similarly stark scenario.

"If any of us needed a reminder of just how important it is to take back the United States Senate and hold onto the White House, just look at the Supreme Court," Clinton said.

Clinton has said she would have "a bunch of litmus tests" for potential nominees, including a belief that the Citizens United ruling clearing the way for super political action committees and unlimited campaign contributions should be overturned. She also said the court's makeup is crucial to preserving abortion rights and the legality of gay marriage nationwide.

Bernie Sanders, who is challenging Clinton for the Democratic nomination, has raised opposition to Citizens United as a requirement for any Supreme Court nominees.

Scalia, a hero of conservatives during his nearly 30 years on the Supreme Court, was found dead Saturday at a resort ranch in Texas. The court now is divided between four liberal and four typically conservative justices, putting the ideological tilt up for grabs.

Obama pledged to nominate a replacement in "due time," even after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said that responsibility should fall to the winner of the 2016 election.

Obama could try to ram a nominee through the Senate this year, taking a high court vacancy off the next president's immediate to-do list. Even if that were to happen, a confirmation vote probably would be months away, leaving the Supreme Court in the center of the campaign during the nomination process.

Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, who served in the Cabinet of President George W. Bush, said Monday that Obama has an obligation to select a replacement for Scalia, telling CNN that "the president has to do his job." Gonzales said that the Senate, likewise, has a role and should weigh Obama's choice "on its own calendar."

With three other justices over the age of 75, the next president could have other vacancies during his or her tenure, even if Obama fills Scalia's seat.

It's unclear how the new focus on the Supreme Court might affect voters' decisions in an election that has seen surprising and unconventional candidates such as Donald Trump and Sanders challenge their parties' establishments.

Previous political thunderbolts that were supposed to push voters toward more traditional candidates, such as last fall's terrorist attacks in Paris and California, passed without any negative impact on Trump and Sanders. In fact, Sanders has gotten stronger since then, with the economic-focused Vermont senator handily defeating Clinton in the New Hampshire primary and finishing a close second in the Iowa caucuses.

Trying to counter Sanders' momentum, Clinton has urged voters to consider which candidate is most electable in November. With the balance of the Supreme Court now potentially on the line, Clinton and her allies are certain to increase their warnings about the risk of sending a self-declared democratic socialist to face a Republican in the fall.

"For any Democrat thinking about casting a protest vote for Sen. Sanders, this should serve as a wake-up call for what's exactly at stake," said Jim Manley, a former aide to top Democratic senators.

Among Republicans, Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush and John Kasich are casting themselves as candidates who could appeal to swing voters in the general election and put the GOP in position to guide the next court nominations. But that could open them up to questions from Republican primary voters about the ideological purity of their judicial choices.

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Cruz is using the potential vacancy to build on his long-standing argument that Republicans should select a nominee with the most conservative credentials. An uncompromising conservative since arriving in the Senate, Cruz vowed to put "principled constitutionalists" on the Supreme Court. He contends Trump could not be trusted to do the same.

"Donald Trump is president, he will appoint liberals," said Cruz, noting the billionaire's past support for Democratic politicians.

Trump was alone among the candidates in naming specific justices he would consider nominating. He singled out Diane Sykes and William Pryor, federal judges appointed by former President George W. Bush.

During Saturday's debate, Kasich bemoaned that Washington and presidential candidates had "run so fast into politics" following Scalia's death.

But if anything, the speed at which politics did take over portends a furious fight to come over which candidate gets to put his or her imprint on the court.

The Latest: European stocks surge in Japan's slipstream

The Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The latest on the turmoil in global financial markets (all times local):

11:55 a.m.

European stock markets are posting big gains, buoyed by euphoria from the Japanese trading session.

Among the main indexes, Germany's DAX is up 3 percent while the CAC-40 in France is 3.6 percent higher. The Stoxx 600 index of European shares is up 3.2 percent.

Though the gains follow a strong showing last Friday, few market watchers are willing to say that there's an underlying improvement in sentiment following weeks of turmoil that have sent many stock indexes into bear market territory.

Chris Beauchamp, senior market analyst at IG, says Monday's rise "gets filed as a brief flowering of bullish sentiment, rather than the start of something much more long-term."

Much may hinge on how U.S. markets perform when traders return to their desks Tuesday following the Presidents' Day holiday that will keep New York closed for the day.

10:45 a.m.

Gold has lost some of its recent shine as stocks have piled on gains.

That's not an unusual development. Gold has surged in recent weeks as stock markets around the world have fallen sharply on concerns over the state of the global economy. Gold is widely considered the ultimate safe haven for investors to park their cash in times of volatility.

On Monday, as stocks surged, gold was down 2.4 percent at \$1,209 an ounce.

9:50 a.m.

Hopes that the fall in the Chinese currency may have run its course have helped stock markets around the world start the week on a positive note.

The main reason behind the volatility in financial markets this year has been uncertainty over the economic future of China, the world's number 2 economy. One of the triggers behind that uncertainty centered on China's currency, which has been weakening steadily over months.

People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan appears to be trying to ease that pressure. In an interview with the Caixin magazine published over the weekend, he said there was no basis for a further depreciation of the yuan. That's provided some relief to the country's exporting neighbors, who have worried about their competitiveness.

That relief was evident in the 7 percent spike in Japan's main stock market. Other markets in Asia bounced too, including the Hang Seng in Hong Kong, which ended the session 3.3 percent higher.

9:00 a.m.

European stock markets are registering big gains at the start of the trading week, flying in the slipstream of a massive 7 percent increase in Japan's Nikkei index.

In early trading, all Europe's stock markets are trading sharply higher with the Stoxx 600 index up 2.9 percent at 321.30.

The buoyant tone in global stock markets was set earlier during Asian trading hours, when soft Japanese economic growth figures stoked talk of further stimulus by the country's economic authorities.

That weakened the Japanese yen to the likely relief of the country's exporters — the dollar is up 0.6 percent at 113.90 yen. The yen's weakness was one of the reasons why the Nikkei ended 7.2 percent higher at 16,022.58.

Markets have had a rocky start to the year as fears have grown over the state of the global economy.

US plane impounded in Zimbabwe; body and cash found on board

FARAI MUTSAKA, Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Authorities Zimbabwe aviation impounded a U.S.-registered cargo jet, a senior official said Monday, with a dead body and millions of South African rand reportedly on board.

Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe general manager David Chawota confirmed a plane registered with Western Global Airlines was impounded at Harare International Airport on Sunday. A web site says Western Global Airlines is based in Estero, Florida.

"The case is now in the hands of the state. It involves nationals and property of other countries so I am no longer qualified to give much detail but yes we impounded the plane on Sunday," Chawota told The Associated Press.

"The crew requested to land for refueling but our ground-handling personnel discovered blood leaks and became suspicious. Talk to the police for more details," he said by telephone, refusing to give details about the crew or the cargo.

Police spokeswoman Charity Charamba said she did not have the facts of the case yet.

State-run Herald newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, reported on Monday that the MD-11 trijet was traveling from Germany to South Africa "stashed with millions of rands." At today's exchange rate, 1 million rand is worth \$62,500.

The crew, according to the Herald, includes two Americans, a South African and a Pakistani. The U.S. Embassy said it does not yet have a comment on the matter. Several U.S. embassy vehicles were seen at the airport Monday morning.

In 2004, Harare airport authorities impounded a plane with 64 people on board, who were arrested on accusations that they had been on their way to stage a coup in Equatorial Guinea.

Justice Antonin Scalia said to have died of 'natural causes'

LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

DAVID WARREN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia died of natural causes and no autopsy was necessary, a judge has told The Associated Press.

Chris Lujan, a manager for Sunset Funeral Homes in Texas, said the 79-year-old jurist's body was taken from the El Paso facility late Sunday afternoon and was to be flown to Virginia, although he had no details. Scalia's family didn't think a private autopsy was necessary and requested that his remains be returned to Washington as soon as possible, Lujan said.

Presidio County Judge Cinderela Guevara told The Associated Press on Sunday she consulted with Scalia's personal physician and sheriff's investigators, who said there were no signs of foul play, before concluding that he had died of natural causes. He was found dead in his room at a West Texas resort ranch Saturday morning. Guevara says the declaration was made around 1:52 p.m. Saturday.

Terry Sharpe, assistant director for operations at El Paso International Airport, said a private plane carrying Scalia's body departed around 8 p.m. EST Sunday. Scalia's body was accompanied to the airport by

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U.S. marshals, he said. The body was returned to Virginia late Sunday.

Scalia's weekend death was as much of a shock to those at the ranch as it was to the rest of the nation

The owner of Cibolo Creek Ranch near Marfa, where Scalia died, said the justice seemed his usual self at dinner the night before he was found "in complete repose" in his room.

John Poindexter told reporters Scalia was part of a group of about 35 weekend guests. He arrived Friday around noon.

The group had dinner Friday night and Scalia was his "usual, personable self," Poindexter said. Scalia retired around 9 p.m., saying he wanted a long night's sleep, according to Poindexter.

A procession that included about 20 law enforcement officers arrived in the early hours Sunday at the funeral home more than three hours from the ranch, Lujan said.

Kristina Mills, a history teacher at nearby Chapin High School, came to the funeral home to pay her respects and brought flowers.

"Recognizing his contribution to serving our country just compelled me to come," she said. "I wanted to do yellow roses because for him dying in Texas. I didn't want his family to have bad memories of Texas."

In the nation's capital, where flags flew at half-staff at the White House and Supreme Court, the political sniping soared, raising the prospect of a court short-handed for some time.

The Senate's Republican leader, backed largely by his party's White House candidates, essentially told a Democratic president in his final year in office not to bother asking lawmakers to confirm a nominee for the lifetime seat.

Scalia's colleagues praised his brilliance and grieved his death. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said she and Scalia "were best buddies" for more than 30 years. Justice Clarence Thomas said, "It is hard to imagine the court without my friend."

President Barack Obama ordered flags to be flown at half-staff at the high court, where Scalia served for three decades, and other federal buildings throughout the nation and U.S. embassies and military installations throughout the world.

While flags were being lowered, the campaign-year political heat has risen over the vacancy on the nine-member court.

At issue is whether Obama, in his last year in office, should make a nomination and the Republican-led Senate should confirm that choice in an election year.

Obama pledges a nomination "in due time." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., thinks it should wait for the next president.

The Republican resistance to an election-year confirmation got a thorough public airing on the GOP debate stage just hours after Scalia's companions found him dead.

Republicans argued that Obama, as a lame duck, should not fill the vacancy created by Scalia's death, but leave it to the next president — which they hope will be one of them.

The Constitution gives the Senate "advice and consent" powers over a presidential nomination to the Supreme Court. Ted Cruz, one of the two GOP senators running for president, told NBC's "Meet the Press" that the GOP-controlled Senate is doing its job.

"We're advising that a lame-duck president in an election year is not going to be able to tip the balance of the Supreme Court," Cruz said.

But the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which would hold hearings on a nominee, said it would be "sheer dereliction of duty for the Senate not to have a hearing, not to have a vote."

Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy told CNN's "State of the Union" that he believes McConnell is "making a terrible mistake. And he's certainly ignoring the Constitution."

Displaced by IS, Iraqi soccer star now off to the Olympics

SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Islamic State militants drove Ayman Hussein from his home. Eighteen months later, he sent Iraq's soccer team to the Olympics.

Hussein scored the game-winning goal against Qatar last month in a qualifying match, uniting Iraqis in a rare moment of triumph and becoming a national celebrity. But his journey to Brazil has been marked by the same violence and displacement that have shattered the lives of so many of his fans.

Hussein and his family fled their home in a village outside the northern city of Kirkuk as IS swept across northern and western Iraq in the summer of 2014. His brother, who was working for the local police, was abducted by the extremists and has not been heard from since.

"No one really knows the story of exactly what happened to him," Hussein said, adding that he still holds out hope that his brother is alive. He's told that his family's home was demolished, and his mother and siblings have found refuge with extended family in Kirkuk while Hussein lives with his team in Baghdad. His father was killed in a 2008 attack in Baghdad claimed by al-Qaida in Iraq, a predecessor of IS.

"This is not my family's first story of terrorism," he said. "It probably won't be our last."

The shy 23-year-old is still coming to terms with his newfound fame. During a recent practice with his local club on a patch of yellowing grass at a Baghdad sporting complex, he paused to let a fan take a selfie with him as his teammates gently teased him.

"I never thought that one goal would cause this much happiness," Hussein said.

Like most Iraqis, Hussein grew up playing soccer but never thought he would make a career out of it. That changed when the coach of his local team saw him playing in a park, and later asked him to sub for an injured player. Eager to help support his family after his father's death, he jumped at the opportunity.

Hussein continued to play during his family's most recent upheaval. "If I leave football, nothing would change. I wouldn't get any of those things back," he said. "I still thank God for my situation. I have walls around me... Many of the displaced Iraqis are living in tents."

The soccer team's victory over better-funded Qatar has become a rare point of pride across the country. Team jerseys are among the hottest-selling items in Baghdad's main sportswear market, and the players returned to a hero's welcome last month, when they were received by the prime minister, Haider al-Abadi.

They were also received by Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, head of the Popular Mobilization Forces, an umbrella group of mostly Shiite militias fighting IS alongside Iraq's regular security forces.

Hussein, a Sunni Muslim, said al-Muhandis compared the players to his fighters. "He said that we don't give blood, but we give inspiration."

Hussein shrugs when he recounts the story. "I guess it's unique to meet these people, that it's a nice feeling," he said.

He's more excited about this summer's trip to Brazil.

"I've never even left Iraq except for trips with the football team," he said. "I only know about Brazil from YouTube and TV. They say that it's famous for beaches and women," he added with a shy laugh.

Results in key cases could change with Scalia's death

MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court abhors even numbers. But that's just what the court will have to deal with, perhaps for many months, after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. Eight justices will decide what to do, creating the prospect of 4-4 ties.

Here are some questions and answers about the effect on the court of the death of its conservative icon and longest-serving justice:

Q. What happens to cases in which Scalia cast a vote or drafted an opinion, but no decision has been publicly announced?

A. It may sound harsh, but Scalia's votes and draft opinions in pending cases no longer matter. Veteran Supreme Court lawyer Roy Englert says that "the vote of a deceased justice does not count." Nothing is final at the court until it is released publicly and, while it is rare, justices have flipped their votes and the outcomes in some cases.

Q. What happens if there is a tie?

A. The justices have two options. They can vote to hear the case a second time when a new colleague

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joins them or they can hand down a one-sentence opinion that upholds the result reached in the lower court without setting a nationwide rule. When confirmation of a new justice is expected to happen quickly, re-argument is more likely. In this political environment, the vacancy could last into 2017.

Q. Why doesn't the court like tie votes?

A. A major function of the Supreme Court is to resolve disputes among lower courts and establish legal precedents for the entire country. Tie votes frustrate those goals and they essentially waste the court's time.

Q. How does Scalia's death affect specific cases?

A. It deprives conservatives of a key vote and probably will derail some anticipated conservative victories in major Supreme Court cases, including one in which labor unions appeared headed for a big defeat. Next month's Supreme Court clash over contraceptives, religious liberty and President Barack Obama's health care law also now seems more likely to favor the Obama administration.

Q. Unions have suffered a string of defeats at the Supreme Court. Is that likely to change?

A. Yes, at least in the short term. Many of the cases involving organized labor were decided on 5-4 votes, with the conservative justices lining up against the unions and the liberal justices in support. The pending case seemed like more of the same. Public sector labor unions had been bracing for a stinging defeat in a lawsuit over whether they can collect fees from government workers who choose not to join the union. The case affects more than 5 million workers in 23 states and Washington, D.C., and seeks to overturn a nearly 40-year-old Supreme Court decision.

Now, what seemed like a certain 5-4 split, with the conservatives in the majority and the liberals in dissent, instead looks like a tie that would be resolved in favor of the unions, because they won in the lower courts.

Q. What other pending cases could be affected?

A. A challenge to the way governments have drawn electoral districts for 50 years now appears to have little chance of finding a court majority. The court heard arguments in December in a case from Texas on the meaning of the principle of "one person, one vote," which the court has said requires that political districts be roughly equal in population.

But it has left open the question of whether states must count all residents, including noncitizens and children, or only eligible voters in drawing district lines.

Q. What will happen in the upcoming case over the Obama health care overhaul?

A. The Supreme Court will be looking at the health care law for the fourth time since its 2010 enactment. This time, the focus is on the arrangement the Obama administration worked out to spare faith-based hospitals, colleges and charities from paying for contraceptives for women covered under their health plans, while still ensuring that those women can obtain birth control at no extra cost as the law requires.

The faith-based groups argue that the accommodation still makes them complicit in providing contraception to which they have religious objections.

A tie vote here would sow rather than alleviate confusion because the appellate courts that have looked at the issue have not all come out the same way.

That prospect suggests that Justice Anthony Kennedy will join the court's four liberal justices to uphold the arrangement, Supreme Court lawyer Thomas Goldstein said.

Q. Are there cases in which a tie would be a loss for the Obama administration?

A. The administration's plan to shield up to 5 million people from deportation was struck down by lower courts and a Supreme Court tie would leave that ruling in place. On abortion, the administration is backing a challenge to Texas' strict new regulations for abortion clinics. A federal appeals court upheld the regulations.

Strongmen to predominate at Obama's SE Asia summit

MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A coup leader with a penchant for song. A sultan with a taste for the high life. A ruthless prime minister with 31 years on the job. A former furniture salesman. A communist politburo veteran. A prime minister trying to shake off a \$700 million financial scandal.

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When President Barack Obama welcomes Southeast Asian leaders for a shirt-sleeves summit set to begin Monday in California, he'll have some interesting dining companions.

U.S. officials say the unprecedented gathering, running through Tuesday, is the culmination of Obama's seven-year effort to engage with the Asia-Pacific, a strategic push that China views as an attempt to contain its rise.

For the first time, the American president has invited to the United States all the leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a diverse and democratically challenged 10-nation grouping. The meeting place is the sprawling Sunnylands estate where Obama hosted an ice-breaking summit with China's President Xi Jinping in 2013.

During two days of discussions and a working dinner, the leaders plan to discuss economic cooperation and trade, and security issues.

ASEAN was founded in the 1960s as an anti-communist bloc. It now straddles all of Southeast Asia and has become a fulcrum of U.S. outreach in Asia. That includes its push for adherence to international law in the South China Sea, where disputes between China and its neighbors have stoked tensions.

But the U.S. faces an uphill battle to forge unity among ASEAN's members, which includes poor nations such as Cambodia and Laos that are heavily influenced by China and are not party to the dispute. Others members such as Vietnam and the Philippines have been strongly critical of China after confrontations near contested islands.

James Clapper, the director of U.S. national intelligence, told Congress last week that ASEAN cohesion is challenged by "varying threat perceptions of China's regional ambitions and assertiveness in the South China Sea."

Another challenge for the U.S. lies in promoting a "rules-based order" in a region with a very mixed record on democracy and rule of law.

Several of the invitees have not come to power through free and fair elections.

They include Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who took power in a May 2014 coup, has cracked down on critics and dissidents and repeatedly pushed back the date for new elections. In the meantime, he has penned the lyrics to a tune called, "Returning Happiness to the People," often played on state-controlled media.

Hun Sen from neighboring Cambodia is making his first official U.S. visit as leader, although he's been prime minister since 1985. He has used a combination of guile and brute force to stay in power, including a violent coup in 1997. In recent months he has intensified pressure on the political opposition.

Daniel Russel, the top U.S. diplomat for East Asia, defended the invitations, saying the U.S. is not going overboard by rolling out the red carpet for "problematic leaders." He said discussions at Sunnylands will be an opportunity to promote U.S. values and respect for human rights.

"Hun Sen isn't going to hear it from his subordinates. Gen. Prayuth isn't going to hear it from his colleagues, but they will and do hear from (Secretary of State) John Kerry, from Barack Obama," Russel told reporters. "It's important for there to be real communication here."

Human Rights Watch, however, said inviting unelected leaders represents "an unearned diplomatic reward." In a pre-summit report surveying the record of ASEAN members, it concluded most "have an extraordinarily poor human rights record."

Among the 10 nations, only Indonesia and the Philippines are widely regarded as being open democracies. Vietnam and Laos have communist governments that prohibit political dissent, while tiny oil-rich Brunei is governed by the vastly wealthy Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, one of the world's few remaining hereditary leaders.

In 2014, Bolkiah introduced Shariah criminal law that calls for punishing adultery, abortions and same-sex relationships with flogging and stoning, an action that prompted a Hollywood boycott of the Beverly Hills Hotel, which he owns.

Also attending is Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, who has been dogged by a scandal over a state investment fund and accusations of a lavish lifestyle. From neighboring Indonesia comes President Joko Widodo, a more down-at-heels leader who rose from being a furniture seller to running the world's fourth-

most populated country.

Four of the invitees are "lame ducks" with little time left in office, like Obama. At least one of them, from Myanmar, is skipping the summit and sending a deputy instead.

Still, Ernie Bower, a Southeast Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the summit will demonstrate the importance of Southeast Asia to the U.S. and set a precedent the next president can follow.

"It will send a resounding message to Asian capitals that the United States is committed to this," he said.

Japan's Nikkei jumps 7.2 percent, leads world stocks higher

KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Japanese stocks rocketed Monday, leading a global market rally after dismal growth data raised hopes of extra stimulus for the world's third-biggest economy. Chinese shares dropped on their first day of trading after a weeklong holiday that coincided with a sharp sell-off in global markets.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 soared 7.2 percent to close at 16,022.58, rebounding from last week's slump to post its second biggest one-day gain in three years.

Stocks rallied after government data showed Japan's economy shrank 1.4 percent on an annualized basis last quarter because of weak consumer demand and slower exports. It's a setback for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's economic revival program, which aims to stoke inflation through massive monetary easing. However, the latest report also gives the government more reason to open the stimulus taps wider to restore growth, economists said.

"Together with the recent slump in the Nikkei and the appreciation of the yen, the case for additional easing remains compelling," said Marcel Thieliand of Capital Economics. He predicted the Bank of Japan will step up bond purchases and push interest rates that are already in negative territory even lower.

Investor sentiment was also bolstered by comments from China's central bank chief playing down the likelihood of a one-off devaluation of the yuan.

People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan signaled in a Caixin magazine interview published over the weekend that there was no basis for further depreciation of China's currency, providing relief for the country's exporting neighbors worried that a weakening yuan would hurt their competitiveness.

Global stock benchmarks followed Japan's lead. European shares opened sharply higher. France's CAC 40 advanced 3.1 percent to 4,119.57 and Germany's DAX added 2.7 percent to 9,210.14. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 2 percent to 5,819.92.

U.S. stocks were poised for a strong open. Dow futures gained 1.2 percent to 16,102.00. Broader S&P 500 futures increased 1.2 percent to 1,880.40.

In Asia, South Korea's Kospi climbed 1.5 percent to 1,862.20 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 3.3 percent to 18,918.14. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 1.6 percent to 4,843.50. Taiwan's benchmark was flat while markets in Southeast Asia gained.

The Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China, though, lost 0.6 percent to finish at 2,746.20 after reopening following the Lunar New Year holiday.

Chinese shares were also weighed down by the latest monthly trade figures. Exports fell 11 percent while imports slid by nearly a fifth, according to customs data, highlighting persistent weakness in the world's second biggest economy.

Economists, however, were reserving final analysis until figures for February are out because the timing of the Lunar New Year holiday distorts China's economic data at the beginning of the year.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude oil futures lost 30 cents to \$29.12 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract climbed \$3.23, or 12.3 percent, on Friday to settle at \$29.44 a barrel. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, fell 38 cents to \$32.98 a barrel in London.

In currencies, the dollar strengthened to 113.78 yen from 113.22 yen on Friday. The euro weakened to \$1.1194 from \$1.1257.

Into the mosh pit: Republican campaign talk gets nastier

NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In 2011, eyebrows shot up when former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin used a salty acronym — WTF — to mock the policies of President Barack Obama.

How quaint.

Five years later, Donald Trump has blown right past acronyms in a profanity-laced campaign for the Republican nomination that has seen multiple candidates hurl insults and disparaging remarks at one another and their critics.

In recent days, Trump has publicly lip-synced the F-bomb, blurted out the S-word more than once, hurled an offensive term for coward at rival Ted Cruz and fired a steady string of put-downs at other candidates whom he labels pathetic, liars, losers, nasty, evil and more.

While Trump started it, other GOP candidates have jumped right into the rhetorical mosh pit, readily trading versions of “liar, liar” in Saturday night’s venomous debate.

Cruz has said Trump is “losing it,” called out his “Trumpertantrums” and dismissed the billionaire’s insults as “hysterical.”

Before exiting the race, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie predicted that he could beat Hillary Clinton in a debate, promising, “I’ll beat her rear end on that stage,” and tormented fellow Republican Marco Rubio as a fragile “boy in the bubble.”

Even Jeb Bush, whose 90-year-old mother recently complained that he was too polite, belatedly joined in.

Bush, a favorite target of Trump’s taunts, tweeted back: “You aren’t just a loser, you are a liar and a whiner.” This, after weeks of calling him a “jerk.”

It’s not that politicians are typically paragons of proper speech and etiquette. They’ve just tended to keep their name-calling and coarseness off-mic.

Now, it’s on the podium — and by design.

“There’s a general taboo-breaking that allows more and more of it to happen faster and faster,” says Robert Lane Greene, author of “You Are What You Speak,” a book about the politics of language. “The first time somebody does it, eyebrows go up and people get concerned, but then the next person doing it is less eye-opening.”

The Democratic nomination contest has been tame in comparison with the Republicans: Hillary Clinton complained of a “low blow” when Bernie Sanders said she was a progressive only on “some days.” Sanders, in turn, rejected Clinton’s accusation that his campaign had engaged in an “artful smear” by insinuating that she was beholden to Wall Street.

As for the GOP campaign, Trump is playing to voters who have a disdain for anything associated with the establishment, including the whole idea of appearing “presidential,” says Norman Ornstein, an American Enterprise Institute scholar who’s been watching presidential politics for decades. That makes it hard for Trump’s rivals to fight back using traditional tactics.

“If you are trying to be a boxer playing by Marquess of Queensberry rules and you’re coming up against a mixed martial arts guy who doesn’t even abide by the rules of mixed martial arts, do you sink to that level?” Ornstein asks. “There’s no easy way to respond, because if you’re trying to show you’re different from this vulgar guy, then he’s going to beat you up.”

Greene sees the coarseness of the GOP campaign as evidence that “the contest to become the alpha male in the room has become more obvious this time than in previous elections.”

That seems to be just fine with the voters who have put Trump at the top of the polls and handed him a victory in New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation primary.

About a quarter of Republican voters in New Hampshire said “telling it like it is” was the most important quality to them in selecting a candidate, and two-thirds of those voters went for the potty-mouth guy who tells it like no one else.

“He’s real, right?” said Joanne Galvin, an independent voter from Pelham, New Hampshire, explaining her vote for Trump. She dismissed his use of a vulgarity about Cruz at a big rally by saying Trump was simply repeating what someone in the audience had shouted out.

Trump has offered a similar defense and promised he’ll tone things down if he gets closer to the presi-

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dency, saying, "when you're president, or if you're about to be president, you would act differently."

Asked during Saturday's debate about his penchant for profanity, Trump pledged to knock it off, saying, "I will not do it again ... Not using profanity is very easy."

But also made clear he has no intention to rein in his personal attacks and insults.

He's framed his blunt language as a harmless rejoinder to political correctness run amok, saying, "Every once in a while you can have a little fun, don't you think?"

But Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania and an expert on political communication, said Trump has "hijacked" political correctness to justify his routine use of personal attacks. That's causing other candidates to mirror his tactics and creates a worrisome diversion from a needed discussion of ideas, she said.

Harking back to 1988, she recalled when Republican presidential contender Bob Dole stepped over a line when he snapped at GOP primary rival George Bush to "stop lying about my record."

Until then, she said, "candidates did not use the word 'lie' about each other."

It's all part of a broader trend toward informality in politics that has been going on for more than a century, says Greene.

Many Americans are drawn to Trump, Greene says, because he talks like "the guy next to them on the bar stool."

"Some people find the guy next to you on the barstool obnoxious, but a lot of Americans ARE that guy."

Tatars step up resistance to Russian rule over Crimea

NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

UROZHAYNE, Crimea (AP) — Elnara Asanova lives alone with her four small children because her husband, an ethnic Tatar, is in jail. Last April, when she was seven months pregnant, police grabbed him from the streets of their village because he had taken part in a Tatar protest against Russian annexation of Crimea.

She is not allowed to visit him, so she travels to every court hearing. Once she took 7-month-old Mustafa, so her husband could glimpse the child as he was led from the police van to the courtroom. The court has refused to release him on bail, describing him as a flight risk.

"They say he will run away. But where to?" said Elnara, a meek young woman. She points to her children. "We live in the country. You can't survive here without a husband."

Two years after Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin touts the move as a historic achievement, looking on with a satisfied smile from countless billboards across the peninsula. However, overwhelming opposition from the Muslim Tatar ethnic minority puts a crack in this picture of unanimous support, as evidenced in interviews with more than two dozen Tatars across Crimea. And the resistance appears to be growing.

Many described the intimidation of community leaders, the closure of Tatar language classes and a general atmosphere of mistrust of Tatar residents. The Associated Press conducted some interviews at other people's homes because of worries about police surveillance.

The majority of the people in Crimea are ethnic Russian and support Russia's annexation. The nearly 300,000 Crimean Tatars, who make up less than 15 percent of the population, are Muslims, although largely secular.

Community leaders say repression has left young people fuming, risking their radicalization along the lines of the restive North Caucasus, a patchwork of predominantly Muslim republics in southern Russia.

Tatar activists are already fighting back.

Before Russia annexed Crimea, Lenur Islyamov was a businessman with family and assets in Moscow. Last fall, he traded his business suits for military-style clothing to lead a resistance movement that imposed a blockade on the peninsula in retaliation for Russia's persecution of the Tatars.

In September, the activists began stopping goods from crossing into Crimea. Three months later, the Ukrainian government stepped in and banned all trade.

"Everyone, including Ukraine, left us with no other choice," said Islyamov, whose assets in Moscow and Crimea have been seized. "Most of us don't want to go to war — we want to make sandwiches, take our

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children to school, go shopping — but we've been forced to do this."

Deliberate power outages have also become widespread. In November, unknown attackers blew up electricity pylons in Ukraine and tied Crimean Tatar flags to them, leaving 2 million people without heating. No one claimed responsibility for the explosions, but Tatar activists were suspected.

Tatars in Crimea cheered the power cuts, saying the blackout returned the world's attention to the situation in Crimea. Muzafar Fukala, community leader of the village of Voinka, said losing light was "nothing" compared to the hardships Tatars had survived in the past.

"I'm prepared to live in a complete blackout until this scum leaves," he said, referring to supporters of the annexation. To avoid police harassment, Fukala spoke to the AP in the home of friends in a neighboring village.

Both the border blockade and the power outages have put a big hole in the Kremlin budget at a time when plummeting oil prices have left Moscow with little to spare on shoring up its newest acquisition. Russia had to fly in supplies and thousands of generators, and speed up the construction of underwater power lines.

Islyamov is also working to set up a "battalion" of 500 Tatar activists to be stationed just a few miles from the border. Tatar activists in military fatigues, some of them carrying automatic weapons, now stand in the winter cold by the roadside of their tent camp. They used to search cars crossing into Crimea and back until blockade leaders announced that Ukrainian border guards and customs officials would now do so instead.

In November, Chechen intelligence officers called on Islyamov's 17-year-old son in Moscow, where he studied, and threatened him unless he denounced his father publicly. Several hours later, Islyamov arranged for his son to leave Russia.

Officials in Crimea in charge of ethnic minorities did not respond to the AP's requests seeking interviews and comment. Officials in the Crimean government have accused Tatar leaders who opposed the annexation of betraying the interests of the Tatars and being agents of Ukraine. Under Russian law, people can be punished for calling for the return of Crimea to Ukraine.

The Crimean Tatars have a long history of repression. In May 1944, all 200,000 Tatars, who then made up a third of Crimea's population, were put on trains and shipped to Central Asia in the space of three days. Thousands died during the grueling journey or starved to death in the barren steppes upon arrival.

Unlike other peoples deported during World War II by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin, the Tatars were not allowed to return to their native land until the 1980s.

A visit to a Tatar home today opens a window to a parallel world far from the throngs of flag-waving Russians who gave Putin a Hollywood star reception on the streets of the Black Sea port of Sevastopol on his visit last summer. Tatars here all watch ATR, a Crimean Tatar channel owned by Islyamov, which was banished from Crimea and now broadcasts from exile in mainland Ukraine. They talk of "better times" and a future "victory," alluding to the eventual return of Crimea to Ukraine.

In almost equal measure, Crimean Tatars feel betrayed by Kiev, after Ukrainian troops stationed on the peninsula surrendered to Russian forces in February 2014 without putting up any resistance. Later on, most of these troops took Russian citizenship and joined the Russian armed forces.

Left on their own, the Tatars at first made a foray into the new Crimean government. Islyamov, who had Russian citizenship, was dispatched in April 2014 by the Mejlis, the Tatars' self-governing body, to become a deputy prime minister. Less than two months later, he resigned. He said Russian leaders were not interested in Tatar problems and every conversation turned into a dispute about Russian supremacy.

"We saw that Ukraine had ditched us, that it was inevitable that Russia was going to swallow Crimea and the global community was doing nothing," he said.

When pro-Russian politicians tried to push through a motion in the local legislature for a vote about Crimea's future, the only visible force opposing them was the Crimean Tatar minority. Six people, including Elnara Asanova's husband, Ali Asanov, are now on trial in the capital, Simferopol, on charges of rioting dating back to fist fights between rival rallies of the pro-Russian party and Crimean Tatars on Feb. 26, 2014. Not a single pro-Russian protester has faced charges.

Tatar businesses with purported ties to the blockade leaders have faced closures or legal onslaught,

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according to local journalist Zair Akadyrov. "The blockade is drawing more attention from the law enforcement agencies to Crimean activists because everyone gets unwittingly associated with that movement" on the border," he said.

Bekir Umerov, who owns a two-story home improvement store on the outskirts of Simferopol, is one of the few Tatar businessmen in Crimea willing to speak publicly.

His troubles began after the authorities found out he was a brother of Ilmi Umerov, a prominent Tatar community leader from Bakhchisarai. For a year and a half, Bekir Umerov's store has been saddled with audits and checks from fire inspectors, the consumer rights agency and the economic crimes department.

"They've told me several times they are not interested in my documents, but they have been tasked to run the store into the ground because of the political views of my brother and my own," Umerov said. He feels his only option is to rent out the store before officials find cause to close it down.

The reaction of the Crimean authorities to any display of allegiance to Ukraine sometimes borders on farce. A shop assistant at Umerov's store says inspectors once asked them about a mailbox that happened to be in the yellow and blue colors of the Ukrainian flag.

More and more Tatars in Crimea and outside now say they want more than a return to Ukraine's fold, after its passive stance toward Russian annexation. What they want is Tatar autonomy within Crimea.

However, unlike other nations of the former Russian Empire with a troubled past, Crimean Tatars do not have a history of armed resistance. Nariman Dzhelyal, who leads the Crimean Tatar self-governing body since its leader has been barred from entering Crimea, argues that any suggestion of a guerrilla resistance is "complete nonsense."

"The landscape does not help," he said, suggesting that Crimea's windswept steppes offered no place for potential guerrillas to hide. "And there are no weapons."

Still barking, Uno remains most popular Westminster pooch

BEN WALKER, AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After all these years, Uno is still No. 1.

More than 2,700 dogs are entered in the Westminster Kennel Club show starting Monday, with a couple of clear favorites. Charlie the Skye terrier and Rumor the German shepherd head the pack, and could be picked as the nation's top pooch.

The owners can only hope their champions become another Uno.

Uno barked and bayed his way to best in show at Madison Square Garden in 2008. To this day, the beagle remains the most popular dog in Westminster history.

"Like they said, he's America's dog," handler Tristan Huebner said. "Everyone loves him."

"He's an international celebrity. Everywhere we go, he's recognized," he said.

Uno is almost 11, and the brown on his face has turned mostly white, his black side panels have faded. But he's in great health and still barks up a storm, as he did over the weekend during a trip to Rockefeller Center.

"I never get tired of his famous howl. It was the howl heard around the world," Huebner said.

Uno was in town to film an ad for the summer movie "The Secret Life of Pets," an animated comedy featuring the voices of Kevin Hart, Lake Bell and Dana Carvey. Wagging his tail a mile a minute, Uno came with the red, white and blue leash that President George W. Bush gave him as the first Westminster winner to visit the White House.

No beagle had won the Westminster show until Uno, and he drew a standing ovation from a packed Garden crowd the night he was chosen.

"He was an everyday dog that people could relate to," longtime Westminster television host David Frei said.

Uno lives on a 275-acre ranch with owner Caroline Dowell in San Leanna, Texas, near Austin. He plays outdoors with a neighboring potbellied pig and romps around the house with other beagles.

"He's a perfect lap dog," Huebner said.

Uno got a ride to New York with Dan Huebner, Tristan's dad and the manager of Dowell's ranch — "1,754

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miles, about that," he said. Uno originally was going to fly aboard Purina's plane and when that didn't quite work out, Ann Viklund of Nestle Purina PetCare helped arrange his stay.

Last year, Miss P became the second beagle to win Westminster.

The hound, toy, nonsporting and herding groups were to be judged Monday night. The top sporting, working and terriers get chosen Tuesday night, followed by the best in show pick shortly before 11 p.m.

Also part of America's prestigious dog show:

BEDTIME FOR A BORZOI ... AND BASENJI: Be it a fluffy pillow, a jogging path in Central Park or a late-night snack, Jerry Grymek is the go-to guy this week — for dogs, that is.

His nametag says it all: Doggie Concierge.

Grymek is in his 14th year — "two dog years," he points out — helping make dogs and their owners feel comfortable at the Hotel Pennsylvania, right across the street from Madison Square Garden.

There are 600 dogs staying at the hotel and they're the true VIPs, or as Grymek calls them, the "Very Important Pooches." They have their own spa with grooming tables, treadmills and even an exercise area full of toy fire hydrants.

Special requests? No problem. He once arranged for an opera singer to serenade a spinoni Italiano to soothe its nerves. The dog "barked for an encore," Grymek said.

Grymek also has come to expect special arrangements in the room, especially when someone asks for an additional cot.

"That's for the owner," he said. "The dog sleeps on the bed because it's got to get the real sleep."

BARK-OLOGY: Doberman pinscher or Rottweiler in the working group? Australian shepherd or bearded collie in the herding?

Now, there are a million more reasons to root for your favorites at the dog show. Welcome to Westminster, bracket style.

Purina Pro Plan is offering a \$1 million prize to the person who correctly picks the winners of all seven groups, plus the best in show champ. The online competition is getting a boost from Joe Lunardi, the ESPN wizard of bracketology for the NCAA basketball tournament.

Westminster president Sean McCarthy likes the new idea, figuring it might draw even more people in the sport of dogs.

"I think of it as something like March Madness," he said.

For the record, Lunardi picks the Skye terrier to win it all.

WAY TO OBEY: What does it take to be Westminster's obedience champ? It's no puppy-class sit and stay. The 34 dogs in the show's first-ever obedience competition Monday are more like dog-department Ph.D.s.

First, they'll all do such exercises as leaping a jump to retrieve a dumbbell, selecting an object their handlers touched from a pile of articles and sitting in the middle of the ring while their handlers leave them and walk around. The 10 highest-scoring dogs will go on to a final round with required exercises and optional elements: They can feature props, tricks, even dog-style dance moves.

"Creativity is a factor" in judging, says Paul Campanella, a Westminster official who helped plan the competition.

Pakistan reopens university where Taliban killed 21 people

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A northwestern Pakistani university has resumed classes amid heightened security nearly a month after Taliban militants stormed the campus, killing 21 students and teachers.

The Jan. 20 attack revived memories of the horrific December 2014 Taliban attack on an army run school in the nearby city of Peshawar that killed 150 people, most of them schoolchildren. The same Pakistan Taliban faction claimed responsibility for both attacks.

The Bacha Khan University's Vice Chancellor Fazl-ur-Rahim Marwat on Monday welcomed the students back, assuring them all possible security measures have been taken.

The university in the town of Charsadda is named after liberal, secular political figure hailed as a spiritual leader by an anti-Taliban political party. All four attackers were killed in the shootout with Pakistani troops at the Charsadda campus.

Anti-migrant force builds in Europe, hurting Merkel's quest

VANESSA GERA, Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — So where should the next impenetrable razor-wire border fence in Europe be built?

Hungary's right-wing Prime Minister Viktor Orban thinks he knows the best place — on Macedonia's and Bulgaria's borders with Greece — smack along the main immigration route from the Middle East to Western Europe. He says it's necessary because "Greece can't defend Europe from the south" against the large numbers of Muslim refugees pouring in, mainly from Syria and Iraq.

The plan is especially controversial because it effectively means eliminating Greece from the Schengen zone, Europe's 26-nation passport-free travel region that is considered one of the European Union's most cherished achievements.

Orban's plan will feature prominently Monday at a meeting in Prague of leaders from four nations in an informal gathering known as the Visegrad group: Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Visegrad group, formed 25 years ago to further the nations' European integration, is marking that anniversary Monday. Still, it has only recently found a common purpose in its unified opposition to accepting any significant number of migrants.

This determination has emboldened the group, one of the new mini-blocs emerging lately in Europe due to the continent's chaotic, inadequate response to its largest migration crisis since World War II. The Visegrad group is also becoming a force that threatens the plans of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who wants to resettle newcomers across the continent while also slowing down the influx.

"The plan to build a new "European defense line" along the border of Bulgaria and Macedonia with Greece is a major foreign policy initiative for the Visegrad Four and an attempt to re-establish itself as a notable political force within the EU," said Vit Dostal, an analyst with the Association for International Affairs, a Prague based think tank.

At Monday's meeting, leaders from the four nations will be joined by Macedonian President Gjorge Ivanov and Bulgarian Prime Minister Boiko Borisov so they can push for the reinforcements along Greece's northern border. Macedonia began putting up a first fence in November, and is now constructing a second, parallel, fence.

"If it were up only to us Central Europeans, that region would have been closed off long ago," Orban said at a press conference recently with Poland's prime minister. "Not for the first time in history we see that Europe is defenseless from the south ... that is where we must ensure the safety of the continent."

Poland has indicated a willingness to send dozens of police to Macedonia to secure the border, something to be decided at Monday's meeting.

"If the EU is not active, the Visegrad Four have to be," Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said recently. "We have to find effective ways of protecting the border."

The leaders will try to hash out a unified position ahead of an important EU meeting Thursday and Friday in Brussels that will take up both migration and Britain's efforts to renegotiate a looser union with the EU. The Visegrad countries have also recently united against British attempts to limit the welfare rights of European workers, something that would affect the hundreds of thousands of their citizens who now live and work in Britain.

The anti-migrant message resonates with the ex-communist EU member states, countries that have benefited greatly from EU subsidies and freedom of movement for their own citizens but which now balk at requests to accept even small numbers of refugees. The Visegrad nations maintain it is impossible to integrate Muslims into their societies, often describing them as security threats. So far the Poles, Czechs and Slovaks have only accepted small numbers, primarily Christians from Syria.

Many officials in the West are frustrated with what they see as xenophobia and hypocrisy, given that huge numbers of Poles, Hungarians and other Eastern Europeans have received refuge and economic opportunity in the West for decades.

Indeed there are plenty of signs that the countries are squandering a lot of the good will that they once enjoyed in the West for their sacrifices in throwing off communism and establishing democracies.

Orban's ambitions for Europe got a big boost with the rise to power last year in Poland of the right-wing

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Law and Justice party, which is deeply anti-migrant and sees greater regional cooperation as one of its foreign policy priorities. Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydlo's government says it wants to do more to help Syrian refugees at camps in Turkey and elsewhere while blocking their entry into Europe.

Although Orban is alienating Greek authorities, who are staggering under the sheer numbers of asylum-seekers crossing the sea from Turkey in smugglers' boats, he insists he must act as a counterweight to Western leaders, whom he accuses of creating the crisis with their welcoming attitude to refugees.

"The very serious phenomenon endangering the security of everyday life which we call migration did not break into Western Europe violently," he said. "The doors were opened. And what is more, in certain periods, they deliberately invited and even transported these people into Western Europe without control, filtering or security screening."

Dariusz Kalan, an analyst at the Polish Institute of International Affairs, said he doesn't believe that the Visegrad group on its own can destroy European unity but says Orban's vision is winning adherents across the continent in far-right movements and even among mainstream political parties.

"It's hard to ignore Orban," Kalan said. "People in Western Europe are starting to adopt the language of Orban. None are equally tough and yet the language is still quite similar."

Facing new sanction threats, North Koreans defiant as ever

ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — The United States and Japan have already announced plans for new sanctions over North Korea's recent nuclear test and rocket launch, and the U.N. Security Council is likely to deliver more soon. Cross-border tensions with Seoul are escalating quickly and even China is starting to sound more like an angry neighbor than a comrade-in-arms.

But with a storm brewing all around them, North Koreans have their own take on things — and it's decidedly unapologetic.

Pyongyang started off the new year with what it claims was its first hydrogen bomb test and followed that up with the launch of a satellite on a rocket condemned by much of the world as a test of banned missile technology. When Seoul responded by closing down an industrial park that is the last symbol of cooperation between the two rivals, Pyongyang lashed back, expelling all South Koreans from the site just north of the Demilitarized Zone and putting it under military control.

Each move brought a new round of international outrage. But while the motives of Kim Jong Un's regime are — as usual — a matter of speculation, ask a North Korean what's going on and the reply is swift, indignant and well-practiced.

It's America's fault.

"It's not right for the U.S. to tell our country not to have nuclear bombs," Pak Mi Hyang, a 22-year-old children's camp worker, told The Associated Press as she walked with a friend near Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang on Sunday. "The U.S. has a lot of them and tells us not to have any. It's not fair. We've been living with sanctions for a long time and we are not afraid."

Candor in street interviews is rare in North Korea. Pak and others who agreed to be interviewed by the AP were mindful of the fact that speaking out of turn can have severe repercussions, especially when talking to an American journalist with his North Korean escort.

"We have a lot of hatred toward Americans," Pak said, politely, before walking on.

It hard to discern exactly how much of that is political correctness, North Korean style.

But anti-U.S. sentiment in this country does run deep, for good reason.

That is partly because the relentless propaganda that depicts Washington — which has made no secret of its desire for regime change — as its biggest existential threat. But it also reflects the brutality of the Korean War, which left millions of Koreans dead and most of North Korea's cities and industrial base in ruins.

Though called the "Forgotten War" in America, it is anything but forgotten in North Korea. It is used by authorities to rally the nation around anti-U.S. feeling and a common outside enemy, and it also resonates with many North Koreans who remember wartime suffering or have family or friends who died in the fighting, which the North says was started by the United States and South Korea.

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And since the 1950-53 war ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty, the U.S. is still technically and literally “the enemy.”

Reflecting that sentiment, Kim Cho Yong, a 49-year-old who works at the ministry of coal mining industry, said he feels “proud of the H-bomb.”

“We made a big step in making bombs so we are not afraid of any attacks from the enemies,” he said. “No enemy can attack us because we have an H-bomb.”

North Korea’s media has also tried mightily to show the public that nuclear tests, rocket launches and other acts condemned by the U.S. and its close allies are seen by countries outside Washington’s sphere of influence as symbols of national pride, socialist progress and strength. Every day brings new praise from places like Guinea and Bangladesh or political organizations such as the Workers’ Party of Hungary and the Group of Youth for the Study of Kim Jong Il Juche Idea in Vienna.

Even so, Pyongyang’s message has always been twofold: North Korea has every right to defend itself against a U.S. government bent on bringing it down, but if Washington would give up its hostile policies, it would be willing to seek peace, too.

The only realistic way to turn the situation around on the Korean Peninsula, Pyongyang has long said, is for Washington to remove its troops from the South — or at least stop its huge annual war games there — and start talks toward normalizing relations and negotiating a peace treaty.

“The U.S.’s ceaseless military threat and nuclear blackmail against the DPRK are precisely the reason why the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula was spawned and still remains unsettled,” the official Minju Joson newspaper said in an editorial Sunday using the acronym for the country’s formal name, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. “The only solution to it is to put an end to the U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK.”

In Washington, of course, that position is seen as a non-starter. North Korea must, it claims, make the first move and dismantle its nuclear program.

Taking a deep dive into the U.S. media to suggest that even many Americans question that logic, the North’s official news agency, KCNA, on Sunday cited articles on the popular website Reddit and a recent issue of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists that hit two of Pyongyang’s favored themes — failed U.S. policy toward the North and the need to engage, not isolate.

“Our country wants peace, and if the U.S. wants peace too then there will be peace,” said Pak, the children’s camp worker.

But she added that right now, as her country is once again coming under the threat of sanctions that will probably have a negative impact on her daily life, North Korea in her eyes is only growing stronger.

“I feel proud to be a member of the Korean nation,” she said.

Bryant leaves an All-Star Game winner, West rolls 196-173

BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Kobe Bryant exited the All-Star Game for the final time to watch Russell Westbrook and Stephen Curry wrap things up with 3-pointers.

Bryant’s gone, and these young guys are good.

Bryant said his All-Star Game goodbye and the next generation of the West’s best sent him off a winner, rolling to a record-setting 196-173 victory over the East on Sunday night.

“It was fun,” Bryant said. “I had a blast playing with those guys, laughing and joking with them on the bench.”

The first All-Star Game outside the U.S. was the highest-scoring ever. Bryant didn’t provide much of the offense but many of the memories.

“To see him now, it’s like the passing of a generation,” West coach Gregg Popovich said. “He’s been such an iconic figure for so long, and he passes it on to that other group of young guys that you saw out there tonight.”

Bryant finished with 10 points, so few that he lost his career lead in All-Star scoring to LeBron James.

But Westbrook scored 31 points in his second straight All-Star MVP performance and Curry added 26 —

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the final three on a 42-footer. Anthony Davis had 24 on 12-for-13 shooting and Kevin Durant chipped in 23.

Paul George finished with 41 for the East, tying Westbrook's total from last year in New York that was one off Wilt Chamberlain's record. John Wall added 22 points.

James finished with 13 points, just enough to move ahead of Bryant for most ever in the All-Star Game. James has 291, while Bryant, who is retiring after this season, leaves with 290.

He checked out with 1:06 left to cheers and hugs from his fellow All-Stars who now put up points in bunches the way Bryant did for so long.

Bryant had seven assists and six rebounds, but shot 4 for 11 in a game where there isn't really much defense and had never been less. The 369 combined points were 48 more than last year's record, and both clubs blew away the previous individual team record of 163.

But people just wanted to see Bryant play, not necessarily play well.

"We all at one point in our life wanted to be Kobe in our driveways somewhere," the East's Dwyane Wade said. "We watched him growing up and we wanted to pay respect to him."

The pregame was a celebration first of Canada, then of Bryant.

A video message from Dr. James Naismith, the Canadian who invented basketball in the early 1890s, was followed by player introductions by two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash and Grammy winner Drake. Canadian Nelly Furtado sang her country's national anthem.

Then it was time for two video tributes for Bryant, whose 18 All-Star selections are second only to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Bryant thanked his millions of fans as the other All-Stars lined up in the background to salute him.

"I know it's been overwhelming for him over this year, but our fans across the world and here in the States and here in Toronto, as well, has just been paying so much respect," James said. "It's all well-deserved."

Toronto hosted the very first NBA game on Nov. 1, 1946. Neither Naismith nor anyone who saw that game would recognize the way it looked Sunday.

Curry and Durant launched shots from spots where only buzzer-beating heaves were once attempted, and Westbrook put together another combination of speed and force that turned it into a rare All-Star blowout in the second half.

The West has won five of the last six even without longtime mainstay Bryant, who hadn't played since 2013 because of injuries. But players like Westbrook, Durant and Curry are more than ready to shoulder the load.

At 37, Bryant has trouble keeping up with the youngsters — especially the real young ones. Chris Paul's son stole the ball from him as Bryant warmed up for the second half.

But he was the star without playing a starring a role. He had said he didn't want players forcing him the ball in an effort to make him the MVP — he's already got four of them in this game — but he was never far from the center of attention.

The West led 92-90 at the break, both teams surpassing the previous record of 89 points in a half.

The game goes back to the U.S. next year, and for the first time since 1997 won't have Bryant. He made his All-Star debut in New York in 1998, a game also remembered for Michael Jordan's last with the Chicago Bulls.

Jordan, now chairman of the Hornets, was on hand Sunday for a ceremonial passing of the All-Star torch from Toronto to Charlotte, the 2017 host.

Paul finished with 14 points and 16 assists and is the leader in All-Star assists per game. DeMar DeRozan scored 18 points for the East and Kyle Lowry had 14 points and 10 assists as both Raptors played well in front of their home crowd.

"I think everybody got the feel of the energy that we witness every single night when we play as Raptors players," DeRozan said. "I think all the guys really got insight on how in tune the city of Toronto and all of Canada is to basketball."

Pope celebrates indigenous in Chiapas as Catholics dwindle

NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — Pope Francis is celebrating Mexico's Indians on Monday with a visit to heavily indigenous Chiapas state, where he will preside over a Mass in three native languages thanks to a new Vatican decree approving their use in liturgy.

But the visit, at the midway mark of Francis' five-day trip to Mexico, is also aimed at boosting the faith in the least Catholic state in Mexico.

History's first Latin American pope has already issued a sweeping apology for the Catholic Church's colonial-era crimes against the continent's indigenous. On Monday, he'll go further by celebrating their culture in ways the local church hierarchy has often sought to play down, in a clear demonstration of his belief that Indians have an important role to play in Mexico today.

"I ask you to show singular tenderness in the way you regard indigenous peoples and their fascinating but not infrequently decimated cultures," Francis told Mexico's bishops Saturday in a speech outlining their marching orders. "The indigenous people of Mexico still await true recognition of the richness of their contribution and the fruitfulness of their presence."

The Mexican hierarchy has long bristled at the region's "Indian church," a mixture of Catholicism and indigenous culture that includes pine boughs, eggs and references to "God the Father and Mother" in services. It was a tradition that was embraced by the late bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas, Samuel Ruiz, who ran afoul of both the Mexican church and the Vatican at times for his use of the local ways.

Monday's Mass will include readings, prayers and hymns in the three main indigenous languages of Chiapas: Tzeltal, Tzotzil and Chol, which are spoken by just over 1 million people, according to Mexico's latest census. The Vatican has said the pope would present the official decree authorizing the languages to be used, some 50 years after the Second Vatican Council paved the way for Mass to be celebrated in the vernacular rather than in Latin.

"Vatican II in liturgy finally comes to Chiapas," said the Rev. Manuel Dorantes, an assistant Vatican spokesman who is from Mexico.

Despite the pope's overture, residents of Chiapas said they believe Francis is coming mostly to confirm their faith, not their status as indigenous.

"It doesn't matter that I'm indigenous; I think it's more that I'm Catholic," said Emanuel Gomez, a 22-year-old Tzotzil who planned to attend the Mass. "The pope comes to encourage our hearts and faith as Catholics."

He added, though, that the visit would "lift us up so we don't feel scorned by the powerful and rich."

According to government statistics about 46 percent of Mexicans were living in poverty in 2014. That number surges in Chiapas, where some 76 percent were living in poverty, 32 percent in extreme poverty.

Francis has insisted that his is a "poor church, for the poor," and was expected to address the problems of poverty and marginalization Monday. After the Mass, Francis was scheduled to hear testimony from a handful of Chiapas families about the hardships they face.

"He comes to redeem an entire struggle by the people," said the Rev. Marcelino Perez, an indigenous priest who will translate the pope's homily into Tzotzil during the Mass.

Francis' visit comes amid strong challenges to the church in the southern state, including huge inroads by evangelical Protestants who have helped turn Chiapas into the least Catholic and one of the most Protestant and evangelical in Mexico. According to the 2010 census, Chiapas was 58 percent Catholic, compared to a national average of 83 percent.

Relations between the two groups haven't always been smooth.

In some communities, residents have expelled or ostracized any inhabitant who converts to Protestantism, often taking their lands or possessions, or denying them access to basic services like water or electricity.

Francis has close personal friendships in the evangelical and Protestant communities, but it was unclear how he might tackle the Protestant-Catholic divide in Chiapas.

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San Cristobal is home to two of the most famed religious defenders of indigenous people in Mexican history: Bishops Bartolome de las Casas in the 16th century and Samuel Ruiz, who died in 2011.

Both were beloved by indigenous people and widely reviled among the wealthy classes and much of the church hierarchy. Many officials accused Ruiz of acting on behalf of the Zapatista rebels in their 1994 uprising for greater indigenous rights.

Part of the liberation theology movement that swept Latin America after Vaican II, Ruiz tried to fend off the rapid growth of Protestant denominations by adapting to indigenous customs.

One of his controversial measures was to rely heavily on married male lay workers because local culture granted more respect to men with children than to childless, celibate men such as priests. Some in the church worried the married deacons were taking on priestly functions.

In 2002, under Pope John Paul II, the Vatican asked the Chiapas diocese to halt deacon ordinations. But under Francis, the ordinations were renewed in 2014.

In a sign that Ruiz remains a controversial figure, the Vatican declined to say whether Francis would pray at his tomb during his visit to the cathedral Monday.

"There are many who feel he was more of a political figure than a religious one, often disregarding that the motivation for all that he did was Jesus Christ," Dorantes said.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2016. There are 320 days left in the year. This is Presidents Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 15, 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

On this date:

In 1764, the site of present-day St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclede and Auguste Chouteau.

In 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court.

In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later.

In 1944, Allied bombers destroyed the monastery atop Monte Cassino (MAWN'tay kah-SEE'noh) in Italy.

In 1952, a funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's King George VI, who had died nine days earlier.

In 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

In 1971, Britain and Ireland "decimalised" their currencies, making one pound equal to 100 new pence instead of 240 pence.

In 1982, 84 men were killed when a huge oil-drilling rig, the Ocean Ranger, sank off the coast of Newfoundland during a fierce storm.

In 1986, the Philippines National Assembly proclaimed Ferdinand E. Marcos president for another six years, following an election marked by allegations of fraud. (Marcos ended up being ousted from power.)

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

In 1995, the FBI arrested Kevin Mitnick, its "most wanted hacker," and charged him with cracking security for some of the nation's most protected computers. (Mitnick ended up serving five years behind bars.)

In 2002, a private funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's Princess Margaret, who had died six days earlier at age 71.

Ten years ago: Vice President Dick Cheney accepted blame for accidentally shooting a hunting companion, calling it "one of the worst days of my life," but was defiantly unapologetic in a Fox News Chan-

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nel interview about not publicly disclosing the incident until the next day. Testifying before the Senate, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff acknowledged delayed aid and fumbled coordination in the federal response to Hurricane Katrina.

Five years ago: Protesters swarmed Wisconsin's capitol after Gov. Scott Walker proposed cutbacks in benefits and abolishing bargaining rights for most public employees. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was ordered to stand trial on charges he'd paid a 17-year-old Moroccan girl for sex and then used his influence to cover it up. (Berlusconi was found guilty, but had his conviction overturned.)

One year ago: A video purporting to show the mass beheading of Egyptian Coptic Christian hostages was released by militants in Libya affiliated with the Islamic State group. Russell Westbrook scored 41 points to lead the Western Conference to a 163-158 win over the East in the NBA All-Star Game. Foreign correspondent and news executive Arnaud de Borchgrave, 88, died in Washington.

Today's Birthdays: Former Illinois Congressman John Anderson is 94. Actress Claire Bloom is 85. Author Susan Brownmiller is 81. Songwriter Brian Holland is 75. Rock musician Mick Avory (The Kinks) is 72. Jazz musician Henry Threadgill is 72. Actress-model Marisa Berenson is 69. Actress Jane Seymour is 65. Singer Melissa Manchester is 65. Actress Lynn Whitfield is 63. "Simpsons" creator Matt Groening (GREE'ning) is 62. Model Janice Dickinson is 61. Actor Christopher McDonald is 61. Reggae singer Ali Campbell is 57. Actor Joseph R. Gannascoli is 57. Musician Mikey Craig (Culture Club) is 56. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green is 56. Country singer Michael Reynolds (Pinmonkey) is 52. Actor Michael Easton is 49. Rock musician Stevie Benton (Drowning Pool) is 45. Actress Renee O'Connor is 45. Actress Sarah Wynter is 43. Olympic gold medal swimmer Amy Van Dyken-Rouen is 43. Actress-director Miranda July is 42. Rock singer Brandon Boyd (Incubus) is 40. Rock musician Ronnie Vannucci (The Killers) is 40. Singer-songwriter-musician Conor Oberst (Bright Eyes) is 36. Actress Ashley Lyn Cafagna is 33. Blues-rock musician Gary Clark Jr. is 32. Actress Natalie Morales is 31. Actress Amber Riley is 30.

Thought for Today: "Like all dreamers I confuse disenchantment with truth." — Jean-Paul Sartre, French philosopher (1905-1980).