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Saturday, February 20

Anniv: Ken & Leslie Dinger

Birthdays: Gerald Osterman, Lori Giedt, Michael Wells, Shaun Wanner, Jerry Bjerke

9:00am: Robotics at SF Washington

10:00am: Regional Wrestling at Britton-Hecla

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Rosewood Court

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, February 21

Youth Wrestling Tourney in Groton

Birthdays: Kate Profeta, Leah Swanson, Les Nehls, Natalia Warrington, Scott Smith

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School and Confirmation

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

10:00am: St. John's Lutheran School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship



It was parent's night last night at the boys' basketball game.

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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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Follow The Groton
Activities On-Line



gdilive.com

Coming up this week at gdilive.com

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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Region 1A Girls Basketball Tournament

#1 Webster Area

Score:

Date: February 25

Time: 6:00

Site: Britton Hecla Arena

Score:

#4 Sisseton

Score:

Date: February 23rd

Time: 20 minutes following 2nd

Site: Britton Hecla Arena

Score:

#5 Britton-Hecla

#3 Aberdeen Roncalli

Score:

Date: February 23rd

Time: 20 minutes following first

Site: Britton Hecla

Score:

#6 Milbank Area

Score:

Date: February 25th

Time: 20 minutes following

Site: Britton Hecla Arena

Score:

#2 Groton Area

Score:

Date: February 23rd

Time: 4:30

Site: Britton Hecla Arena

Score:

#7 Tiospa Zina

Score:

Date: March 1st

Time: 7:00

Site: Britton Hecla Arena

Score:

CHAMPION

State Qualifier

Region 1	Seed Points	W-L
Webster Area	45.60	18-2
Groton Area	42.65	14-6
Aberdeen Roncalli	40.95	11-9
Sisseton	40.70	11-9
Britton-Hecla	39.28	7-11
Milbank Area	39.00	6-14
Tiospa Zina	36.89	4-15

Follow the Lady Tigers on

gdilive.com

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Groton boys end regular season with win over Pheasants

Groton's boys scored the last five points of the game to help secure a 42-36 win over Redfield-Doland in basketball action played Friday night in Groton. It was the regular season finale for both teams as Groton enters region play with a 12-8 record and Redfield-Doland with a 7-13 record. The boys region will start the week of February 29th.

Groton jumped out to a 7-0 lead and held an 11-7 lead at the end of the first quarter. The game was tied at 13 and the Pheasants took an 18-17 lead at half time. The lead changed hands four times in the third quarter with the Pheasants getting the upper hand to lead, 27-26, at the break. Redfield-Doland held a four-point lead at 25-21. Groton got the lead back with the first basket of the fourth quarter and led by six at one point, 37-31, and ended up winning by six, 42-36.

Groton made 45 percent of its first quarter shots, 20 percent in the second quarter, 45 percent in the third quarter and 60 percent in the fourth quarter. Redfield-Doland made 25 percent in the first quarter, 33 percent in the second quarter, 36 percent in the third quarter and 25 percent in the fourth quarter. For the game, Groton made 40 percent of its shots while Redfield-Doland made 30 percent. Adam Herman made all three of Groton's three-pointers while Kevin Krumm made one for Redfield-Doland.

Groton had more defensive rebounds, 28-23, with Bennett Shabazz having nine for Groton and Collin Klebsch seven for the Pheasants. Redfield-Doland had more offensive rebounds, 10-5. Bennett Shabazz had

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Adam Herman

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Bennett Shabazz

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Brandon Keith

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

three of the team's eight assists while the Pheasants had two assists. Groton had 12 turnovers with six of them being steals (w each by Klebsch and Bradyn Binger). Redfield-Doland had nine turnovers, four of which were steals with Sean Schuring having two. Groton had 11 team fouls which allowed the Pheasants to make five of nine free throws for 56 percent. Redfield-Doland had 12 team fouls which allowed Groton to make three of five free throws for 60 percent. Hunter Lerew had two blocks while Seric Shabazz and Aaron Severson each had one.

Scoring wise, Bennett Shabazz led all scorers with 12 points followed by Adam Herman with 11, Seric Shabazz had eight, Aaron Severson six and Hunter Lerew five. The Pheasants were led by Bradyn Binger with 11, Collin Klebsch had 10, Dalton Howe six, Kevin Krumm five and Carter Klapperich four.

Redfield-Doland won the junior varsity game, 31-24. Brandon Keith had 11 points, Anthony Sippel six, Truitt Rogers five and Peyton Johnson two. Groton won the C game, 33-25. Johnny Doeden had eight points, Treyton Diegel and Cade Guthmiller each had six, Peyton Johnson five, Mitch Thurston and Austin Jones each had three and Tylan Glover two.

The boys varsity game had 150 views from the game last night on gdilive.com.



Kumla Dinner

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

Groton Community Center

Sponsored by Heaven Bound Ministries of Pierpont

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	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
NO REDFIELD																	
4 Klapperich, Carter	*	0	12	0	4	4	6	1	4	5	4	4	0	1	0	0	32:00
12 Krumm, Kevin	*	2	6	1	2	0	0	2	0	2	1	5	1	2	0	1	24:00
15 Klebsch, Collin	*	5	8	0	1	0	2	3	7	10	2	10	0	1	0	2	24:00
23 Binger, Bradyn	*	5	13	0	2	1	1	3	6	9	3	11	0	2	0	2	32:00
25 Howe, Dalton	*	3	11	0	4	0	0	0	3	3	2	6	0	2	0	1	24:00
10 Masat, Alan		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0:00
20 Utecht, Micaiah		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	16:00
32 Wipf, Tayler		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								1	2	3				0			
Team Totals		15	51	1	13	5	9	10	23	33	12	36	2	9	0	6	160

Total FG% - 1st: 7/22 0.318 2nd: 8/29 0.276 Game: 0.294 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/6 0.000 2nd: 1/7 0.143 Game: 0.077 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 4/8 0.500 2nd: 1/1 1.000 Game: 0.556 (2,0)

	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
		FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
NO GROTON																	
12 Schuring, Sean	F	0	5	0	4	0	0	1	6	7	2	0	1	1	0	2	32:00
40 Lerew, Hunter	C	2	6	0	0	1	2	1	3	4	4	5	1	4	2	0	8:00
4 Shabazz, Bennett	G	5	11	0	0	2	3	1	9	10	3	12	3	4	1	0	24:00
5 Shabazz, Seric	G	4	6	0	2	0	0	1	5	6	0	8	1	1	0	1	32:00
11 Herman, Adam	G	4	8	3	5	0	0	0	3	3	2	11	1	1	0	0	24:00
20 Keith, Brandon		0	4	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	16:00
50 Severson, Aaron		3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	1	24:00
TEAM REBOUNDS								0	2	2				0			
Team Totals		18	45	3	14	3	5	5	28	33	11	42	8	12	3	4	160

Total FG% - 1st: 8/25 0.320 2nd: 10/20 0.500 Game: 0.400 Deadball
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 1/9 0.111 2nd: 2/5 0.400 Game: 0.214 Rebounds
 Total FT% - 1st: 0/0 0.000 2nd: 3/5 0.600 Game: 0.600 (1,0)

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Redfield	7	11	9	9	36
Groton	11	6	9	16	42

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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.



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Today in Weather History

February 20, 1962: Another round of heavy snow fell across the southeastern half of the state from the 20th through the 22nd with up to 10 inches of new snowfall. Snowfall amounts included, 5 inches at Bryant, 6 inches at Kennebec, 7 inches at Redfield, Brookings, Mitchell, and Sioux Falls, 8 inches at Miller, and 10 inches at Huron. Snowfall amounts for the record setting month of February 1962 ranged from 30 to 50 inches across much of the southeast part of the state.

February 20, 1997: Warm weather resulted in snowmelt runoff and ice breakup on the Bad River. As a result, the Bad River went above flood stage from Capa to Fort Pierre late in the evening of the 20th. Flood stage at Fort Pierre is 21 feet and the river rose to around 25 feet on the 21st. The Bad River went below flood stage during the afternoon of the 22nd. Lowlands near the river were flooded along with some county roads with some of the roads damaged. Late in the evening of the 20th, the trailer court on the southern edge of Fort Pierre was evacuated where they did some sandbagging. Also, on the west side of Fort Pierre, some roads were flooded.

February 20, 2011: The snowfall/blizzard event on 20-21 February 2011 produced yet another round of impressive snowfall totals across central and northeastern South Dakota and west-central Minnesota. Storm total snowfall amounts generally ranged from 8" to 12" with locally higher amounts in excess of 18" reported in a few locations.

1912: An F3 tornado killed 9 people and injured 50 others as it crossed Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. This would happen again in 1940.

1995: The temperature at the Civic Center in Los Angeles, California soared to 95 degrees. This is highest temperature ever recorded at the location during the month of February.

2004: A nor'easter brought heavy snow and strong winds to the Nova Scotia and Prince Edwards Island from the 17th through 20th. The Maritimers called this storm White Juan, a hurricane disguised as a blizzard. Halifax, Yarmouth and Charlottetown broke all-time 24-hour snowfall records, receiving about 3 feet of snow. For Halifax, the 34.8 inches of snow on February 19 nearly doubled its previous record for a single day.



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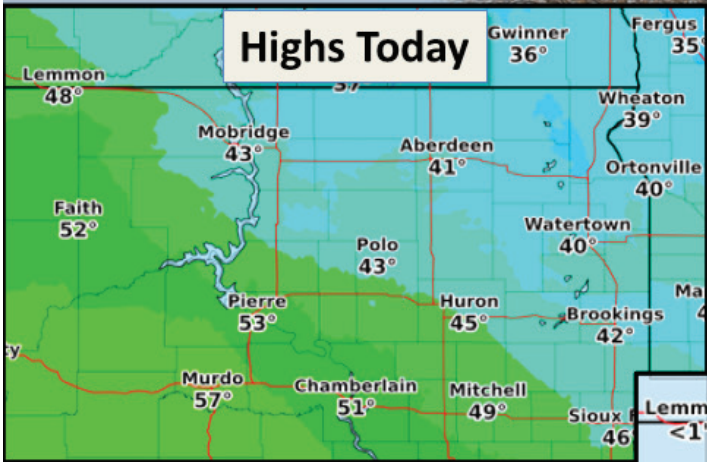
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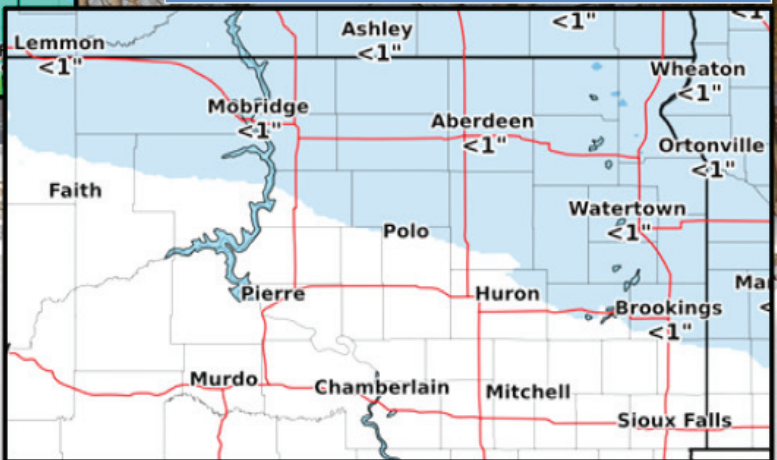
Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
Mostly Cloudy	Chance Snow 40%	Slight Chance Snow then Mostly Cloudy 20%	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 45 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 31 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 41 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 37 °F



Warm Today, Light Snow Tonight



Light Snow Accumulations Possible Tonight



Published on: 02/20/2016 at 6:03AM

Today will feature partly to mostly cloudy skies with highs in the upper 30s to the lower 40s. Locations in south central and western South Dakota will see highs in the 50s. An area of low pressure crossing the region will bring light snow to most locations tonight through Sunday morning. Snowfall amounts will generally range around an inch or less.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 53.9 at 4:05 PM

Low: 34.3 at 5:14 AM

High Gust: 36 at 4:51 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 61° in 1930

Record Low: -30 in 1918

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 9°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.35

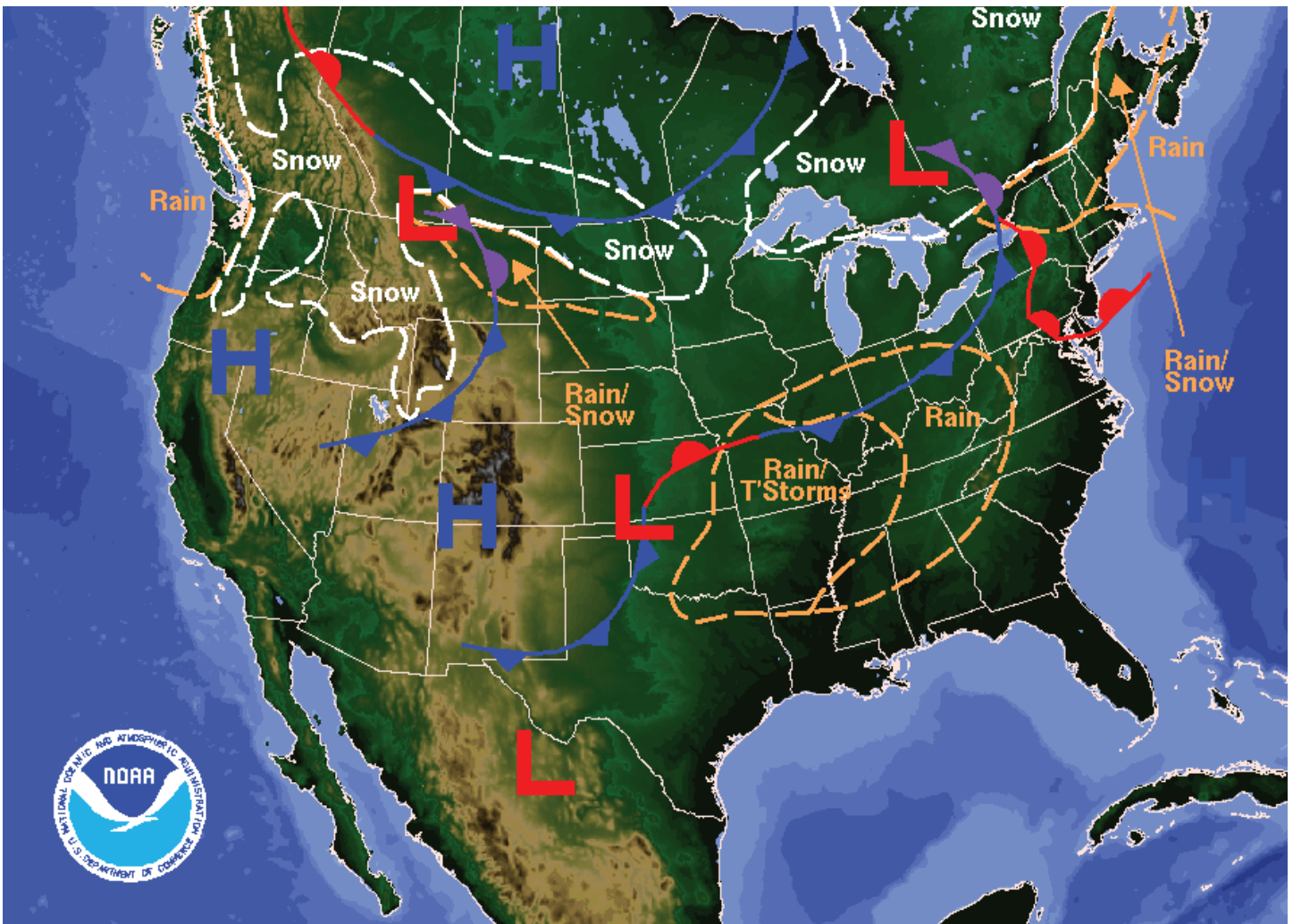
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.60

Average Precip to date: 0.82

Precip Year to Date: 0.60

Sunset Tonight: 6:07 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:26 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Feb 20, 2016, issued 2:55 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Hamrick based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WHO IS THE WINNER?

It was the end of the season and the teams were playing for the championship of the league. Hope and excitement were building as they came to the final inning of the game. The teams were scoreless.

There were two outs, a runner was on third and it was the pitcher's turn to bat. Although he was a good pitcher, he was a poor hitter. Realizing the importance of the moment, the coach decided to bring in a pinch hitter. The count was full and the crowd was on their feet. On the next pitch, the batter singled into left field, a run scored, and they won the game.

How did the pitcher respond? Was he angry because he did not get the hit and drive in the run? No. He was the first one out of the dugout, running to the pinch hitter to congratulate him. He was delighted. Although he did not get the hit, he was credited with the win.

The writings of Paul reflect an amazingly selfless attitude. He realized that not all preachers had pure motives – some only wanted recognition. But he said, "I rejoice because they are preaching about Christ." There may be some Christians who do the right things for the wrong reasons, but thank God for they are at least doing something!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to do what we can, where we can, when we can to get Your message to the lost and dying. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 1:15-18 The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Rapid City legislator says he'll change teacher pay vote

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City legislator says he plans to change his vote to a yes on a sales tax proposal that would help raise teacher pay in South Dakota.

Republican Rep. Scott Craig issued a statement late Friday saying he plans to flip his vote Monday to keep the sales tax proposal under consideration in the South Dakota House.

The proposed half-cent sales tax increase would help fund Gov. Dennis Daugaard's plan to improve South Dakota teacher pay. The vote in the chamber was 46-23, just one short of the two-thirds margin required to pass a tax hike. House members on Friday voted by a simple majority to reconsider the bill on Monday.

"Unfortunately, for most teachers across the state the vote conveyed a lack of support and appreciation, and they are disheartened," Craig said in the statement. "I am looking forward to a seeing a second plan filed in the Legislature and I believe both plans should be debated in the legislative body, and the greater of the two plans should prevail."

If passed by the House, the bill would need two-thirds support from the Senate before heading to the governor's desk.

A state task force studying education funding found that South Dakota teacher pay is the lowest of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Daugaard's proposed sales tax increase would raise more than \$100 million in the upcoming budget year, most of which would be put toward helping raise the state's target average teacher salary to \$48,500 per year. If enacted, it would be the first permanent increase to the state's sales tax rate of 4 cents per dollar in nearly half a century.

About \$62.4 million from the sales tax hike would go toward teacher salaries and about \$40 million would go to property tax relief, according to the governor's office.

Opponents argue that education could be prioritized in existing tax dollars.

Recreational trail program grants available for projects

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State Parks Director Doug Hofer says there are grants available for trail projects.

The funding is available for projects sponsored by municipalities, counties and tribal governments, among other government entities.

Hofer says trails are key to promoting healthy communities. He says they are safe corridors for recreation and exercise that give families the opportunity to spend time together.

The grants are from the Recreation Trails Program. The program offers partial reimbursement for trail projects that are approved.

Potential projects eligible for the grant program include constructing new public trails and rehabilitating trails that exist now.

The application deadline is April 15.

State accepting reservations for May free fishing weekend

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Saturday is the first day that people can reserve campsites and cabins for South Dakota's open house and free fishing weekend in May.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department says reservations for a May 20 arrival can be made by calling 1-800-710-2267 or going online to CampSD.com beginning at 7 a.m. CST.

Campsite and cabin reservations can be made as many as 90 days before campers arrive. Custer State Park accepts reservations beginning one year before arrival.

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Daugaard proclaims Bald Eagle Awareness Week in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed next week as Bald Eagle Awareness Week in South Dakota.

A number of free events have been scheduled between Feb. 22 and 27 that will allow people across the state to learn more about birds of prey.

Educators from the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center will host an event featuring live birds of prey on Thursday at the Outdoor Campus of the Game, Fish and Parks Department in Sioux Falls. The Outdoor Campus in Rapid City will also host a free raptor-themed event, which is planned for Feb. 27.

Bald Eagle Awareness Week is an annual event sponsored by conservation and outdoor recreation organizations, merchants and other conservation agencies.

Friday's Scores **The Associated Press**

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Central 62, Yankton 50
Baltic 54, Dell Rapids St. Mary 28
Brookings 61, Sioux Falls Lincoln 58
Canistota 77, Centerville 68
Canton 55, Alcester-Hudson 41
Castlewood 62, Estelline 38
Chamberlain 56, McLaughlin 32
Clark/Willow Lake 81, Webster 46
Colman-Egan 75, Flandreau Indian 62
Custer 51, Lead-Deadwood 30
Dakota Valley 67, Madison 51
Deuel 55, Milbank Area 51
Dupree 88, Wakpala 57
Ethan 55, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 20
Freeman 67, Avon 49
Gregory 59, Bon Homme 52
Groton Area 42, Redfield/Doland 36
Harding County 76, Lemmon 58
Herreid/Selby Area 64, Leola/Frederick 49
Hitchcock-Tulare 59, Northwestern 50
Ipswich 62, Edmunds Central 42
James Valley Christian 64, Wessington Springs 36
Lake Preston 62, Iroquois 41
Lennox 52, Dell Rapids 45
Lyman 69, Kadoka Area 64
Menno 50, Scotland 34
Mitchell Christian 74, Howard 30
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 61, Parkston 57
Sioux Valley 71, Garretson 49
Sisseton 65, Britton-Hecla 47
Sturgis 59, Belle Fourche 47
Tea Area 75, Elk Point-Jefferson 54
Warner 53, Langford 41
Watertown 50, Brandon Valley 42
Waubay/Summit 51, Florence/Henry 49, OT

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Waverly-South Shore 69, Great Plains Lutheran 47

West Central 66, McCook Central/Montrose 59

White River 71, New Underwood 35

Winner 44, Mobridge-Pollock 21

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Andes Central/Dakota Christian 62, Sunshine Bible Academy 24

Belle Fourche 47, Sturgis 43

Brandon Valley 52, Pierre 43

Centerville 61, Canistota 57

Dakota Valley 62, Madison 48

Dell Rapids St. Mary 59, Marion 36

Dupree 68, Wakpala 24

Elk Point-Jefferson 66, Tea Area 54

Elkton-Lake Benton 41, Great Plains Lutheran 34

Ethan 64, Tripp-Delmont/Armour 43

Flandreau 62, Colman-Egan 30

Gayville-Volin 58, Bon Homme 48

Kadoka Area 62, Bennett County 42

Lead-Deadwood 57, Custer 49

McCook Central/Montrose 52, Parkston 31

McCook Central/Montrose 52, Parkston 31

McLaughlin 73, Chamberlain 52

Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 48, Flandreau Indian 43

Rapid City Christian 55, Bison 46

Wall 48, Hill City 36

Yankton Democrat steps up to challenge US Sen. John Thune

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Yankton businessman announced his Democratic candidacy for the U.S. Senate on Friday, giving Sen. John Thune his first challenger since the Republican incumbent unseated then-Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle a dozen years earlier.

Jay Williams, 65, said he's running because he feels lawmakers are ignoring the consequences of climate change and rigging the economic system to benefit the wealthy. He said Congressional Republicans have repeatedly obstructed President Barack Obama through federal shutdowns, refusal to look at his budget proposal and vowing to oppose any Supreme Court nominee put forth to replace the late Antonin Scalia.

Williams said he thinks Thune is a good man, but "unfortunately he has become part of the Washington establishment."

South Dakota GOP Chairwoman Pam Roberts said Thune is a champion for South Dakota.

"We don't need to send someone to the U.S. Senate who would be another vote for the Obama-Clinton-Sanders agenda," Roberts said in a statement.

The South Dakota Democratic Party introduced Williams during an event at the Sioux Falls Veterans of Foreign Wars hall.

Democratic Chairwoman Ann Tornberg said party leaders have known Williams would be the candidate since last June but let Williams decide when he wanted to announce his candidacy.

Williams, who founded Yankton-based software development company ExcellTech in 1987, served on the Yankton School Board from 2011 through 2014 and lost bids for a state House seat in 2010 and 2014. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War and also served in the Peace Corps.

Fred Stephens, a retired Sioux Falls educator, said Williams' impassioned speech resonated with him.

"I'm convinced that government is broken," Stephens said.

Thune, 55, captured the national spotlight in 2004 when he defeated Daschle in a tight race. He has since ascended to chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, the third-highest position in the U.S. Senate.

Democrats failed to put forward a challenger in 2010, making Thune just the third Republican to run unopposed for the body since direct elections were established in 1913, according to Senate historians. The lack of a 2010 challenger allowed Thune to amass nearly \$11.4 million in his campaign coffers as of the end of 2015.

Williams acknowledged that sum presents a huge challenge, but he said he'll combat the advantage through social media, endorsements and meetings with voters.

On the House side, Democratic state Rep. Paula Hawks already has announced her campaign to unseat Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem.

House panel mulls bill to ban derogatory school team names

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill that would bar public schools from using athletic team names or mascots deemed derogatory would offer people offended by the symbols a way to change them, the proposal's main sponsor said Friday.

The House Education committee considered the bill, but a vote is expected to come next week. Some communities in South Dakota aren't sensitive to the effects the names and symbols have on Native Americans, particularly youth, said Democratic Rep. Shawn Bordeaux, the bill's main House sponsor.

"It is time we hold people accountable who are teaching our children how to become good citizens with their tribal brethren and how to get along in the future years ahead of us," Bordeaux said.

School districts in South Dakota have faced controversy over nicknames such as the Sisseton School District's "Redmen" moniker. A group of student athletes at the nearby Tiospa Zina Tribal School unsuccessfully lobbied the district last year to change the nickname.

Fidelity Eastman, now a college student, pushed for the change. The nickname and mascot are derogatory and make her feel disheartened, Eastman said.

"You think we're just a mascot? That's all we're good for, or that's the only time we're special?" said Eastman, who is a tribal member.

Under the bill, someone who finds a name or mascot racially offensive could file a complaint with the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

The association would have to consult with officials from the tribe with tribal land nearest the school district in question. If the tribal officials objected to the use of the name, the association would have to find that it is derogatory or discriminatory — and it would have to be discontinued.

State Senate committee approves 20-week abortion ban measure

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill that would outlaw non-emergency abortions in South Dakota at or beyond 20 weeks of pregnancy is headed to the full Senate after passing its first committee test Friday.

The Senate Health and Human Services committee voted 4-3 for the measure, which offers some exemptions for women in medical emergencies, but not in cases of rape or incest.

Supporters of the bill say fetuses can feel pain at 20 weeks of pregnancy, and the measure aims to "recognize the humanity of children in the womb who are capable of feeling pain," said Republican Rep. Isaac Latterell, the bill's main House sponsor.

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists says fetuses can't feel pain until the third trimester starts at 27 weeks.

Under the bill, performing an abortion that violates the new threshold would be a Class 1 misdemeanor, which carries a penalty of up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. A woman who gets such an abortion would not be subject to that consequence.

The bill would allow the abortion if it is necessary to prevent a serious health risk to the mother, but

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psychological or emotional conditions including a claim or diagnosis that a woman intends to kill herself aren't part of the exemption.

South Dakota currently limits abortions at 24 weeks, according to the Guttmacher Institute, an abortion-rights nonprofit.

Democratic Sen. Troy Heinert, an opponent of the measure, said the bill is looking for a problem that doesn't exist in South Dakota.

The state's only abortion clinic, in Sioux Falls, doesn't perform abortions after a pregnancy reaches 14 weeks, according to Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota. Three major South Dakota health systems have said they terminate pregnancies only in life-threatening or terminal circumstances.

"It is another indication of this legislature's obsession with abortion and restricting it, and it isn't what the people of South Dakota want their legislature focusing on," Planned Parenthood spokeswoman Jennifer Aulwes said.

In 2014, there were 551 induced abortions performed in South Dakota, according to Department of Health figures. At least 26 occurred at 13 weeks or later, according to the department.

State won't renew contracts with Platte educational co-op

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Education says it has decided to part ways with a Platte-based educational cooperative whose business manager is accused of killing his wife and kids before committing suicide.

Department spokeswoman Mary Stadick Smith says all projects with Mid-Central Educational Cooperative will be wrapped up by the end of the fiscal year. She says the department is primarily concerned about the "administrative capacity" of the co-op.

KELO-TV first reported the news.

Investigators say business manager Scott Westerhuis killed his wife and four children in September, just hours after the state Department of Education informed Mid-Central that it was losing a \$4.3 million GEAR UP contract because of financial problems and failure to follow proper accounting procedures.

An attorney for Mid-Central did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

Mission woman sentenced for theft of government property

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Mission woman has been sentenced for stealing government property.

Authorities say 21-year-old Denise Sanchez last August stole a microwave, food and a vehicle from a community health building next to a hospital in Rosebud where she had been taken after being arrested for being drunk while pregnant.

Sanchez was found in Valentine, Nebraska, the next day, and later pleaded guilty to theft of government property.

U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says Sanchez was sentenced this week to time served, two years of supervised release and about \$1,800 in restitution.

Supreme Court scuffle triggers constitutional clash

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It only took one man's death to give Congress an opening to permeate its dysfunction throughout the rest of government.

Republican opposition to letting President Barack Obama replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia quickly sparked a constitutional clash over the president's right to fill Supreme Court vacancies. Democrats, who have their own history of boxing out Republicans over court nominees, are up in arms, but begrudgingly concede that Obama's pick is unlikely to be confirmed.

So as both parties prepare for political brawling, the eight remaining justices could spend the next year hearing critical cases alongside an empty seat, unable to break a tie in the event of a 4-4 split.

The standoff raises a scenario that Washington long has dreaded: that bitter partisanship in Congress,

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mixed with the tactics of obstruction such as the filibuster, would eventually jeopardize another branch's basic ability to function.

"If Republicans do what they suggest, I think we're headed not only for a constitutional crisis but also for big problems for the legislative process," said Jim Manley, a former aide to Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada. "This is the natural reaction to the continued Senate breakdown we've seen for years."

Supreme Court nominees have been rejected before. Yet Democrats accuse Republicans of taking obstructionism to a new level by insisting Obama not even name a nominee with 11 months left in his term — and refusing to hold a confirmation vote if he does. Though the Constitution is clear that it is the president who nominates, Republicans say the Founding Fathers never required the Senate to give a vote.

With a vast majority of Americans already disillusioned by Congress, the White House hopes the GOP gambit will backfire.

"It's a little bit like saying, God forbid something happen to the president and the vice president, 'We're not going to fill the presidency for another year and a half,'" Vice President Joe Biden said this past week.

Republicans are unimpressed by those appeals to the Constitution. After all, many of the leading cases now before the Supreme Court question Obama's unilateral actions. Opponents argue Obama exceeded his legal authority with climate change and immigration policies that he tried, but failed, to persuade Congress to enact.

"There is a significant portion of the country that watches the pretty egregious constitutional liberties the president has taken over the years and views with a sense of humor his newfound respect for the document," said Josh Holmes, former chief of staff to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

The prospect of a protracted Supreme Court vacancy sounded alarms for those who worry that congressional gridlock will ultimately grind government to a halt. Three years ago, a quarrel over Obama's health care law led to a partial 16-day government shutdown. Obama has faced repeated nail-biting moments in which it appeared Congress might allow the U.S. to default on its debt or refuse to fund the government.

Obama acknowledges that he and his party aren't blameless. The White House says Obama regrets that when he was a senator, he joined a filibuster against Samuel Alito's nomination to the high court. Alito was confirmed anyway.

Less than three years ago, when Democrats ran the Senate, they changed practices so that the minority party couldn't use a filibuster to block presidential nominees for key appellate judgeships. The change, which did not apply to Supreme Court picks, was accomplished without a single GOP vote. Infuriated Republicans warned that Democrats would lose Senate control sometime and regret that they had trampled on the minority's rights.

Obama and his aides have said he will nominate a qualified candidate who can win GOP support. But to defeat a threatened filibuster, Obama would have to peel away 14 Republicans, and that feat looks impossible now.

Former Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., said that in past confirmation tussles, power was concentrated in the Senate Judiciary Committee, where the Republican and Democrat leaders worked closely together. Since then, power has shifted to Senate leaders, he said, making the process more ideological and conflicts harder to resolve.

"For the next president, it will be, 'Well, is it 11 months? Fifteen months? Eighteen months?' If someone announces they're going to leave the Senate, do they lose the right to vote?" Kerrey said. "You can argue, 'Well, let's let the people decide.'"

But Sara Fagen, President George W. Bush's former political director, said Senate Republicans would pay no political penalty.

"The Republican base doesn't want a liberal justice, and they're completely fine with the court having a vacancy for as long as is required to get a justice they believe is right," Fagen said.

Mourners gather for Scalia's funeral Mass at hallowed place

SAM HANANEL, Associated Press
JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a hallowed place where popes have prayed and pilgrims have flocked, mourners gathered Saturday at the nation's largest Catholic church to pay their final respects to Justice Antonin Scalia. Scalia's sons and sons-in-law served as pallbearers to carry his flag-draped casket into the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for a funeral Mass honoring the late jurist who died unexpectedly last weekend.

Dignitaries including Vice President Joe Biden, former Vice President Dick Cheney, members of Congress and all eight sitting justices of the Supreme Court were among those attending.

Scalia's casket arrived at the basilica after he lay in repose at the Supreme Court on Friday, where thousands of visitors came to honor one of the country's most influential conservatives.

One of Scalia's nine children, the Rev. Paul Scalia, was to lead the Mass and deliver the homily.

Several federal judges who are considered possible replacements for Scalia also were at the funeral Mass, including Judges Sri Srinivasan and Patricia Millett and Chief Judge Merrick Garland, all of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

President Barack Obama will not attend, despite criticism from some Republicans. He and first lady Michelle Obama were among the more than 6,000 people who paid tribute to Scalia at the Supreme Court on Friday. Scalia's flag-draped casket rested on a funeral bier that first held President Abraham Lincoln's casket after his assassination.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest pointed to Biden's personal relationship with Scalia's family and said Obama's decision about the Mass was a "respectful arrangement" that took into account his large security detail.

Scalia, 79, died last weekend at a remote Texas ranch after spending nearly three decades on the high court. Burial plans have not been announced.

GOP presidential hopeful Ted Cruz planned to interrupt his campaign ahead of Saturday's South Carolina primary to attend the Mass. The Texas senator has been among those urging the Senate not to consider replacing Scalia until after the November election. Obama has insisted that he will nominate a successor.

Scheduled to give opening remarks at the Mass was Washington Archbishop Donald Cardinal Wuerl.

Leonard Leo, executive director of the Federalist Society, a conservative legal group, was to read a passage from the Old Testament, while Justice Clarence Thomas planned to read from the New Testament.

Three popes have visited the basilica: Pope John Paul II in 1979, Pope Benedict XVI in 2008 and Pope Francis last year.

Sheriff apologies after resident is attacked by dog

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Washington County's sheriff is apologizing after a Fayetteville man posted on social media his account of being mauled by a dog and the lackluster response from deputies.

The Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reports (bit.ly/21gc4Mi) Sheriff Tim Helder vowed to work with members of the Quorum Court to tighten up ordinances to support animal owners and protect citizens.

Washington County doesn't have a law requiring animals to be restrained.

Dogs are allowed to run at large and aren't required to be contained, the Sheriff's Office said. The lacking legal framework complicates the issues for deputies responding to animal complaints in the county, the office said.

The department said on Facebook it wanted to remedy situation after receiving a flurry of inquiries about its procedure for handling dog bites in rural Washington County.

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The Latest: Cruz breaks off SC campaign for Scalia Mass

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The Latest on the 2016 president election and two crucial contests Saturday: South Carolina's Republican primary and Nevada's Democratic caucuses (all times local):

10:45 a.m.

Ted Cruz has taken time away from campaigning in South Carolina to attend the funeral Mass in Washington for the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

The Republican presidential candidate plans to be back in South Carolina later Saturday to await the results. Voting ends at 7 p.m.

The Texas senator has a personal connection to the high court: In the late 1990s, he served as a law clerk for a year to then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

10:10 a.m.

Jeb Bush says he's "excited where we stand" as he faces a critically important test in South Carolina's Republican presidential primary.

Bush says he's going to "work hard for the day" and await results after the polls close at 7 p.m. He says "it's interesting that a lot of people claim they're undecided this late."

The former Florida governor entered the 2016 presidential race as an early favorite. But he may need a third-place finish — if not better — in South Carolina in order to remain a viable candidate.

Bush tells reporters outside a polling location in Greenville that "to be able to beat expectations would be helpful. I think we'll do that."

And his take on the prospects of a President Donald Trump? Bush says the billionaire businessman "can't win, plain and simple."

9:15 a.m.

Will there be a "Haley effect" in South Carolina's Republican presidential primary?

Jason Sims — a teacher from Mount Pleasant — says he made a last-minute decision to vote for Marco Rubio, and that Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsement was "a big deal."

Sims says he was "kind of riding the fence" until Haley said she was backing the Florida senator.

Rubio is trying to rebound after a disappointing fifth-place finish in New Hampshire — and he's hoping the popular governor's endorsement will be a big boost.

Rubio wants to emerge as the go-to candidate for mainstream Republicans — and the chief alternative to Donald Trump and Ted Cruz in the race.

8:40 a.m.

There's a lot of attention on Jeb Bush as South Carolina Republicans vote in their presidential primary.

The former Florida governor entered the 2016 presidential race as an early favorite. But he may need a third-place finish — if not better — on Saturday in order to remain viable in the race.

Bush finished sixth in Iowa's leadoff caucuses and fourth in New Hampshire.

He's trying to break out as the establishment alternative to Donald Trump and Ted Cruz. But Bush has competition on that front, chiefly from Marco Rubio and John Kasich.

Without a strong showing in South Carolina, the Bush campaign may have a hard time competing in Nevada next week and then in the large number of states voting on March 1.

7:50 a.m.

It's a significant Saturday in the 2016 presidential campaign as voters in the South and the West get their first say in the race.

Polls have opened in South Carolina for the Republican primary. Voting ends at 7 p.m.

A Donald Trump victory could foreshadow strong showings in Southern states that vote on March 1 — when he could pile up the delegates that determine the nominee. Ted Cruz hopes his get-out-the-vote operation and lots of volunteers can help overtake Trump in South Carolina.

Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush are fighting to establish themselves as credible alternatives.

On the Democratic side, Nevada's caucuses don't get underway until 2 p.m. Eastern time. Hillary Clinton's team is expecting a tight race with Bernie Sanders in a state the Clinton team once saw as a chance to start pulling away from the Vermont senator.

Saoirse Ronan makes her stage debut on Broadway's 'deep end'

MARK KENNEDY, AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Not too long ago, Saoirse Ronan found herself face-to-face on a red carpet with mega star Jennifer Lopez.

"She didn't have a clue who I was," said the young Irish actress, who has earned her second Oscar nomination in the haunting and sweet immigrant film "Brooklyn."

"I was like, 'J-Lo!' She was like, 'Yes?'" recounted Ronan.

And then, in her gorgeous, lilting accent, the young actress dropped a mini-bombshell on Jenny From the Block: "I'm from the Bronx, too."

"She's like, 'Oh, OK,'" said Ronan. "I said, 'Yeah. We're from the same block.' She didn't have a clue what I was talking about but I was delighted that we shared in that for a second — or at least I did."

J-Lo — like many of us — are definitely starting to get a clue about this New York-born, thoroughly refreshing 21-year-old. This month, she's started work on her first stage role.

Something easy to start with, perhaps? "No. I can never do that, can I?" she said, laughing.

No, Ronan has decided to star on Broadway in a revival of Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," considered among America's best plays. And she'll be playing Abigail Williams, the vengeful fulcrum of the play. Previews begin Feb. 29.

"What I wanted to do was go to a small, little theater and do a new play and have it be something that nobody paid attention to, just to get me into it," said the actress with striking blue eyes.

"Then this came along and you kind of can't say no. I don't know. Maybe it's a good thing to be thrown in the deep end because then you're just exposed to everything."

Directed by Dutch visionary Ivo van Hove, the revival will also star Ben Wishaw, Sophie Okonedo, Ciarán Hinds, Tavi Gevinson and Jim Norton. It will have an original score by Philip Glass.

The multi-talented Gevinson, who plays Mary Warren, is making her second Broadway appearance and said that if Ronan is fighting any nerves, it's not apparent. "When Saoirse is on that stage, I'm genuinely scared of her. She's got nothing to worry about."

Born to Irish parents in the Bronx, Ronan's family moved back to Ireland when she was 3. Her career breakthrough came in the 2007 film "Atonement," playing a tween who coolly tears apart lovers. She earned an Oscar nomination.

Ronan, whose first name is pronounced SUR'-shuh, was also in "The Lovely Bones," "Hanna" and "The Grand Budapest Hotel." Awaiting release is a film adaptation of "The Seagull." She is clearly an actress drawn to subtle shadings.

"I knew from an early age what I didn't want to do," she said. "Unless the right one came along, the idea of doing a franchise or anything like that for me wasn't something that appealed to me."

When she was 12, before she got "Atonement," Ronan was offered a part in an action film. "It was all fire and guns and I was the kid that was rescued. I knew then that I didn't want to do that. I wanted to play the strange child that ruins everyone's life."

The glitz and glamor part of acting doesn't interest her. "The Hollywood side of it is weird," she said and has moved to New York. "I don't feel like I'm part of that world."

Her leap into theater is partly due to her father's influence. Paul Ronan was a one-time bartender who so impressed actors who came in for a pint than they convinced him to start acting. His first gigs were in the theater before he branched out to such films as "The Devil's Own" and "Veronica Guerin."

"He would tell me stories about his experiences in the theater — how draining it can be and how exhilarating it can be at the same time," she said. "When he talks about that, his whole face lights up."

Ronan had been offered stage scripts before but decided she wasn't ready until now. "I needed to at

least be an adult to take it on and be experienced enough at just acting. I always had it in my head, 'I'll do a play when I'm about 21 or 22.' And it's perfect."

It happened this way: While doing press for "The Grand Budapest Hotel," she met movie and theatrical producer Scott Rudin, a big admirer. The next day, he sent an email asking if she'd do a play, but never said what he had in mind. A few days later he revealed "The Crucible," a searing portrait of a community engulfed by hysteria.

"It's very different to film in the sense that it's ongoing and it's ever-changing and it's ever-growing, whereas with film acting, you build up and you build up and you work on it and then you do your few takes and then it's done," she said. "So I think it took me a second to wrap my head around the fact that this feels like a living, breathing thing."

Uganda's Yoweri Museveni wins disputed polls; rival detained

RODNEY MUHUMUZA, Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Long-time Ugandan leader Yoweri Museveni was on Saturday declared the winner of the country's disputed presidential election, but the main opposition party rejected the results as fraudulent and called for an independent audit of the count.

Museveni got more than 60 percent of the votes, and his nearest rival Kizza Besigye got 35 percent, according to final results announced by the election commission.

Besigye himself was under house arrest as Museveni was declared the winner, with heavily armed police standing guard near his residence on the outskirts of the capital, Kampala. The capital was calm following the announcement of results amid a heavy security presence.

Museveni's ruling party, the National Resistance Movement, urged "all candidates to respect the will of the people and the authority of the electoral commission and accept the result. We ask all Ugandans to remain calm and peaceful and not to engage in any public disruptions."

However Besigye dismissed the results as not genuine and urged the international community to reject the official tally.

"We have just witnessed what must be the most fraudulent electoral process in Uganda," he said in a statement. "This has not been an electoral process. This is a creeping military coup."

The voting on Thursday was marred by lengthy delays in the delivery of polling materials, some incidents of violence as well as a government shutdown of social media sites like Twitter and Facebook, which remained inaccessible Saturday.

The election was marked by an "intimidating atmosphere, which was mainly created by state actors," said the European Union observer mission. Uganda's election commission lacks independence and transparency and does not have the trust of all the parties, EU mission leader Eduard Kukan told reporters Saturday. Opposition supporters were harassed by law enforcement officials in more than 20 districts, according to the EU's preliminary report.

Uganda's elections "fell short of meeting key democratic benchmarks," former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, the head of the Commonwealth observer mission, said, talking about his group's interim assessment.

Police on Friday surrounded the headquarters of the FDC opposition party as Besigye met with members and a helicopter fired tear gas at a crowd outside. Police then moved in and took away Besigye, a 59-year-old doctor. He was later taken to his house which was guarded by police who prevented access to journalists.

After Besigye's arrest on Friday, his supporters took to the streets. Riot police lobbed tear gas and stun grenades at them and fired warning shots from automatic rifles, then chased them through narrow alleys, arresting some.

Besigye's party is alleging massive vote rigging and accuses the government of deliberately stalling voting in opposition strongholds in Kampala and the neighboring Wakiso district.

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U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke by phone with Museveni "to underscore that Uganda's progress depends on adherence to democratic principles in the ongoing election process," the State Department said. Kerry urged Museveni to rein in the security forces.

The 71-year-old Museveni took power by force in 1986 and pulled Uganda out of years of chaos after a guerrilla war. He is a key U.S. ally on security matters, especially in Somalia. Critics fear he may want to rule for life and they accuse him of using security forces to intimidate the opposition.

Besigye was Museveni's personal physician during the bush war and served as deputy interior minister in his first Cabinet. He broke with the president in 1999, saying Museveni was no longer a democrat.

North Korea escalates war of words in standoff with Seoul

ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea responded to an unusually harsh verbal attack by South Korea's president against the North's leader and its recent nuclear test and rocket launch with a characteristically colorful invective of its own Saturday, calling her policy traitorous and adding that Washington's newly enacted sanctions are "laughable."

The North's official reaction — including the insult "senile granny" — was expected, though it took several days for Pyongyang to announce it through its state-run media.

North Korea regularly condemns South Korean President Park Geun-hye through sexist and violent language, saying recently that she lives upon "the groin of her American boss."

But the renewed war of words has some worried that the tensions could lead to real conflict.

As evidence of heightened anxieties, sounds of explosions early Saturday caused South Korean residents of a front-line island to prepare to evacuate, but it was later determined that the noise came from a North Korean artillery drill across the rivals' disputed maritime border. No North Korean projectiles crossed into the south side of the border.

Park has been backed up several high-profile demonstrations of U.S. military might that are seen by Pyongyang as deliberate provocations.

A U.S. B-52 bomber flew over the Korean Peninsula after the North's Jan. 6 nuclear test and U.S. F-22 stealth fighters were deployed to an air base in South Korea after the Feb. 8 rocket launch.

Next month, the U.S. and South Korea are expected to hold larger-than-usual joint military drills. The annual war games are a major source of tensions, since Pyongyang sees them as evidence that Seoul and Washington, which are still technically at war with the North because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, are planning an invasion.

The latest round of verbal volleys began in a speech to South Korea's parliament on Tuesday — a major holiday in North Korea marking the birthday of Kim Jong Un's late father, Kim Jong Il — when Park warned that North Korea must either change its ways or face the collapse of its regime.

The president added that Kim Jong Un's authoritarian government is an "extreme reign of terror" and used his name three times, something usually avoided at her level. It is believed that Kim has never referred to Park by name in his rare public speeches.

In Saturday's dispatch, North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, called Park a "tail-less, old, insane bitch" — though the phrase was toned down to "dog" in the English version, which came out later in the day.

It also called her "a traitor for all times."

Along with her pointed criticism of Kim Jong Un's regime, Park's government has also resumed cross-border propaganda broadcasts and shut down a factory park just north of the Demilitarized Zone that had been jointly run by the rivals. Seoul has also started preparatory talks with Washington on deploying a sophisticated missile defense system in South Korea, angering Beijing and Moscow, who feel they could be targeted by such a system as well.

The North took special umbrage at the closure of the industrial zone, saying the decision will cost the South more than it will harm North Korea and calling the factory park a "symbol of hope that alleviates the pain of the nation resulting from division."

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Park and her deputies maintain that South Korean payments to North Korean workers at the park — \$110 million last year alone — have gone in large part straight to the leaders who oversee the North's nuclear bomb and missile programs.

"This only proves herself to be the worst imbecile and idiot unable to count even simple numbers," it said. "The shutdown of the zone will bring tremendous damages to the South Korean economy as a whole."

In a separate report on Saturday, KCNA quoted an unnamed Foreign Ministry official as saying that despite the "laughable" U.S. sanctions, the North will stick to its official policy of simultaneously developing nuclear weapons and its economy.

Washington's new sanctions against Pyongyang were signed into law by President Barack Obama on Thursday. The sanctions are aimed at denying the North the money to develop miniaturized warheads and the long-range missiles required to deliver them.

Meanwhile, Seoul's Defense Ministry said the military completed its search operations for debris from the North Korean long-range rocket that was launched into orbit Feb. 7.

South Korean officials believe the North deliberately blew up the rocket's first stage after burnout to prevent South Korea from retrieving debris. Some analysts said that claim may be premature and are studying what little evidence is available for more clues.

North Korea said it launched an Earth observation satellite, which it has dubbed the Kwangmyongson-4, or Shining Star-4. The satellite has been confirmed to be in orbit, but it is not known if it has succeeded in transmitting signals back to Earth.

"The DPRK's successes in H-bomb test and in the launch of satellite Kwangmyongsong-4 startled our planet," KCNA said.

"But only Park Geun-hye behaved quite contrary to this," it added. "Writhing and wriggling, she sits up all night, spouting rubbish, invectives and vituperation."

Cameron: Britain's referendum on EU membership to be June 23

GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A historic referendum on whether Britain should stay in the European Union will be held on June 23, Prime Minister David Cameron announced Saturday, even as he declared his belief that the U.K. would be "safer and stronger" if it remained in the 28-nation bloc.

Cameron spoke in front of his 10 Downing Street office after holding a rare Saturday Cabinet meeting and winning its agreement to recommend that Britain remain part of the EU rather than strike out on its own.

Despite that support, some Cabinet figures will back the "leave" campaign that wants Britain to carve its own path outside of the EU bureaucracy in Brussels.

Cameron said if Britons decided to remain in the EU, he would seek continued reforms to address their concerns about job losses and benefit payments to EU migrants seeking work in Britain.

"I don't love Brussels, I love Britain," he said, emphasizing that Britain can have "the best of both worlds" if it remains in the EU under a reform deal he reached Friday night with EU leaders.

The June vote will come as the EU struggles to deal with a sustained immigration crisis that last year brought more than 1 million people fleeing war and poverty to its shores.

Cameron is poised to lead the campaign for Britain to remain in the bloc in what is expected to be a closely fought referendum — yet still faces skepticism from within his own Conservative Party.

Justice Secretary Michael Gove was the first to publicly oppose continued EU membership after Saturday's meeting, saying Britain would be better off on its own. He said it pained him to break ranks with Cameron.

Two strong future Conservative party leadership contenders, Home Secretary Theresa May and Treasury chief George Osborne, indicated support for staying within the EU, as did Scottish National Party leader Nicola Sturgeon.

London Mayor Boris Johnson, another influential Conservative figure seen by some as a possible future party leader, has so far kept his intentions to himself.

Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said he will support Britain's continued membership in the EU, though he said Cameron's vaunted "renegotiation" of the terms of its relationship with the EU will

have little impact.

Much of the opposition to EU membership comes from the UK Independence Party led by Nigel Farage and from skeptical members of Cameron's own party.

The deal Cameron agreed upon Friday with 27 other EU leaders protects Britain from taking part in an "ever closer union" with European nations and makes clear that Britain will not adopt the euro currency shared by 19 EU nations. Cameron says it also protects British interests and restricts British welfare payments to migrants from other EU nations.

Ferocious cyclone strikes Pacific island nation of Fiji

NICK PERRY, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Residents of Fiji hunkered down Saturday as a ferocious cyclone tore through the Pacific island chain, prompting authorities to impose a nationwide curfew and declare a monthlong state of disaster.

Wind speeds from Cyclone Winston were estimated at up to 285 kilometers (177 miles) per hour. The cyclone was tracking late Saturday along the northern coast of the main island, Viti Levu.

Fiji's capital, Suva, located in the southern part of the main island, was experiencing high winds but was not directly in the cyclone's path. The popular tourist resorts in Viti Levu's west, however, were closer to the cyclone's center.

Flights were canceled and authorities urged people to find somewhere safe to hunker down for the night and to not venture outside. A nationwide curfew was imposed at 6 p.m.

Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama wrote on Facebook on Saturday that the island's evacuation centers were operational and that the government was prepared to deal with a potential crisis.

"As a nation, we are facing an ordeal of the most grievous kind," he wrote. "We must stick together as a people and look after each other."

He said he was concerned some people in the cities weren't taking the threat seriously enough.

The government declared a state of natural disaster for 30 days, giving extra powers to police to arrest people without a warrant in the interest of public safety.

The U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center said gusts from the cyclone were reaching 350 kph (155 mph) and sustained winds up to 285 kph. Those speeds had eased slightly from earlier in the day.

The Fiji Times newspaper reported that some homes had had their roofs blown away and that five people had managed to swim to safety after their boat capsized.

The Times said there had been a run on supermarkets and stores as people stocked up on essential supplies before the cyclone hit.

Fiji is home to about 900,000 people.

4 dead in protests for caste benefits in northern India

NEW DELHI (AP) — Hundreds of army and paramilitary soldiers on Saturday tried to quell protests by angry mobs demanding government benefits in a northern Indian state, with at least four people killed in clashes between security forces and protesters, officials said.

The violence raged for a second straight day, as protesters burned a railroad station and attacked shops and vehicles in several towns in Haryana state, said police officer Y.P. Singhal.

Protesters also blocked a highway linking New Delhi to key northern cities, he said, adding that authorities ordered police to fire without warning at those instigating violence.

Authorities used helicopters to bring in army soldiers to the worst-hit districts of Rohtak, Bhiwani and Jhajjar, where curfews were in place, Singhal said.

Four people were killed in clashes between security forces and protesters, said Federal Rural Development Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh. Police said 78 other people have been injured since Friday.

The protesters were driven by members of the Jat agricultural community, who are demanding benefits both at the federal and state levels, including guaranteed government jobs or university spots. Talks Friday between community leaders and state government representatives failed to lead to an agreement.

India's constitution includes a system of affirmative action for people in the lowest castes to help them overcome discrimination. The government has expanded the number of groups, including the Jat, qualifying for quotas.

In Pope Francis era, US candidates face new moral questions

RACHEL ZOLL, AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When politicians were confronted in recent years about how their policies fit their faith, the issue at hand was usually abortion and the targets were mostly Democrats.

This week, Pope Francis managed to put the Republicans on the defensive by rebuking Donald Trump and doing so over a different issue: immigration.

The censure roared through the entire field of GOP presidential candidates, who were all pressed about the morality of their approach to immigrants in the country illegally, during a primary dominated by increasingly tough rhetoric that has emphasized border security.

Analysts say the pope's remarks should serve as a wake-up call for Republicans about how public discussion of religion and policy is broadening under this popular pope who, through his gestures and speeches, has put a greater emphasis on helping the vulnerable than on divisive social issues.

"The Democrats aren't off the hook. It's just the Republicans are on it, too, and this might be a new experience for them," said Cathleen Kaveny, a Boston College theologian and author of "Prophecy Without Contempt: Religious Discourse in the Public Square."

Francis' comments came hours after he ended a visit to Mexico, where he prayed at the border for people who died trying to reach the U.S. While speaking to reporters on the papal plane Wednesday, he was asked about Trump's campaign pledge to build a wall along the entire length of the border and expel millions of people in the U.S. illegally.

"A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian. This is not in the Gospel," he said. While Francis said he would "give the benefit of the doubt" because he had not heard Trump's border plans independently, he added, "I say only that this man is not a Christian if he has said things like that."

On Friday, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, a Vatican spokesman, said the pope's remarks were "in no way a personal attack or an indication on how to vote." And during the same news conference, in response to a different question, Francis also made some of his toughest public comments to date against abortion, comparing the procedure to a Mafia hit and repeatedly calling abortion evil. "It is a crime, an absolute evil," Francis said.

But the pope had made clear since his first trip as pontiff outside the Vatican — praying at the Italian island of Lampedusa for migrants who died trying to cross the sea to reach Italy — that generosity toward immigrants was one of his top concerns.

"I think we're looking at the impact of the Francis era, where there are different points of contact and different aspects of the Catholic tradition are emphasized," said Mathew Schmalz, a religious studies professor at the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts. "Many prominent Catholic intellectuals have been swayed toward the Republicans in the last few decades. This is a jolt."

Francis' immediate predecessors, Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI, also emphasized care for the poor and immigrants. But they prioritized greater adherence to doctrine, including on abortion, and appointed bishops who would do the same.

Recent presidential elections have seen intensifying confrontations between church leaders and candidates. In 2004, Cardinal Raymond Burke, then the St. Louis archbishop, caused an uproar when said he would deny Communion to Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, a Catholic who supports abortion rights.

Some bishops followed suit by telling Catholic politicians who support abortion rights not to present themselves for the sacrament. In 2007, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a new version of their presidential-year guidance for Catholic voters that highlighted a range of issues, but said opposition to abortion should be Catholics' greatest concern. The bishops re-issued the guide for 2016 with only lim-

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ited revisions, but several bishops individually have also been highlighting issues such as climate change, immigration and poverty.

No one expects the pope's remarks on Trump to persuade voters to change candidates. But he can help shape public discussion of the issues, said Francis Rooney, who was U.S. ambassador to the Vatican under President George W. Bush, and now backs former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

"The pope's a soft-power player. His impact around the world comes from moral suasion and influence," Rooney said. "I think the pope has got such a strong moral voice that when he weighs in on immigration, I think it makes more people think about it."

Bush, one of the few GOP candidates proposing a path to legal status for people already in the U.S. illegally, said Thursday he supports "walls and fencing where it's appropriate." He said he seeks guidance from the pope on being Catholic, but not on policy.

Marco Rubio, another Catholic candidate for the GOP nomination, said he has "tremendous respect and admiration" for the pope, but he added, "There's no nation on Earth that's more compassionate on immigration than we are."

John Carr, who served for more than two decades as the social justice director for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and for years helped write the bishops' election-year guide, said the pope is having some impact on American political life. Carr met last fall with some Democratic lawmakers soon after Francis made his first visit to the U.S. Carr asked them why they didn't follow Francis' lead and talk more about poverty.

"Pope Francis doesn't fit our political prejudices," Carr said. "He appeals to our consciences and that's his most powerful contribution."

AP-NORC Poll: Income gap, Wall Street rules big for Dems

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Most Democrats consider income inequality a very important issue and half of them think tougher regulations of the financial markets imposed after the 2008 financial crisis did not go far enough, according to a poll released as Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders enter a crucial stretch for the party's nomination.

The poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research suggested support within the party for Sanders' fiery calls to increase regulations on Wall Street banks and address wide gaps between the nation's wealthy and poor. Most Democrats — and Republicans — support increasing the federal minimum wage, although they favor more incremental steps backed by Clinton, the poll found.

Clinton and Sanders are vying for support in Nevada, which was among the hardest-hit states during the economic downturn and holds its Democratic caucuses Saturday. The Clinton-Sanders contest, and Republican caucuses in the state three days later, could offer a snapshot of how the presidential field is being judged against the backdrop of more economic anxiety.

The poll found that reducing income inequality, a message championed by Sanders, resonates deeply with Democrats. More than three-quarters of them in the poll say reducing the gap between rich and poor is very or extremely important for the next president to address. And 8 in 10 Democrats, but just 3 in 10 Republicans, say the government has some responsibility to reduce those income differences.

Democrats were even more likely to say that reducing poverty is very important for the next president (86 percent) than that reducing the gap between rich and poor is that important (77 percent). Among all Americans, 72 percent say cutting poverty is very important, while 57 percent say reducing the gap between rich and poor is.

Las Vegas resident Bernadette Davila, 50, who accompanied her 18-year-old son, Dante Ortiz, as he registered to vote at a Sanders office, said she wanted to see a woman in the White House, but also likes Sanders' ideas about the economy.

"I know we all struggle," Davila said. "I work in the school district helping teachers and I just have six hours a day, you know? And I see how hard these families work." She spoke of the richest 1 percent

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constantly cited by Sanders and said: "We really work and we have less."

The poll offered good news for both Clinton and Sanders.

Half of Democrats say government regulation of financial institutions and markets put in place after the 2008 financial crisis didn't go far enough, an approach in sync with Sanders' calls for more vigorous regulations. An additional 35 percent said the rules were about right, and 15 percent said they went too far. More than two-thirds of Democrats call regulating financial markets a very important issue.

The poll found widespread support for increasing the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour but offered mixed results about how high it should go. Seven in 10 Americans favor increasing the minimum wage, but only half consider it an important issue. Seven in 10 say increasing wages to keep up with the cost of living is very important.

Among all Americans, slightly over half favor increasing the minimum wage to \$12 an hour, in keeping with a Senate Democratic proposal backed by Clinton, while just a third support increasing it to \$15 an hour, which Sanders has advocated.

Even Democrats are much more likely to favor a minimum wage increase to \$12 an hour (68 percent) than to \$15 an hour (49 percent).

Don and Donna Deicken, who attended a Clinton rally in Las Vegas, said they lost their home and jobs in the recession. Don is an unemployed, 63-year-old electrician, while Donna, 59, works part-time at a retirement center and picks up extra cash as an Uber driver.

Donna Deicken fought back tears after describing how she's finding jobs for \$10 or \$12 an hour at her age.

"That is ridiculous that this country can't have a wage where we can live," she said. "I don't want to lose my husband anyway, but if he were to pass away, for God's sake, I just would panic, thinking, how in the world? Who am I going to live with?"

First House GOP primaries will test anti-incumbent mood

ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When the calendar turns to March in this year of the irate voter, the first wave of congressional Republicans will find out whether they have their very own Dave Brat waiting for them.

Brat was an underfunded, obscure college professor who shocked the political world in 2014 by ousting House Majority Leader Eric Cantor in what was supposed to be a no-contest Republican primary in Virginia. He now holds the Richmond-area seat and is one of the chamber's more conservative and recalcitrant members.

Next month, GOP House members in a crescent curving from Texas to Illinois face the first congressional primaries in this incumbent-bashing, anti-establishment season of billionaire Donald Trump and Ted Cruz, the leading Republican presidential contenders.

Nearly all House members are expected to survive. But a few face contests being watched for possible upsets by conservative challengers. Among them: Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady of Texas, and Reps. Martha Roby and Bradley Byrne of Alabama and John Shimkus of Illinois.

"It's an open question whether we'll see any serious candidates on the fringe right," said Rob Engstrom, national political director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which has started TV advertising backing Roby and Byrne and could engage in other House races. He said that March 1, when Alabama, Arkansas and Texas have the initial House primaries, is "a very important day to measure and determine what the score is."

Mississippi House primaries are March 8, followed by Ohio and Illinois a week later. March 15 House contests in North Carolina have been delayed until June because of a dispute over redrawing district boundaries.

As usual, most incumbents have overwhelming financial and name-recognition advantages. In Texas, Brady's campaign raised \$1.6 million last year, compared with \$64,000 for the best financed of his three challengers, pool company owner and former state Rep. Steve Toth.

That edge has long made most officeholders impossible to topple. In 2014, just five sitting House members were defeated in party primaries. But 2016 poses a new test, with voters' ill feelings toward

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Washington, fanned by Trump and Cruz, fueling conservatives' hopes of defeating Republicans deemed too willing to cut deals.

"The frustration and anger that's out there would indicate that this is the year you get beat from the right," said Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., like Brat a member of the rebellious House Freedom Caucus that last year helped push House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, to resign from Congress. "If you don't get beat this year, you will be golden for a long time."

The surly mood has prompted the conservative Club for Growth to run hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of TV ads attacking Shimkus and Rep. Renee Ellmers in a now-delayed North Carolina race. Club commercials also back conservative Warren Davidson's bid for Boehner's vacant seat in western Ohio, which if successful would be a symbolic coup.

Other groups including FreedomWorks, Citizens United Political Victory Fund and the Senate Conservatives Fund are also helping conservative contenders.

Brady is among 13 Texas GOP House incumbents facing primary opponents, challenges that are mostly considered long-shots. He's represented his district north of Houston for two decades and last fall became chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, a combination that makes him a household name locally and a national magnet for political contributions.

He also boasts endorsements from National Right to Life, the National Rifle Association and a sky-high 95 percent lifetime rating from the American Conservative Union. A primary defeat of a sitting Ways and Means chairman would be unprecedented, says Eric Ostermeier, research associate at the University of Minnesota's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance.

"A lot of things get said during election season," Brady recently emailed supporters, "but the facts about my dedication to conservative, limited government principles are clear."

Toth says Brady isn't conservative enough. He says anger toward establishment Republicans is "off the charts" and predicts he'll be helped by the Texas' March 1 presidential primary, the same day as the state's congressional primaries.

"Seventy percent of the people who come to the polls here in Texas are going to be voting for either Trump or Cruz," said Toth. "And they're not going to pull the lever for Kevin Brady."

Wally Wilkerson Jr., longtime Republican Party chairman in Montgomery County, the district's largest, cites a "very unusual" political climate with lots of unhappy voters.

"The congressman is taking it seriously," Wilkerson says of his re-election race. "If I was advising him, that's what I'd tell him."

In rural southern Illinois, the \$1.3 million Shimkus reported raising last year was nearly 10 times what challenger Kyle McCarter reported collecting. But playing on anti-incumbent fever, a Club for Growth ad targeting the 10-term veteran lawmaker says, "A guy who's been in Washington 20 years ain't going to fix it."

In a recent interview, Shimkus countered by citing his supporters.

"If you're endorsed by the National Right to Life, by the NRA and the Farm Bureau, it's hard for anybody to say you're not representing the district," he said.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 2016. There are 315 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 20, 1816, the opera buffa "The Barber of Seville" by Gioachino Rossini premiered at the Teatro Argentina in Rome under its original title, "Almaviva, or the Useless Precaution." (Although Rossini's opera received a hostile reception from the audience the first night, it fared much better at its next performance.)

On this date:

In 1792, President George Washington signed an act creating the U.S. Post Office.

In 1862, William Wallace Lincoln, the 11-year-old son of President Abraham Lincoln and first lady Mary Todd Lincoln, died at the White House, apparently of typhoid fever.

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In 1905, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, upheld, 7-2, compulsory vaccination laws intended to protect the public's health.

In 1915, the Panama Pacific International Exposition opened in San Francisco (the fair lasted until December).

In 1938, Anthony Eden resigned as British foreign secretary following Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's decision to negotiate with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. strategic bombers began raiding German aircraft manufacturing centers in a series of attacks that became known as "Big Week."

In 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. Rabinowitz*, ruled 5-3 that authorities making a lawful arrest did not need a warrant to search and seize evidence in an area that was in the "immediate and complete control" of the suspect.

In 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Project Mercury's Friendship 7 spacecraft.

In 1971, the National Emergency Warning Center in Colorado erroneously ordered U.S. radio and TV stations off the air; some stations heeded the alert, which was not lifted for about 40 minutes.

In 1986, the Soviet Union sent up the core module of space station Mir (Peace), which would serve as a permanently manned base for the next generation in space. (Mir stayed in orbit until 2001, when it was brought down in a controlled descent, breaking up in the atmosphere.)

In 1998, Tara Lipinski of the U.S. won the ladies' figure skating gold medal at the Nagano Olympics; fellow American Michelle Kwan won the silver.

In 2003, a fire sparked by pyrotechnics broke out during a concert by the group Great White at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, killing 100 people and injuring about 200 others.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, visiting Milwaukee, outlined his energy proposals to help wean the country off foreign oil. Right-wing British historian David Irving was sentenced to three years in prison after admitting to an Austrian court that he'd denied the Holocaust. (He was released in Dec. 2006.) At the Turin Olympics, Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto snapped the U.S. medals drought in figure skating with a silver in ice dancing; Russians Tatiana Navka and Roman Kostomarov won the gold. Archbishop Paul C. Marcinkus, a former Vatican bank chief linked to a huge Italian banking scandal in the 1980s, was found dead at his home in Sun City, Arizona; he was 84. Sportscaster Curt Gowdy died in Palm Beach, Florida, at age 86.

Five years ago: Security forces loyal to Libya's Moammar Gadhafi unleashed heavy gunfire as thousands marched in the rebellious eastern city of Benghazi, cutting down mourners trying to bury victims. Twenty-year-old Trevor Bayne won the Daytona 500 in only his second Sprint Cup start. Kobe Bryant won his record-tying fourth All-Star game MVP award, scoring 37 points and propelling the West to a 148-143 victory over the East in the NBA All-Star game.

One year ago: Islamic State militants unleashed suicide bombings in eastern Libya, killing at least 40 people in what the group said was retaliation for Egyptian airstrikes against the extremists' aggressive new branch in North Africa. Maureen McDonnell, the wife of former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell (R), was sentenced to one year and 1 day in prison for her role in a bribery scheme that destroyed her husband's political career.

Today's Birthdays: Gloria Vanderbilt is 92. Actor Sidney Poitier is 89. Racing Hall of Famer Bobby Unser is 82. Actress Marj Dusay is 80. Jazz-soul singer Nancy Wilson is 79. Racing Hall of Famer Roger Penske is 79. Singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie is 75. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Phil Esposito is 74. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is 74. Movie director Mike Leigh is 73. Actress Brenda Blethyn is 70. Actress Sandy Duncan is 70. Rock musician J. Geils is 70. Actor Peter Strauss is 69. Rock musician Billy Zoom (X) is 68. Rock singer-musician-producer Walter Becker (Steely Dan) is 66. Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown is 65. Country singer Kathie Baillie is 65. Actor John Voldstad is 65. Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is 62. Actor Anthony Stewart Head is 62. Country singer Leland Martin is 59. Actor James Wilby is 58. Rock musician Sebastian Steinberg is 57. Comedian Joel Hodgson (HAHD'-suhn) is 56. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Charles Barkley is 53. Rock musician Ian Brown (Stone Roses) is 53. Actor Willie Garson is 52.

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Actor French Stewart is 52. Actor Ron Eldard is 51. Model Cindy Crawford is 50. Actor Andrew Shue is 49. Actress Lili Taylor is 49. Actress Andrea Savage is 43. Singer Brian Littrell is 41. Actress Lauren Ambrose is 38. Actor Jay Hernandez is 38. Actress Chelsea Peretti is 38. Country musician Coy Bowles is 37. Actress Majandra Delfino is 35. Singer-musician Chris Thile (THEE'-lee) is 35. Actress-singer Jessie Mueller is 33. Comedian Trevor Noah (TV: "The Daily Show") is 32. Actor Jake Richardson is 31. Actress Daniella Pineda is 29. Singer Rihanna is 28. Actor Jack Falahee is 27.

Thought for Today: "Life begets life. Energy creates energy. It is by spending oneself that one becomes rich." — Sarah Bernhardt, French actress (1844-1923).