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Monday, February 22

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Mini corn dog, baked beans, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Anthony Schinkel, Chad Kampa, George Leonhardt, Leonard Broman, Robin Wanous-Williamson

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

5:00pm: School Board Meeting

7:00pm: Dollar General Store Public Hearing at City Hall

7:00pm: Long Term Facilities Planning at High School Computer Lab

Tuesday, February 23

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken soup, grilled cheese, carrots and drip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Chili, cornbread, coleslaw, lime pear Jell-O

Birthdays: Iva Mae Aeilts, Jerry Rossow

2016 Groton Area Elementary Preschool Developmental Screening for 4 and 5 year olds February 29 and March 1

Parents of children ages 4 and 5 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened.

Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization record.

The Developmental Screening will take place at the Groton Area High School Arena. Please park and use the east entrance to the arena.

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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Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



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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



**The adopted shirt
for this year's South
Dakota Destination
Imagination.**

DI Dessert Theater is Sunday

Groton DI, Destination Imagination, will host their Dessert Theater on Sunday, February 28, 2016. It will begin at 3 pm in the GES gym. DI is an extra-curricular activity that encourages teamwork, creative problem solving, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Skills and 21st Century Skills.

Groton has eight teams involved in DI this year. Two of the teams are Early Learning Teams – these students are in Kindergarten through second grade. We have three elementary teams which are students in third through fifth grade. There are two middle school teams of students in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. Students in grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve are represented by one high school team.

In the fall of the year, teams have a variety of challenges to research and decide which one is a good fit for their team. They have been working since October to solve their challenge. Each challenge has multiple solutions and therefore each presentation is different. It is always interesting to see what solutions various teams develop. Dessert Theater, many times is the first public performance of the teams' solutions, which gives the students a trial run, in the safe environment of friends and family.

Please come and see the solutions of the 2016 DI Challenges that the Groton DI Teams have worked through. If you can't make Dessert Theater please set aside the date of March 5th. Groton is hosting the NE Regional competition on March 5th at the high school. Teams from all over NE South Dakota will be competing for state honors on this day. We hope to see you at one of these events to witness the ingenuity our youth use. THANK YOU for your continued support of Groton Destination Imagination!



Kumla \$10 Dinner

Sunday, Feb. 28th

Serving 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Groton Community Center

**(From US 12, go south on Main Street,
then go east on 2nd Ave for one block.)**

**Sponsored by
Heaven Bound Ministries
of Pierpont**



With Assistance from Thrivent Action Program

By placing an order through Schwans.com a portion of the sales will come back in support of our congregation! Your support of Heaven Bound Ministries is greatly appreciated! (When you check out, under Step 2: Coupon Codes and Fundraising, Click on "I would like to contribute to a new fundraiser." Then enter Campaign ID 26276. Campaign starts Monday, Feb. 22.



Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

The sixth week of Session found a number of higher-profile bills debated on their respective floors in the Senate and the House. The two that have received the most press and have been much-debated on social media are HB 1008 and HB 1182. HB 1182 is the half-cent tax increase that was crafted by the Governor's office. It failed on the floor of the House

the first time, but appears to have enough votes to be reconsidered and passed over to the Senate where we will consider it over the next week or two. I have heard from many people on either side of this issue, and I will write more about it if/when it comes to the Senate floor. HB 1008 is the "locker room" bill. As the Senate prime sponsor, I spoke in favor of this bill and answered questions regarding it. Simply put, it stipulates that persons born boys or girls must use the locker rooms, restrooms, and shower rooms designated for their biological sex in our elementary and secondary schools. Moreover, it says that if a person identifies as being the opposite sex as he or she was born that a school would make a reasonable accommodation, such as allowing the student to use a separate facility to dress or use the restroom. This issue has been thrust into the spotlight largely because over the past seven years, the bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., have been redefining gender to mean that a person is whatever he or she feels he or she is, regardless of what his or her biological sex is. So a boy who says he rejects his biological sex and identifies as a girl or a girl who rejects her biological sex and identifies as a boy--according to Washington, D.C.--must be afforded access to whichever facility he or she desires. Moreover, they have been working to force schools to allow people to participate in activities of whichever gender they identify with. This bill does not address participation in activities, but only the locker room, restroom, and shower room situations. To many I've heard from, they cannot understand why a 13-year-old girl might be forced to dress or shower with a boy or boys or vice versa, nor can they fathom that a victim of sexual abuse would be subjected to having a member of the opposite sex dressing or showering next to them. However, to some, this is a part of a broader agenda promoted by the LGBTQ community who says it is about equal rights. They charge that it is discriminatory to disallow a person to express him or herself in the manner of his or her choosing. It has drawn much attention from a number of people who have strong feelings one way or the other. Personally, I think it is unfortunate that we even have to take up such a bill as this, but when the federal bureaucrats, and subsequently our SD High School Activities Association decides to make our school children the subject of a grand experiment in human sexuality, the responsibility falls on the legislature to try to be a voice of reason. The bill passed the House two weeks ago, 46-10, and passed the Senate 20-15. Currently, it awaits the signature of the President of the Senate, after which, it will be on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature or veto.

The Senate heard arguments on SB 140, which would state that defendants under the age of 18 could not be subject to life in prison sentences for committing heinous crimes. Sometime in the last decade, we had a bill that prohibited anybody under 18 from being subject to the possibility of the prosecution seeking the death penalty, although that had never happened in South Dakota. Now, there is a move to lessen the maximum penalty again. It is important to note that we have seldom had any prosecutor seek a life sentence against a defendant under 18. When I heard about this bill, I immediately thought of Lee Boyd Malvo, aka "The Beltway Sniper" who rained terror over our country--specifically the East Coast--in 2002. Malvo was four months shy of his 18th birthday when he and his legal guardian John Allen Muhammed killed the last of their 17 victims. They also shot 10 other people who survived. Malvo was convicted of the murder of six of the victims, and he is currently serving six consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole. While he is certainly not the only person who has perpetrated heinous, murderous acts

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prior to his 18th birthday, I recall vividly the terror that gripped the nation during his killing spree. Why we would ever consider removing the possibility of a prosecutor from seeking a life sentence in such a case as this is beyond me. It handcuffs the state's attorney or the attorney general and takes away one tool they have at their disposal that might help as they negotiate with the defense and/or as they argue before the judge or jury. I voted against the bill, but it passed 23-11 and heads to the House.

We also heard debate on SB 109, which would have required counties to conduct random checkpoints for overweight vehicles as a condition for receiving state funding for bridge maintenance. Currently, there is nothing that prohibits counties from doing this, and many counties and/or the state already conduct such checks. Putting this mandate on counties was unnecessary in the minds of many, and frankly withholding funding for bridge improvements simply is not good policy. I voted against the bill, and it failed 13-20.

This week, there are a number of bills that will be heard in committees and/or on the floor as crossover day is Wednesday. This is the day when all bills must pass or be killed in their house of origin. I will be back next week to discuss the fate of several of these bills.

I appreciate all your input as issues work their way through the process. And again, I reiterate how much I appreciate your prayers that you offer asking for your legislators to be wise and discerning in our decision-making, as well as for our health and well-being. May God bless each of you.



Lana's Annals

**Lana
Greenfield
District 2
State
Representative**

Greetings from Pierre. We have had a very busy week!

The Health and Human Services, upon which I serve, passed the midwifery bill. If it continues to find favor, families would be able to contract with a midwife, who would come into their home and deliver their baby. Testimony indicated that some prefer this type of delivery as is of more comfort to be in their own environment. Also, while we have easy access to hospitals in our area, such is not the case with northwestern South Dakota. This may be a very viable option for residents there.

Also heard in that committee was HB1124, which would ban tanning for anyone under 18. We had a similar bill last year which we did not pass at that time. So here we are again. I am sure that if we ban the small businesses from clients under 18,

they will still tan at private homes and will be not regulated at all. The bill was deferred until Tuesday.

HB1127 was heard in Local Government. The subject was pertaining to certain road districts, particularly in the Black Hills area. What has been happening is that when roads were built so land owners could have access to their houses, some of the homeowners decided that they did not want to pay for maintenance of the entire area. The bill is making sure that all people have to pay by annexing approval of 25 per cent of the voters on that road. That way it stops people in the higher elevations from opting out but still using the roads to exit to the main highway.

The House passed HB1164, an act to waive the requirement of front license plates on specialty vehicles. For 10 dollars, one can get a special plate which goes on the back and eliminates having to drill holes in the front bumper in order to accommodate a second plate.

Also the rural ambulance bill passed unanimously. This waves the hardship rule and will eliminate yearly applications. It also allows for 1 EMT and one driver instead of two EMTs.

HB1182 continues to be discussed. This bill seeks to increase the state sales and use tax, the excise tax on farm machinery, and amusement device tax with the intent to fund education. We will be taking a second vote on it this week.

Thank you to all who came to the area Cracker Barrels. It was encouraging to see so many of you and to be able to discuss various topics. Till next week, please stay safe and well. I can be reached at лана.greenfield@gmail.com or rep.lanagreenfield@state.sd.us or you can call the House Chamber at 773-3851.

Governor Signs Bills Into Law

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

HB 1011 – An Act to repeal certain obsolete and unnecessary statutes concerning game preserves and refuges.

HB 1025 – An Act to place certain substances on the controlled substances schedule and to declare an emergency.

HB 1027 An Act to revise certain provisions regarding licensure of massage therapists.

HB 1031 – An Act to revise certain provisions pertaining to weights and measures.

HB 1033 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning elections and election petitions and to declare an emergency.

HB 1039 – An Act to revise various trust and trust company provisions and to establish and regulate South Dakota special spousal trusts.

HB 1056 – An Act to revise certain provisions relating to the veterans' preference in employment.

HB 1063 – An Act to revise provisions regarding required notice of relocation of a minor child when a protection order is in place.

HB 1066 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the public notice for a meeting of a public body.

HB 1084 – An Act to define when concurrent employment may be used to calculate earnings in workers' compensation cases.

HB 1100 – An Act to set a minimum size for a sign about zoning changes or conditional use permits.

HB 1101 – An Act to authorize municipalities to create programs to encourage housing development.

HB 1103 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the qualification process for municipal office.

HB 1210 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding on-sale alcoholic beverage licenses for municipal auditoriums and convention halls and to declare an emergency.

SB 10 – An Act to authorize the Board of Regents to contract for the renovation and construction of an addition to Harding Hall on the campus of South Dakota State University and to make an appropriation therefor.

SB 11 – An Act to authorize the Board of Regents to purchase land from the Dakota State University Foundation for the use and benefit of Dakota State University in Madison, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency.

SB 14 – An Act to revise certain administrative provisions and repeal certain obsolete provisions concerning the South Dakota Retirement System.

SB 18 – An Act to make an appropriation from the coordinated natural resources conservation fund to the State Conservation Commission and to declare an emergency.

SB 20 – An Act to revise certain provisions related to behavioral health.

SB 68 – An Act to make appropriations from the water and environment fund and its revolving fund sub-funds for various water and environmental purposes, to revise solid waste management program recycling provisions, to revise water and environment fund loan terms, and to declare an emergency.

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2016 FFA Week Activities

Monday - Country Day

FFA members will put on a small Dairy Cattle, Vet Science, and Farm Business Management CDE for jr. high students in advisory.

Tuesday - Alumni Day/Official Dress Day

We encourage any FFA Alumni Member from any chapter to take a picture with their FFA jacket. They can wear it if it still fits, or just take a picture next to it. They can also include a short story about their involvement in FFA and what they've gained through FFA if they would like to. Then they can post their picture and story on the Groton FFA Facebook page or email it to adam.Franken@k12.sd.us. These pictures and stories may be posted on our Groton FFA Facebook page.

FFA members will put on a small Livestock and Ag Mechanics CDE for jr. high students in advisory.

Wednesday - Camouflage Day

FFA members will put on a small Crops, Floriculture, and Natural Resources for jr. high students in advisory.

Thursday - Coverall Day/Tractor Day/Farm Safety Day

The students can drive tractors to school and the officers and other student leaders will go to the elementary school to teach the students about agriculture safety.

FFA members will put on a small Horse, Meats, and Dairy Foods CDE for jr. high students in advisory.

Friday - Blue and Gold Day/Teacher and Staff Appreciation Breakfast/Ag Olympics

The students will make breakfast for the teachers and staff from 7:50 - 8:25.

During advisory, we will put on an ag olympics for jr. high students.

Groton Area School District #06-6

School Board Meeting February 22, 2016 – 5:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.
- OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:
1. Values Definition Workgroup Discussion – Fosters, Jacobs, and Johnson, Inc.
 2. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
 3. Program Overview Presentations Health/PE, Athletics...J. Seibel, L. Grieve, B. Schuring Art...J. Harry
 4. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Lars Hanson, Merle Harder, Marty Weismantel
 - b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Dorene Nelson, Grant Rix
 - c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith
 5. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principals' Reports; (c) Business Manager Report
- NEW BUSINESS:
1. Approve/Reject school bus bid [Bid Opening 2:00 PM on 2/22/16].
 2. Approve signed 2016-2017 administrative contracts.
 3. Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel issues.
 4. Approve issuance of 2016-2017 teaching contracts with return deadline of March 4, 2016.
 5. Other items, as may be appropriate or as deemed necessary.
- ADJOURN

Pothole Damage Costs U.S. Drivers \$3 Billion Annually

AAA finds two-thirds of American drivers are concerned about potholes on roadways.

A new study from AAA reveals that pothole damage has cost U.S. drivers \$15 billion in vehicle repairs over the last five years, or about \$3 billion annually.

"Two-thirds of those we surveyed said they were very concerned about potholes and rightly so," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "In the last five years, AAA estimates 16 million drivers across the country have suffered pothole damage to their vehicles. The problems range from punctured tires and bent wheels to expensive suspension damage."

Every year, AAA responds to more than four million calls for flat tire assistance, many the result of damage caused by potholes. Spare tires, an important feature missing from one-third of 2015 model year vehicles sold, are essential for vehicles impacted by pothole damage. Tire inflator kits have replaced the spare tire in millions of vehicles over the last 10 years but due to their limited functionality, cannot provide even a temporary fix for pothole damage. AAA has called on automakers to put consumer interests first and halt the elimination of spare tires in new cars.

Congress increased transportation funding in 2015 to help pay for road repair, but AAA estimates \$170 billion in added funding is needed annually to significantly improve U.S. roads and bridges.

According to AAA's survey, middle- and lower-income motorists are the most worried about potholes, with the majority of respondents in households having annual incomes under \$75,000 expressing the highest levels of concern over damaged roadways.

"On average, American drivers report paying \$300 to repair pothole-related vehicle damage per incident," said Buskohl. "Adding to the financial frustration, those whose vehicles have been damaged by potholes tend to incur this type of damage frequently – an average of three times in the last five years."

To minimize vehicle damage, AAA urges drivers to make sure tires are properly inflated and have adequate tread depth. If a pothole strike is inevitable, it is important to slow down, release the brakes and straighten steering before making contact with the pothole. To avoid potholes in the roadway, drivers should limit distractions, remain alert, scan the road and increase following distances behind the vehicles ahead.

When dealing with vehicle damage, select a high-quality repair facility such as a AAA Approved Auto Repair (AAR) shop. Once a facility meets AAA's strict standards, including certifications, technical training, cleanliness, insurance requirements and background checks, it becomes part of the AAR program and is re-inspected annually and monitored for ongoing customer satisfaction. To find an AAR facility, visit AAA.com/Repair.

AAA is North America's largest motoring, leisure travel and safety advocacy organization with nearly 56 million members. A not-for-profit, fully tax-paying auto club, AAA South Dakota serves its 94,100 members with emergency roadside assistance, auto travel counseling and a wide range of personal insurance, worldwide travel and financial services at branch offices across South Dakota and online at AAA.com.

Debate team takes third in Sweepstakes at Harrisburg Tourney

GHS Debate finished up regular season with a successful Harrisburg Invitational Debate contest placing 3rd in Sweepstakes. Helping GHS secure the 3rd place finish were individual placings by Keri Pappas and Samantha Pappas. Keri Pappas earned 2nd place in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking and Samantha Pappas earned 3rd place in Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate. Also competing for Groton were the following:

Lily Cutler- Public Forum Debate, Informative Speaking, Humorous Reading; Kelsey Iverson- Public Forum Debate and Drama Reading; Keri Pappas-- Public Forum Debate and Original Oratory; KaSandra Pappas-- Public Forum Debate. GHS will now move into post season competition with the national qualifying tournament on February 26-27 and then state on March 4-5.



Pictured left to right are Samantha Pappas, Lily Cutler, Kelsey Iverson, KaSandra Pappas and Keri Pappas.

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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?

Heartland has programs available to help.
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 22, 1914: Heavy snow fell across parts of central and north central South Dakota with 6 to 12 inches accumulations. Snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Timber Lake and Onida, 7 inches at Kennebec, and 12 inches at Murdo.

February 22, 2000: High temperatures across central and northeast South Dakota were in the 50s and 60s. Record highs occurred at Watertown, Pierre, and Kennebec. Watertown rose to 65 degrees, Pierre rose to 69 degrees, and Kennebec warmed to 71 degrees by late in the afternoon. Other high temperatures include; 55 degrees at Sisseton, 59 degrees at Aberdeen, and 64 degrees at Timber Lake.

1971: A 2-day blizzard dumped 36 inches of snow at Buffalo, and 25 inches at Gage, Oklahoma. Follett, Texas picked up 26 inches while Amarillo recorded 14 inches.

1998: Seven tornadoes struck east central Florida late on this date and early on the 23rd. Three of the tornadoes were rated F3 on the Fujita scale. 24 people were killed in Kissimmee alone. A total of 42 people were killed with 265 injured, and total damage was \$106 million dollars.

1773 - The memorable "Cold Sabbath" in New England history. Many persons froze extremities while going to church. (David Ludlum)

1936 - Although heat and dust prevailed in the spring and summer, early 1936 brought record cold to parts of the U.S. Sioux Center IA reported 42 inches of snow on the ground, a state record. (20th-22nd) (The Weather Channel)

1986 - A twelve siege of heavy rain and snow, which produced widespread flooding and mudslides across northern and central California, finally came to an end. The storm caused more than 400 million dollars property damage. Bucks Lake, located in the Sierra Nevada Range, received 49.6 inches of rain during the twelve day period. (Storm Data)

1987 - A storm moving north-eastward out of the Gulf of Mexico began to spread heavy snow across the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. Thunderstorms in northern Florida produced wind gusts to 65 mph in Alachua County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Dry weather prevailed across the nation, with windy conditions from the Central Rockies to northern New England. Winds gusted to 58 mph at Cleveland OH, and reached 63 mph at Erie PA. Winds in the Central Rockies gusted to 120 mph at Mines Peak CO and Rendezvous Peak WY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



**Livestream
your
wedding!**

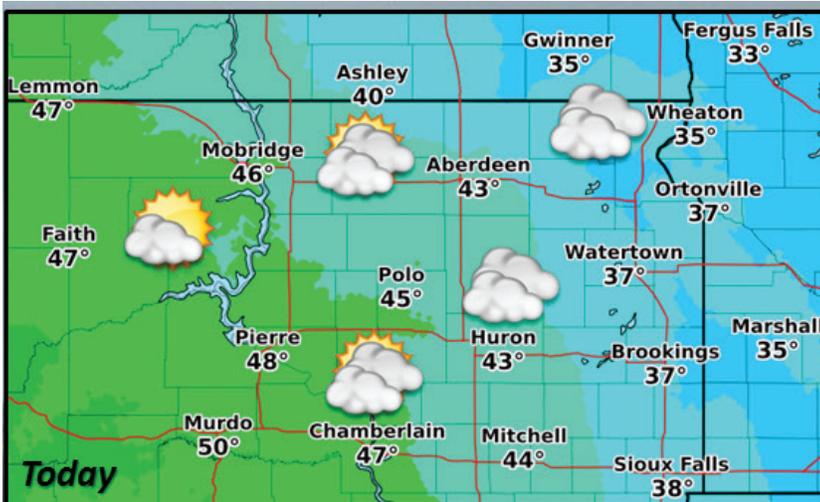
How cool would that be?!

Call or text Paul at 605/397-7460.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Partly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Chance Rain/Snow	Slight Chance Snow	Partly Sunny
High: 41 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 35 °F	Low: 20 °F	High: 37 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 32 °F

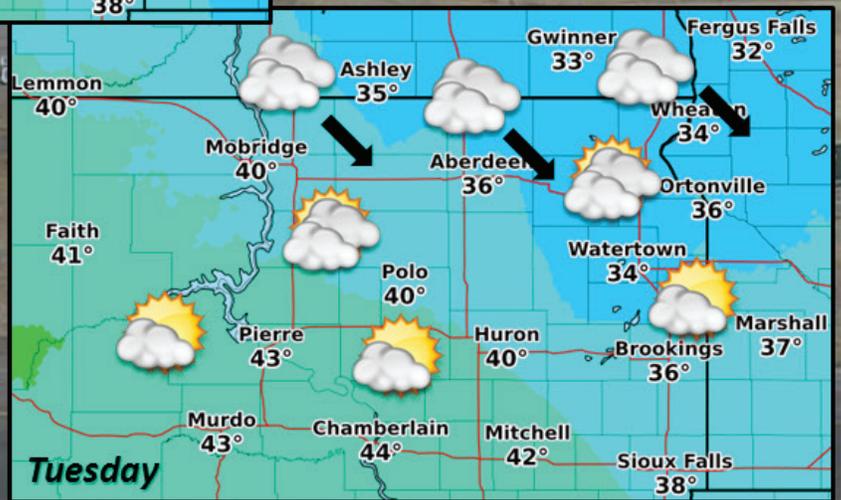


Today
Milder
Partial Clearing Late

Tonight
Clear
Lows: Upper 20s

Tuesday
Increasing Clouds
"Cooler" but still above average

Wed-Friday & Weekend
Light Snow Eastern SD
Wednesday
Mild Friday-Saturday
Arctic Air Returns Sunday



Published on: 02/22/2016 at 4:00AM

The work week will feature mainly dry conditions and seasonally mild temperatures. There will be a break in the clouds late today and overnight - but the region will see increasing clouds again on Tuesday. An area of light snow will pass through mainly eastern South Dakota into western Minnesota Wednesday - but with little accumulation.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 32.4 at 12:35 AM

Low: 22.9 at 12:52 PM

High Gust: 19 at 9:52 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 60° in 1905

Record Low: -24 in 1918

Average High: 30°F

Average Low: 10°F

Average Precip in Feb.: 0.40

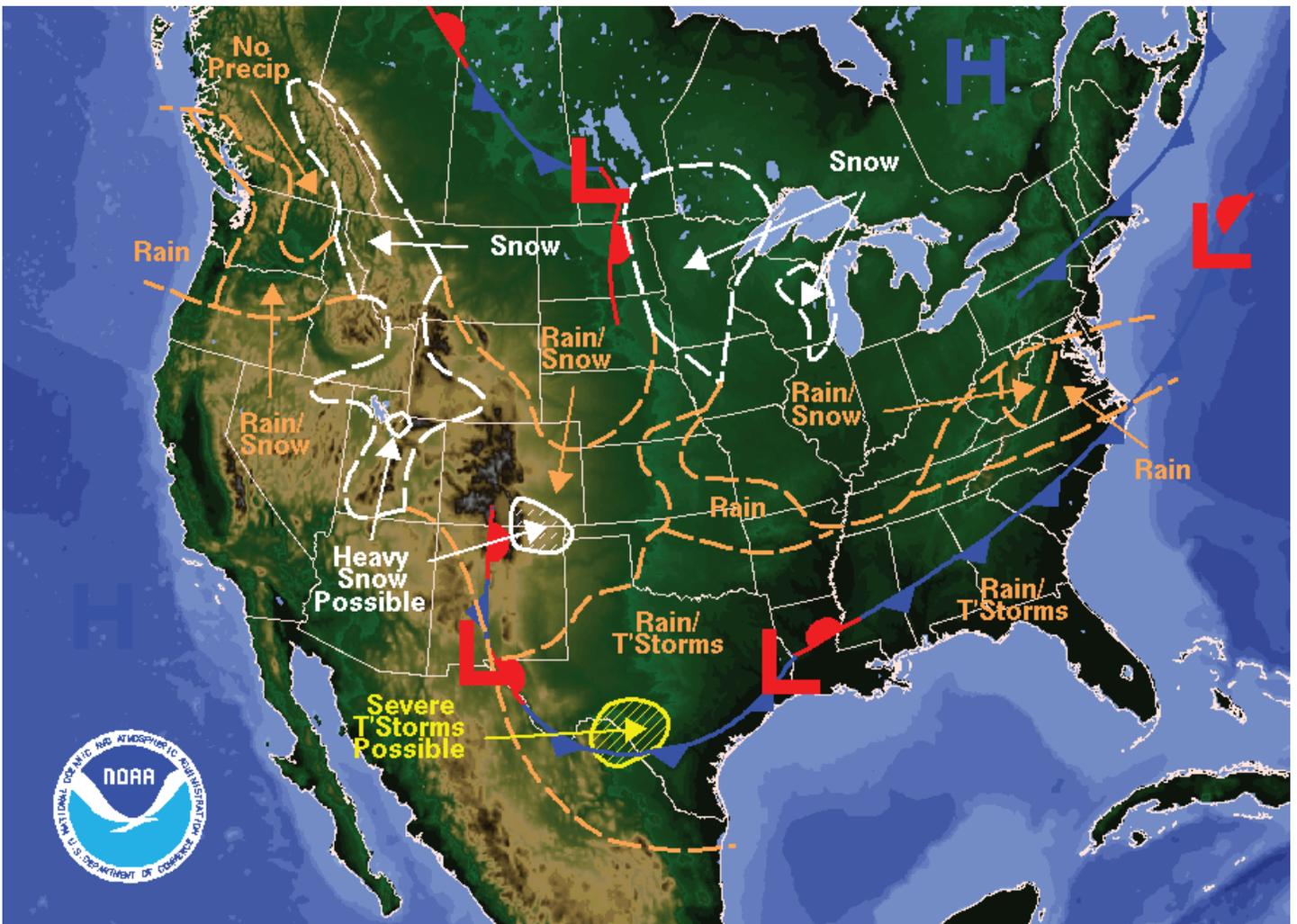
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.60

Average Precip to date: 0.87

Precip Year to Date: 0.60

Sunset Tonight: 6:13 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:24 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Feb 22, 2016, issued 2:30 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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JUST LIKE BEING AT HOME

Little Jimmy came home from school in a state of anger. "I'm tired of the cafeteria and I'm never going back. I'm never going to eat there again!"

Puzzled, his mother asked, "Why? What's the problem?"

"Because," he answered stomping his foot, "there's always a teacher standing around yelling her head off."

"Why's she doing that?" his mother wondered.

"I suppose," he replied, "so we won't miss our mothers."

Paul speaks of a love that is "patient and kind...not irritable...never gives up or loses faith...is always hopeful and endures through every situation." Jimmy would no doubt have a difficult time believing that he could ever find a home where that type of love was the rule not the exception. For that matter, most of us would enjoy living in a home where a love like that was always practiced, too.

What we sometimes call love is our desire to dominate others for the sake of controlling them. God's love is vastly different. He expects us to help others by showing His care and compassion at all times. He wants all believers to work graciously with others to bring Him honor and glory in all that we do.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to live the type of love that Paul writes about so that all that we do and say will be pleasing to You and helpful to others. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

News from the Associated Press

Police chase in Pierre includes shot fired by officer

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man is facing numerous charges after a car chase in Pierre during which a police officer fired his weapon.

The chase involving more than half a dozen police vehicles happened Friday afternoon after officers spotted Alvin Chambers, who was wanted on a drug-related warrant.

Police say an officer at one point fired his gun at the tires of the suspect's vehicle after Chambers allegedly rammed two squad vehicles. No injuries were reported.

Chambers eventually was arrested on the warrant and on several other charges including aggravated assault on law enforcement. It was not immediately clear if he had an attorney.

Local, state and federal authorities are continuing to investigate the incident.

Damage being reported after hurricane-force winds

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Damage reports are coming in after hurricane-force winds that swept through parts of South Dakota late last week.

Winds gusting to 76 mph late Thursday or early Friday are believed to have blown down a 100-foot-tall grain dryer at the CHS Farmers Alliance elevator in Mitchell.

General Manager Jim Morken tells The Daily Republic that the bin had about 6,500 bushels of corn. He says the grain worth about \$20,000 likely isn't salvageable.

The Capital Journal reports that winds gusting to 78 mph blew down a 60-foot-tall tree in Pierre.

Jackley leading national attorneys general meeting

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley is leading a national meeting of the National Association of Attorneys General in Washington.

Jackley currently serves as president of the organization. He's leading attendees of the association's annual winter meeting Monday through Wednesday and will introduce U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

Topics of discussion will center on Jackley's presidential initiative "To Protect and Serve with 21st Century Policing."

Jackley said the state attorneys general will share experiences and solutions for the many everyday challenges that face law enforcement. Challenges include officer-involved shootings, body-worn camera policy, school shootings, campus sexual assaults, mental health issues and criminal behavior.

Denver hangs on for 76-71 win over South Dakota

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Marcus Byrd scored 22 points with 10-for-16 shooting and Denver held on Sunday to win its third straight with a 76-71 win over South Dakota.

Joe Rosga added 16 points, including three 3-pointers, for Denver (14-14, 6-9 Summit), which shot 54 percent from the field and hit 9 of 15 from long range.

Denver took the lead for good late in the first half with an 8-0 burst that made it 26-20 and included a 3-pointer from Thomas Neff, who finished with nine points. The Pioneers then held on late in the second half as South Dakota rallied.

The Coyotes (13-16, 4-10) used a 10-0 run sparked by Tre Burnette's 3-pointer to trim the gap to four, 68-64, with 45 seconds left before being slowed by Jake Pemberton's free throws to stretch Denver's lead back to six.

D.J. Davis and Tre Burnette led South Dakota with 14 points each.

Sale of oil, gas leases set for parcels in Fall River County

EDGEMONT, S.D. (AP) — Oil and gas leases are set to go up for sale on three parcels of private land in southwestern South Dakota.

Russ Pigors, a physical scientist with the Belle Fourche Bureau of Land Management office, said a lease sale will be held July 12 for the parcels west of Edgemont in Fall River County. The Bureau of Land Management is asking for public comment on what sort of environmental impact there might be in allowing oil and gas exploration on the parcels.

The roughly 720 acres of private land are within the boundaries of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/1XzikfK>) reported. Pigors said the public comment process is standard when the Bureau of Land Management does oil and gas leases.

The public comment period ends March 8.

Since mid-2014, oil prices have been dropping, but they rallied sharply earlier this month when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said it's considering cutting production.

On Feb. 12, the U.S. benchmark for crude oil rose 11.5 percent to \$29.13 a barrel, according to reports.

"The price of oil generally reflects the lack of interest in leasing," Pigors said in a phone interview. "Some years, we have over 100 (leases for sale), and now we have just three." He pointed out that he was talking about only federal leases; the state and private owners also sell leases.

Since the federal government owns the mineral rights to the parcels of land near Edgemont, and the Bureau of Land Management manages those rights for the federal government, the bureau must conduct public hearings on potential environmental impacts before the properties can be leased. The bureau also is required to conduct either an environmental assessment or a Determination of National Environmental Policy Act Adequacy, in which environmental effects of proposed actions are assessed prior to making decisions, on the potential leases before they can be included in the lease sale.

The parcels are usually "nominated" for mineral leases by oil and gas exploration companies or by private individuals seeking to drill wells, Pigors said.

Often times, the lease sales don't result in actual oil or gas wells.

Sioux Falls woman sues after slip on now-recalled bathmat

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman who slipped on a bathmat marketed as slip-proof is suing the maker and the company that sold it.

Diane Williams had a hip replacement about a month before she fell in the shower when she slipped on her AquaRug bathmat, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/1PSq4o3>) reported. The fall resulted in a broken leg, a surgical revision of Williams' hip replacement, assisted living care and physical therapy.

By the time she had ordered the AquaRug, about a year ago after seeing it on the home shopping network QVC, manufacturer Tristar Products, Inc. had been sued in federal court over allegations that the non-slip bathmat was prone to slippage.

"I purchased the AquaRug because I wanted to be careful after my hip surgery," Williams said. "The ads on television said it was a safer bathmat for the elderly. I don't believe those ads were true and now I don't want anyone else hurt by this product."

Another lawsuit, which was filed late last month in U.S. District Court in South Dakota on Williams' behalf, accuses Tristar Products Inc. and QVC of being aware of the dangers before she bought the bathmat. The complaint includes 40 online customer reviews saying the suction cups didn't stick, the rugs didn't stay in place and they could cause customers to fall.

"This product was marketed towards some of the most vulnerable people in our community, the elderly and those with physical impairments, who are most prone to serious injury from a fall," said lawyer Brendan Johnson, who filed the lawsuit on Williams' behalf. "We brought this lawsuit in an effort to help protect those members of our community."

The lawsuit seeks monetary damages for liability, negligence and breach of warranty.

QVC spokeswoman Diane Zappas said she couldn't comment on the pending litigation. The newspaper

said Tristar didn't return requests for comment.

About 1.4 million of the bathmats have been recalled.

Fargo horse track supporters say this is their last chance

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — One of the most popular horses on the Dakotas racing circuit is Alexsilvercharm, a soon-to-be 8-year-old gray mare that is almost always the favorite when she reaches the starting gate. Yet her handlers have been waiting two years to make up for one of her rare lackluster performances.

The North Dakota-bred horse was upset in the feature race of the 2014 meet at the North Dakota Horse Park in Fargo, the track that Alexsilvercharm trainer Robert Haar calls the gold standard in the two states. Even so, the facility has struggled to stay afloat since it opened and last year the entire season was axed so track owners could get their finances in order.

Haar was disappointed that his horse's chance for redemption was taken away.

"All the other tracks do not hold a candle to Fargo," said Haar, of Aberdeen, South Dakota. "The fans in Fargo come to the races and support it. There is no reason why it shouldn't be one of the premier tracks in the Upper Midwest."

Backers of the horse park say they have one last chance to get it right, beginning with six racing days in July. The track first opened in 2003 and has gradually increased its fan base despite a two-season layoff in 2010-11 and the cancellation of last year's meet. That came after a 2014 season that saw an average of about 2,250 fans per day.

"It's like an on-again, off-again relationship with an old girlfriend," Haar said. "You keep getting back in and eventually it's either going to work or it's not. You can't keep trying forever before you've got to move on to something else."

Dave Piepkorn, a Fargo city commissioner and member of the state Racing Commission, said the state and city have invested millions of dollars in the facility and he wants to see it put to good use.

"I would say that this is kind of our last shot, to prove to everybody that this is going to be legit," Piepkorn said. "We have to race ever year so people can depend on it for entertainment and the horsemen can put us on their schedules."

The issue has been the inability of the park to cover nearly \$2 million in special assessment taxes owed to the city. It was complicated by the fact the facility was owned by two separate nonprofit groups, who have since gotten together to work out a schedule to pay off the assessments.

Mike Schmitz, general manager of the park, said last year's void has allowed the owners to regroup and expand its offerings. Schmitz is scheduling other events at the facility, including a food truck festival, a chicken wing cooking competition, concerts, other live entertainment, and even a wedding.

"It woke a lot of people up," Schmitz said of the 2015 shutdown. "A lot of people got maybe a better understanding what was actually going on. Things sure were looking good from the racing side of it before that happened."

Backers of the track would like to see the race season expand to at least five or six weekends, or 12 to 14 days of racing. Haar said Fargo is well-positioned for middle-of-the-summer racing because many other tracks in the region are shut down at that point. In addition, he said, handlers with horses who aren't quite good enough to race at Canterbury Park in the Twin Cities are looking for places to run.

"They are not going to be Canterbury level," Haar said of Fargo. "But they will have a full field. There will be 10-horse races. That's what people want. They don't want to come and watch a five-horse race."

Schmitz said the state Racing Commission plans to finalize details for this summer's schedule when it meets Thursday in Bismarck. In the meantime, Haar said he gave Alexsilvercharm her first winter season off from racing in Arizona in hopes she'll be fresh for Fargo.

"She hasn't rested since she was a baby," Haar said. "She just started training again and is doing very well. Fargo is the one that we want."

Police arrest man after woman's body found in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A 33-year-old man is under arrest after a woman's body was found in a Sioux Falls home.

Police, fire and ambulance crews were called to the home on a report of a cardiac arrest late Saturday morning. When first responders arrived they found the 37-year-old woman was dead.

Authorities determined the death was suspicious. A Sioux Falls man was later arrested and is in the Minnehaha County Jail on suspicion of first-degree murder.

The victim's name has not been released. Police says the suspect and the woman knew each other.

Number of farms, ranches declines by 400 in South Dakota

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Federal agriculture officials say the number of farms in South Dakota dropped by about 400 last year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agriculture Statistics Service says the number of farms and ranches closed the year at 31,300. That's down 400 from 2014.

The state lost 100 farms and ranches with less than \$100,000 in agricultural sales while operations with more than \$100,000 were down 300 farms from 2014.

The total land in farms and ranches in South Dakota totaled 43 million acres, which is unchanged from 2014. The average size of operations, at 1,383 acres, was up 17 acres from a year earlier.

Flandreau tribe pledges \$50,000 to local school district

FLANDREAU, S.D. (AP) — The state House of Representatives will vote again Monday on whether to implement a half-cent sales tax to boost teacher pay but one tribal government isn't taking any chances.

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe announced Friday it is pledging \$50,000 to the Flandreau Public Schools to supplement teacher pay.

State representatives on Thursday voted 46-23, just one vote short of the two-thirds margin required to pass a tax hike. The measure is expected to be taken up again on Monday thanks to a motion a lawmaker made to have it reconsidered later.

Flandreau officials say education is a priority to the tribe and that tribal students benefit from the quality teachers, administrators and staff at the Flandreau Public Schools.

Sioux Falls council votes to raise cost of paratransit rides

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — For the first time in 20 years, the Sioux Falls City Council has voted to raise the cost of a paratransit ride.

The Argus Leader reports (<http://argusne.ws/1oUv5pH>) the City Council voted on Tuesday to raise the price for the door-to-door transportation service from \$2 to \$2.50.

Councilors heard nearly an hour of emotional testimony before voting on the increase.

Councilor Kenny Anderson Jr. is a former paratransit driver. He said it was a "tough vote" for him.

The fare increase is estimated to generate \$60,000 in additional revenue each year.

Rick Kiley was the only councilman to vote against the increase. He said \$60,000 for the city isn't enough to justify placing more of a financial burden on paratransit users.

Suspect in fatal Michigan shootings expected in court

JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP) — Authorities trying to piece together an hours-long weekend rampage that left six people dead in western Michigan said they are looking into a report that the suspect picked up at least one fare for a ride-hailing service between shootings.

Jason Dalton, a 45-year-old Uber driver and former insurance adjuster who police said had no criminal record, was arrested in connection with the shootings after a massive manhunt and was expected to be

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arraigned Monday. Authorities did not provide a motive for what they said was his targeting of victims with no apparent connection to him or to each other in the Saturday night shootings.

"How do you go and tell the families of these victims that they weren't targeted for any reason other than they were there to be a target?" Kalamazoo County Prosecutor Jeff Getting said at a Sunday news conference.

Kalamazoo County Undersheriff Paul Matyas described a terrifying series of attacks that began about 6 p.m. Saturday outside the Meadows apartment complex on the eastern edge of Kalamazoo County, where a woman was shot multiple times. She was expected to survive.

A little more than four hours later and 15 miles away, a father and his 17-year-old son were fatally shot while looking at cars at a car dealership.

Fifteen minutes after that, five people were gunned down in the parking lot of a Cracker Barrel restaurant, Matyas said. Four of them died.

"These are random murders," Matyas said.

Dalton was arrested without incident about 12:40 a.m. Sunday after a deputy spotted his vehicle driving through downtown Kalamazoo after leaving a bar parking lot, authorities said.

Matyas declined to disclose anything found in the vehicle except for a semi-automatic handgun.

By midday, authorities were investigating a Facebook post that indicated the suspect was driving for Uber during the manhunt and had taken at least one fare, Getting said.

A spokeswoman for Uber confirmed that Dalton was a driver for the company, but she declined to say whether he was driving Saturday night.

Uber prohibits both passengers and drivers from possessing guns of any kind in a vehicle. Anyone found to be in violation of the policy may be prohibited from using or driving for the service.

A man who knows Dalton said he was a married father of two who never showed any signs of violence.

Gary Pardo Jr., whose parents live across the street from Dalton in Kalamazoo Township, described him as a family man who seemed fixated on cars and often worked on them.

"He would go a month without mowing his lawn but was very meticulous with his cars," Pardo said, explaining that Dalton, at times, owned a Chevrolet Camaro and two Hummer SUVs.

Progressive Insurance confirmed that he once worked for the company before leaving in 2011.

Dalton was an insurance adjuster who did auto-body estimates and once taught an auto-body repair class at an area community college, said James Block, who has lived next door to him for 17 years.

"He loved to do things outside with his kids" like taking them for rides on his lawn tractor, Block said.

Dalton's wife and children were unhurt, authorities said.

The suspect was in contact with more than one person during the rampage, authorities said, but they would not elaborate. Prosecutors said they did not expect to charge anyone else.

Authorities were interviewing Dalton and reviewing his phone. They did not know if the handgun belonged to him, Getting said.

"This is every community's nightmare — when you have someone going around just randomly killing people, no rhyme, no reason," Getting said.

Tammy George said the woman who was shot outside the apartment building is her next-door neighbor. She and her family heard the gunfire, ran outside and saw the woman on the ground.

Four bullets flew into a closet of George's home, she said. Her son, James, was playing video games with two friends a few feet away from where the bullets pierced the wall.

"I checked out the back window and saw a car speeding off," said James George, 17.

On Sunday morning, Tammy George came outside to clean the parking lot.

"I was worried about the kids coming out and seeing their mom's blood," she said. "I cleaned it up. No kid should have to come out and see their parent's blood on the ground."

During a Sunday morning news conference, some law enforcement officials wiped teary eyes or got choked up. When the news conference ended, Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell and Department of Public Safety Chief Jeff Hadley embraced.

The four people killed outside the restaurant were identified as 62-year-old Mary Lou Nye of Baroda and

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60-year-old Mary Jo Nye, 68-year-old Barbara Hawthorne and 74-year-old Dorothy Brown, all of Battle Creek. The two victims killed at the car dealership were identified as Tyler Smith and his father, Richard, who was 53.

A 14-year-old girl wounded at the restaurant was hospitalized in critical condition.

Late Sunday night, mourners streamed into a Kalamazoo church for a prayer service intended to honor the victims and help residents cope.

With a population of about 75,000, Kalamazoo is about 160 miles west of Detroit. It is home to Western Michigan University and the headquarters of popular craft beer maker Bell's Brewery. The city also is known for the anonymously funded Kalamazoo Promise program, which has paid college tuition of students who graduate from Kalamazoo Public Schools for more than a decade.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. SUSPECT IN FATAL MICHIGAN SHOOTINGS EXPECTED IN COURT

Authorities are looking into a report that Jason Dalton picked up at least one fare for the Uber ride-hailing service between killings.

2. WHICH ECHOES LINGER ON IN MIDEAST

Twenty five years after the first U.S. Marines swept across the border into Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War, American forces find themselves battling the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, and there are more conflicts and proxy wars besetting the region.

3. ACROSS EUROPE, HOMOSEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER MIGRANTS FACE ABUSE AT ASYLUM SHELTERS

This suggests that some refugees from conservative Muslim countries are bringing taboos against homosexuality into more liberal West.

4. HOW BATTLE OVER SCALIA VACANCY DEPARTS FROM HISTORIC NORM

The history of Supreme Court nominations is dominated by tales of picks the Senate debated and approved. But whoever Obama selects to fill the vacancy seems destined to not be one of those stories.

5. WHO WANTS TO FLY OVER U.S. WITH ADVANCED CAMERA

Russia will ask for permission to start operating surveillance planes amid warnings that such overflights are instrumental in Moscow's ability to collect intelligence, The AP learns.

6. VENEZUELA STRUGGLING TO TAKE ON ZIKA

Its medical system is teetering on the brink of collapse, and there's a lack of bug spray to prevent mosquito bites and contraceptives to avert pregnancies.

7. COMMON SOFTWARE WOULD HAVE LET FBI UNLOCK SHOOTER'S IPHONE

San Bernardino paid for — but never installed — technology to enable officials to access the county-owned phone of one of the killers.

8. NEW REPORT UNDERSCORES LACK OF DIVERSITY IN HOLLYWOOD

The study obtained by The AP finds that an "epidemic of invisibility" runs top to bottom through the film and TV industry for women, minorities and the LGBT community.

9. FACEBOOK'S ZUCKERBERG AT CROSSROADS IN CONNECTING THE GLOBE

Indian regulators ban a central element of his campaign because it provided access only to certain services rather than the full Internet.

10. HAMLIN FELT FOR TEAMMATE AFTER SNATCHING DAYTONA 500

"This is a great moment for me, but I feel awful for Matt because he's such a great friend," says the winner about Matt Kenseth.

AP Analysis: Echoes of 1991 Gulf War linger on in Mideast

JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

An AP Analysis

The 1991 Gulf War saw only 100 hours of ground fighting as U.S. forces entered Kuwait to end the Iraqi occupation but echoes of that conflict have lingered on for decades in the Mideast.

The war pushed America into opening military bases in the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia, drawing the anger of an upstart militant named Osama bin Laden and laying the groundwork for al-Qaida attacks leading up to Sept. 11, 2001. Saddam Hussein, demonized as being worse than Adolf Hitler by President George H.W. Bush, would outlast his American rival in power until Bush's son launched the 2003 American-led invasion that toppled the Iraqi dictator.

Now, 25 years after the first U.S. Marines swept across the border into Kuwait, American forces are battling the extremist Islamic State group, born out of al-Qaida, in the splintered territories of Iraq and Syria. The Arab allies that joined the 1991 coalition are fighting their own conflicts both at home and abroad, as Iran vies for greater regional power following a nuclear deal with world powers.

In all, the United States finds itself in the quandary it hoped to avoid back in 1991.

"Had we taken all of Iraq, we would have been like the dinosaur in the tar pit — we would still be there, and we, not the United Nations, would be bearing the costs for that occupation," the late U.S. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of Desert Storm, wrote in his memoirs.

Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, angry that the tiny neighbor and the United Arab Emirates had ignored OPEC quotas, which Saddam claimed cost his nation \$14 billion. Saddam also accused Kuwait of stealing \$2.4 billion by pumping crude from a disputed oil field and demanded that Kuwait write off an estimated \$15 billion of debt that Iraq had accumulated during its 1980s war with Iran.

Fearing Saudi Arabia could be invaded next, U.S. officials moved quickly to deploy troops to the region. After months of negotiations and warnings, the U.S. launched its assault on Iraqi forces in Kuwait on Feb. 24, 1991.

In purely military and political terms, the first Gulf War marked a tremendous success for a U.S. still haunted by Vietnam. America suffered 148 combat deaths during the entire conflict, while 467 troops were wounded out of the over 500,000 deployed, according to the Defense Department. It held together an allied army, its war effort was supported by a number of United Nations resolutions, and the conflict cemented its position as the sole world power following end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

America's Arab allies also footed much of the bill for the \$61-billion war, with both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait contributing some \$16 billion while the United Arab Emirates offered \$4 billion, according to U.S. congressional reports. Japan and Germany together contributed another \$16 billion, while South Korea gave \$251 million. The U.S. covered the rest.

But the key players in the Arab world on whom the U.S. relied on during the conflict are long gone.

Saudi King Fahd died in 2005. A popular uprising toppled Egyptian autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011. Syria's totalitarian ruler Hafez Assad, a longtime U.S. foe who joined the Gulf War effort to reap billions in aid and diplomatic benefits, died in 2000. His son, President Bashar Assad, still clings to power amid a five-year civil war that has killed more than 250,000 people and flooded Europe with those fleeing violence across the region.

In Israel, the memory of Iraqi Scud missile fire prompted the military to speed up a missile-defense program that included the development of its Iron Dome rocket-defense system with the help of the Americans. Then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, a hard-liner, held back from retaliating at the request of Bush, who feared losing Arab support for the war. Though American aid to Israel exceeds \$3 billion a year, relations have been strained over stalled Palestinian peace talks.

Yet despite seeing his forces routed from Kuwait, Saddam clung to power and survived an uprising by both Shiites and Kurds following the war. The U.S. and its allies began to patrol a northern and southern no-fly zone to protect the Shiites and the Kurds while Saddam remained a thorn in the inside of American politics for more than a decade.

"I miscalculated," Bush said in a December 1995 interview. "I thought he'd be gone."

It would take President George W. Bush's 2003 invasion to end Saddam's reign, coming amid the U.S. campaign in Afghanistan. In its aftermath, al-Qaida in Iraq would arise and be put down by a U.S. military surge, coupled with the support of Sunni tribesmen. But as the U.S. withdrew from Iraq and Baghdad stopped supporting the Sunni tribesmen, the Islamic State group emerged from the ashes of al-Qaida in Iraq and in 2014, took control of about a third of both Iraq and neighboring Syria.

Today, the U.S. finds itself mired in a long war feared by Schwarzkopf and others who oversaw Operation Desert Storm. Oil prices, which sparked Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, have dropped to under \$30 a barrel from more than \$100 in just a year and a half.

The cause, in part, is the same OPEC overproduction the late dictator Saddam railed against across the splintered Middle East.

AP EXCLUSIVE: Damning study finds a 'whitewashed' Hollywood

JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In one of the most exhaustive and damning reports on diversity in Hollywood, a new study finds that the films and television produced by major media companies are "whitewashed," and that an "epidemic of invisibility" runs top to bottom through the industry for women, minorities and LGBT people.

A study to be released Monday by the Media, Diversity and Social Change Initiative at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism offers one of the most wide-ranging examinations of the film and television industries, including a pointed "inclusivity index" of 10 major media companies — from Disney to Netflix — that gives a failing grade to every movie studio and most TV makers.

Coming just days before an Academy Awards where a second straight year of all-white acting nominees has enflamed an industry-wide crisis, the report offers a new barrage of sobering statistics that further evidence a deep discrepancy between Hollywood and the American population it entertains, in gender, race and ethnicity.

"The prequel to OscarsSoWhite is HollywoodSoWhite," said Stacy L. Smith, a USC professor and one of the study's authors, in an interview. "We don't have a diversity problem. We have an inclusion crisis."

The study, titled the Comprehensive Annenberg Report on Diversity, examined the 109 films released by major studios (including art-house divisions) in 2014 and 305 scripted, first-run TV and digital series across 31 networks and streaming services that aired from September 2014 to August 2015. More than 11,000 speaking characters were analyzed for gender, racial and ethnic representation and LGBT status. Some 10,000 directors, writers and show creators were examined, as was the gender of more than 1,500 executives.

The portrait is one of pervasive underrepresentation, no matter the media platform, from CEOs to minor characters. "Overall, the landscape of media content is still largely whitewashed," the study concludes.

In the 414 studied films and series, only a third of speaking characters were female, and only 28.3 percent were from minority groups — about 10 percent less than the makeup of the U.S. population. Characters 40 years or older skew heavily male across film and TV: 74.3 percent male to 25.7 percent female.

Just 2 percent of speaking characters were LGBT-identified. Among the 11,306 speaking characters studied, only seven were transgendered (and four were from the same series).

"When we start to step back to see this larger ecology, I think we see a picture of exclusion," said Smith. "And it doesn't match the norms of the population of the United States."

Behind the camera, the discrepancy is even greater. Directors overall were 87 percent white. Broadcast TV directors (90.4 percent white) were the least diverse.

Just 15.2 percent of directors, 28.9 percent of writers and 22.6 percent of series creators were female. In film, the gender gap is greatest: Only 3.4 percent of the films studied were directed by women, and only two directors out of the 109 were black women: Ava DuVernay ("Selma") and Amma Asante ("Belle").

USC's study, which the school has been publishing in various forms for the last 10 years, also seeks to

add a new metric in the conversation. The "inclusivity index" is a report card for the performances of 21st Century Fox, CBS, NBC Universal, Sony, the Walt Disney Co., Time Warner, Viacom, Amazon, Hulu and Netflix. Those companies encompass all the broadcast networks, most major cable channels, all of the major movie studios and three of the dominant streaming services.

Each was rated by their percentage of female, minority and LGBT characters; and of female writers and directors. None of the six major studios rated better than 20 percent overall; Time Warner fared poorest of all with a score of zero. The report concludes that the film industry "still functions as a straight, white, boy's club."

Disney, Sony, Paramount, Fox, Universal and Warner Bros. didn't immediately comment Sunday night.

Some of the same companies, however, scored better when their TV and digital offerings were evaluated. Disney, the CW, Amazon and Hulu all scored 65 percent and above.

"When we turn to see where the problem is better or worse, the apex to this whole endeavor is: Everyone in film is failing, all of the companies investigated," said Smith. "They're impervious to change. But there are pockets of promise in television. There is a focus that change is possible. The very companies that are inclusive — Disney, CW, Hulu, Amazon to some degree — those companies, if they're producing and distributing motion pictures, can do this. We now have evidence that they can, and they can thrive."

Uganda's opposition leader arrested trying to leave his home

RODNEY MUHUMUZA, Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Tensions after Uganda's elections, criticized by international observers as being undemocratic, ratcheted up on Monday when police arrested President Yoweri Museveni's main challenger.

Kizza Besigye was arrested as he tried to leave his home where he had been confined under house arrest. Associated Press journalists saw police manhandle him into the back of a blacked-out van and taken away to an undisclosed location.

Besigye had been going to the election commission to get detailed copies of results from presidential election. He has called for an independent audit that includes the international community.

Polly Namaye, a police spokeswoman, said officers arrested Besigye to keep him from "storming the electoral commission with his supporters."

Neutral observers had criticized the government for using security forces against opposition candidates and supporters.

The commission announced Saturday that Museveni won the vote with more than 60 percent of counted ballots, while Besigye got 35 percent.

Those results did not include tallies from at least 1,242 polling stations, election commission spokesman Jotham Taremwa told AP on Monday. That's about 4 percent of all polling stations.

Taremwa said the missing results cannot change the outcome, but Besigye's supporters note they could bring down Museveni's margin of victory. Museveni needed 50 percent plus one vote to avoid a runoff election.

The election commission lacks independence and transparency, the European Union observer mission said.

The 71-year-old Museveni seized power in 1986. He is a key U.S. ally on security matters, especially in Somalia.

Besigye was Museveni's personal physician during the 1981 to 1986 bush war between Museveni's rebels and forces loyal to former President Milton Obote. He also served as deputy interior minister in his first Cabinet, and broke with the president in 1999, saying he was no longer a democrat.

Donald Trump's rivals face dwindling time to stop him

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Donald Trump's rivals are running out of time to stop him after his dominant performance in South Carolina.

A close look at the election calendar suggests that if the New York billionaire's rivals don't slow him by mid-March, their only chance to deny him the Republican presidential nomination may be a nasty and public fight at the party's convention this summer.

"When you look at it right now, it looks like there's this juggernaut," said Rich Beeson, a senior aide to one of Trump's main rivals, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

The reason is delegates and how they're awarded.

Winning states generates headlines, but the nomination is earned by collecting a majority of the delegates awarded in primaries and caucuses. Next up: Nevada's caucuses on Tuesday.

This year, most contests award delegates proportionally, based on each candidate's share of the vote. Beeson and strategists for other campaigns argue that could make it hard for Trump to build a big lead because even the second- and third-place finisher can win delegates.

If one candidate can run up a significant lead, as Trump has begun to, then proportional contests also make it difficult for rivals to catch up.

South Carolina is the perfect example of this problem for Rubio and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz. The state isn't winner-take-all when it comes to delegates, but Trump's strength in all parts of South Carolina allowed him to haul in all 50 delegates awarded in Saturday's primary.

Trump now has 67 delegates. Cruz and Rubio took home none from South Carolina, leaving them with a total of 11 and 10, respectively.

Trump is well on his way, and he knows it.

"Folks, let's go, let's have a big win in Nevada, let's have a big win in the SEC," Trump said in his South Carolina victory speech, referring to the states with universities in the Southeastern Conference that will vote next month. "Let's put this thing away."

Only a small fraction of the delegates to be won in the GOP primary season, which began Feb. 1 in Iowa and ends June 7 in California and a handful of other states, have been awarded to date. But some of Trump's opponents acknowledge he could build an insurmountable lead by mid-March if current trends continue.

"There are going to be a lot of circumstances where we can declare some victories and at least get this thing to March 15," Beeson said. "Once we get to March 15, if the die has not been cast by then, it's a different game."

Why March 15?

That's the first day on which the GOP's rules allow states to hold a winner-take-all contest.

Florida will award 99 delegates that day, while Ohio will give out 66. The Missouri primary is that day, too.

Like South Carolina, Missouri awards a pot of delegates to the statewide winner, as well as three delegates each to the winner of each congressional district. That makes it possible for one candidate to win all of Missouri's 52 delegates, or at least a large majority.

Put simply, it's a day in which a candidate running second to Trump could catch up. Or fall even further behind.

Altogether, there are 14 such contests on the GOP primary calendar, offering a total of 752 delegates. That's not enough delegates to claim the nomination; it takes 1,237. But if one candidate wins most of those states, he could build a lead too big to overcome.

In the modern political era, a candidate usually wins enough delegates to emerge as the presumptive nominee several weeks — or even months — before the end of primary voting. That happens when the candidate claims so many delegates it's all but impossible for anyone else to catch up.

But the nomination isn't formalized until the party's presidential nominating convention, scheduled for July this year. The last time the Republican nomination wasn't decided before the convention was 1976. Yet some of Trump's rivals are already talking about the possibility of a "contested" convention as they envision a series of second- or third-place finishes in the upcoming GOP primaries.

Rubio's campaign manager, Terry Sullivan, recently told The Associated Press, "I would be surprised if it's not May or the convention" when the party settles on its nominee.

At the convention, a lead in the race for delegates guarantees nothing if the candidate doesn't have an outright majority, said Ben Ginsberg, a leading Republican election attorney. Under most state party rules, delegates are only required to vote for their candidate on the first ballot at the convention.

"If no one comes into the convention with a majority of delegates, then all bets are off," Ginsberg said. "You're dealing with a potentially unruly and independent group of people."

Coming battle over Scalia vacancy departs from historic norm

ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The history of Supreme Court nominations is dominated by tales of picks the Senate debated and approved with little angst. President Barack Obama's upcoming effort to fill the vacancy created by Antonin Scalia's death doesn't seem to be one of those stories.

Senators were returning to Washington Monday from a weeklong recess that saw the 79-year-old justice's unexpected passing inject a blaring new issue into this election year. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's declaration that the vacancy should remain "until we have a new president" infuriated Democrats who want the spot filled promptly, setting up a lengthy fight for which each side is still mapping its moves.

McConnell's statement was an unambiguous cry of opposition to confirming an Obama pick, but it seemed to leave leaders with the tactical flexibility for some Senate consideration short of approval, such as hearings.

But the majority leader — who controls the Senate's schedule — seemed to rule out that option in an opinion column posted late Friday on the Lexington Herald-Leader newspaper's website. The Kentucky Republican wrote that he favors "deferring action in the Senate" until a new president selects someone for the vacant seat.

The stakes for the Scalia vacancy are especially high because by replacing him, Obama could tip the court's balance from conservative to liberal. He's expected to announce his nomination in coming weeks.

Considerations not yet publicly known were making it tough for Republicans to fine-tune their approach just yet, including questions about whom Obama will name and who the GOP presidential nominee will be. Another challenge was how GOP senators facing re-election in closely divided states would strike a balance between retaining conservatives' support and avoiding accusations from independent voters of being too partisan.

One of those senators, Kelly Ayotte, a New Hampshire Republican whose GOP primary election is not until September, displayed no such concerns Friday. She tweeted, "W/ so much on the line, Senate should not proceed w confirmation process until American ppl have spoken by electing a new president in Nov."

GOP senators planned to discuss the court vacancy Tuesday at their weekly private lunch. Despite initial suggestions by some that hearings were possible, Republicans have rallied behind McConnell's argument that with November's presidential and congressional elections approaching, the Scalia seat should remain empty until voters choose the next president.

"Even if the president nominated my daughter, who's a lawyer, to the Supreme Court, I think the American people ought to get to vote and decide if they'd like to see my daughter on the Supreme Court," Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., said Friday in Arnold, Missouri, where he launched his own re-election campaign.

Outnumbered Democrats were solidly behind Obama but seemed to face an uphill climb. They were strategizing over how to maximize pressure on Republican senators, including Ayotte and four others seeking re-election in states Obama won in both 2008 and 2012: Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

No. 3 Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York predicted Friday that voter pressure will force the GOP to consider the nomination because failure to act "will hurt badly the Republican brand, which is trying to get away from obstructionism."

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In an interview, he said the issue was already helping his party politically because, "I think now, the Democratic side in the election will be as motivated as the Republican side because they know what's at stake."

Recent decades have seen other pitched battles over Supreme Court selections, including Robert Bork's 1987 rejection and Samuel Alito's confirmation in 2005. Yet it's unusual for the Senate to wage titanic struggles over the selections, or take no action at all.

Since 1789, presidents have sent 160 Supreme Court nominations to the Senate, according to the non-partisan Congressional Research Service. Of those, 124 were confirmed.

Underscoring the usual lack of controversy, 73 of them won confirmation by voice vote — a method that often indicates that a matter lacks major disagreement.

And of the 51 approved on roll call votes, only 26 times did 10 or more senators vote against the nominee. Since 1967, the Senate has always taken roll calls on Supreme Court nominations.

Of the 36 who failed to win confirmation, the Senate rejected 11 — most recently Bork, in a bitter partisan battle after he'd been nominated by President Ronald Reagan. Thirteen others saw action on the Senate floor that stopped short of a final roll call.

Only 12 nominations have not reached the Senate floor, including just five instances in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Of those 12, six were withdrawn by the president before full Senate action was taken. The most recent was President George W. Bush's 2005 withdrawal of his nomination of Harriet Miers after some Republicans complained she wasn't conservative enough.

"The Senate has exhibited little tendency to leave Supreme Court nominations without a final vote simply out of reluctance to act, or to use inaction as an indirect means of denying confirmation," a 2011 report by the research service said.

Russia wants to fly over US with advanced digital camera

DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia will ask permission on Monday to start flying surveillance planes equipped with high-powered digital cameras amid warnings from U.S. intelligence and military officials that such overflights help Moscow collect intelligence on the United States.

Russia and the United States are signatories to the Open Skies Treaty, which allows unarmed observation flights over the entire territory of all 34 member nations to foster transparency about military activity and help monitor arms control and other agreements. Senior intelligence and military officials, however, worry that Russia is taking advantage of technological advances to violate the spirit of the treaty.

Russia will formally ask the Open Skies Consultative Commission, based in Vienna, to be allowed to fly an aircraft equipped with high-tech sensors over the United States, according to a senior congressional staffer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the staff member wasn't authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

The request will put the Obama administration in the position of having to decide whether to let Russia use the high-powered equipment on its surveillance planes at a time when Moscow, according to the latest State Department compliance report, is failing to meet all its obligations under the treaty. And it comes at one of the most tension-filled times in U.S.-Russia relations since the end of the Cold War, with the two countries at odds over Russian activity in Ukraine and Syria.

"The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States," Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of the U.S. Strategic Command, wrote in a letter earlier this year to Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Ala., chairman of a House subcommittee on strategic forces.

"In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies flights can overfly and collect on Department of Defense and national security or national critical infrastructure," Haney said. "The vulnerability exposed by exploitation of this data and costs of mitigation are increasingly difficult to characterize."

A State Department official said Sunday that treaty nations had not yet received notice of the Russian request, but that certification of the Russian plane with a "digital electro-optical sensor" could not occur

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until this summer because the treaty requires a 120-day advance notification. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

The official also said that the treaty, which was entered into force in 2002, establishes procedures for certifying digital sensors to confirm that they are compliant with treaty requirements. The official said all signatories to the treaty agree that "transition from film cameras to digital sensors is required for the long-term viability of the treaty."

In December, Rose Gottemoeller, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, sought to temper concerns about Russian overflights, saying that what Moscow gains from the observation flights is "incremental" to what they collect through other means.

"One of the advantages of the Open Skies Treaty is that information — imagery — that is taken is shared openly among all the treaty parties," she said at a joint hearing of the House Foreign Affairs and Armed Services committees in December. "So one of the advantages with the Open Skies Treaty is that we know exactly what the Russians are imaging, because they must share the imagery with us."

Still, military and intelligence officials have expressed serious concern.

"The open skies construct was designed for a different era," Lt. Gen. Vincent Stewart, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, told lawmakers when asked about the Russian overflights during a congressional hearing. "I'm very concerned about how it's applied today."

Robert Work, deputy secretary of defense, told Congress: "We think that they're going beyond the original intent of the treaty and we continue to look at this very, very closely."

Steve Rademaker, former assistant secretary of state for the bureau of arms control and the bureau of international security and nonproliferation, told Congress at a hearing on security cooperation in Europe in October that Russia complies with the Open Skies Treaty, but has "adopted a number of measures that are inconsistent with the spirit" of the accord.

The treaty, for instance, obligates each member to make all of its territory available for aerial observation, yet Russia has imposed restrictions on surveillance over Moscow and Chechnya and near Abkhazia and South Ossetia, he said. Russian restrictions also make it hard to conduct observation in the Kaliningrad enclave, said Rademaker, who believes Russia is "selectively implementing" the treaty "in a way that suits its interests."

Damning study finds a 'whitewashed' Hollywood

JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In one of the most exhaustive and damning reports on diversity in Hollywood, a new study finds that the films and television produced by major media companies are "whitewashed," and that an "epidemic of invisibility" runs top to bottom through the industry for women, minorities and LGBT people.

A study to be released Monday by the Media, Diversity and Social Change Initiative at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism offers one of the most wide-ranging examinations of the film and television industries, including a pointed "inclusivity index" of 10 major media companies — from Disney to Netflix — that gives a failing grade to every movie studio and most TV makers.

Coming just days before an Academy Awards where a second straight year of all-white acting nominees has enflamed an industry-wide crisis, the report offers a new barrage of sobering statistics that further evidence a deep discrepancy between Hollywood and the American population it entertains, in gender, race and ethnicity.

"The prequel to OscarsSoWhite is HollywoodSoWhite," said Stacy L. Smith, a USC professor and one of the study's authors, in an interview. "We don't have a diversity problem. We have an inclusion crisis."

The study, titled the Comprehensive Annenberg Report on Diversity, examined the 109 films released by major studios (including art-house divisions) in 2014 and 305 scripted, first-run TV and digital series across 31 networks and streaming services that aired from September 2014 to August 2015. More than 11,000 speaking characters were analyzed for gender, racial and ethnic representation and LGBT status. Some 10,000 directors, writers and show creators were examined, as was the gender of more than 1,500

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executives.

The portrait is one of pervasive underrepresentation, no matter the media platform, from CEOs to minor characters. "Overall, the landscape of media content is still largely whitewashed," the study concludes.

In the 414 studied films and series, only a third of speaking characters were female, and only 28.3 percent were from minority groups — about 10 percent less than the makeup of the U.S. population. Characters 40 years or older skew heavily male across film and TV: 74.3 percent male to 25.7 percent female.

Just 2 percent of speaking characters were LGBT-identified. Among the 11,306 speaking characters studied, only seven were transgendered (and four were from the same series).

"When we start to step back to see this larger ecology, I think we see a picture of exclusion," said Smith. "And it doesn't match the norms of the population of the United States."

Behind the camera, the discrepancy is even greater. Directors overall were 87 percent white. Broadcast TV directors (90.4 percent white) were the least diverse.

Just 15.2 percent of directors, 28.9 percent of writers and 22.6 percent of series creators were female. In film, the gender gap is greatest: Only 3.4 percent of the films studied were directed by women, and only two directors out of the 109 were black women: Ava DuVernay ("Selma") and Amma Asante ("Belle").

Following a request made in May by the American Civil Liberties Union (which cited previous USC studies, as well as those by UCLA and the Directors Guild in claiming women have been "systematically excluded" from directing jobs), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission last year began investigating gender discrimination in Hollywood.

The federal investigation is just one element of growing scrutiny for the industry. But for protesters, finding a target for what some consider a systematic problem isn't easy. Even many of those, like Spike Lee, who have criticized the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, have insisted the issue goes far deeper than Oscar nominees. When academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs recently announced dramatic steps to diversify the overwhelmingly white and male film academy, she said: "The academy is going to lead, and not wait for the industry to catch up."

USC's study, which the school has been publishing in various forms for the last 10 years, also seeks to add a new metric in the conversation. The "inclusivity index" is a report card for the performances of 21st Century Fox, CBS, NBC Universal, Sony, the Walt Disney Co., Time Warner, Viacom, Amazon, Hulu and Netflix. Those companies encompass all the broadcast networks, most major cable channels, all of the major movie studios and three of the dominant streaming services.

Each was rated by their percentage of female, minority and LGBT characters; and of female writers and directors. None of the six major studios rated better than 20 percent overall; Time Warner fared poorest of all with a score of zero. The report concludes that the film industry "still functions as a straight, white, boy's club."

Disney, Sony, Paramount, Fox, Universal and Warner Bros. didn't immediately comment Sunday night.

Some of the same companies, however, scored better when their TV and digital offerings were evaluated. Disney, the CW, Amazon and Hulu all scored 65 percent and above.

"When we turn to see where the problem is better or worse, the apex to this whole endeavor is: Everyone in film is failing, all of the companies investigated," said Smith. "They're impervious to change. But there are pockets of promise in television. There is a focus that change is possible. The very companies that are inclusive — Disney, CW, Hulu, Amazon to some degree — those companies, if they're producing and distributing motion pictures, can do this. We now have evidence that they can, and they can thrive."

USC researchers also, for the first time, added analysis of those 10 companies' executives. Researchers didn't have racial or ethnic background information, but found that women represent about 20 percent of corporate boards, chief executives and executive management teams.

"As prestige or power of the title increases, we see fewer women at the top," said Katherine Pieper, who co-authored the study with Smith and Marc Choueiti. "Film still has a prestige to it, so we see fewer women filling those positions."

The research offers the chance for comparison between mediums. Do streaming services adhere to the established patterns of traditional television or deviate from them?

In some cases, they do, but in many, they don't. Netflix (20 percent on the inclusion index) scored about the same as NBC Universal, CBS and Fox. There were far fewer female directors working in digital series (11.8 percent) than in broadcast (17.1 percent), in the shows studied. Broadcast, cable and streaming series also all revel in sexualized female characters and nudity more than movies do.

But some of the study's most troubling finds are simply absences. Roughly 50 percent of the examined content didn't feature one Asian or Asian-American character; 20 percent didn't include one black character. Researchers argue for change beyond "tokenism," including making target goals public and creating a system of checks and balances in storytelling decisions.

"People are still erased. It's 2016 and it's time for a change," said Smith. "We've laid out concrete actionable steps because we don't want to do this again in 10 years."

Southbound, Clinton aims to build delegate edge over Sanders

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The election calendar may have Democrats voting next in South Carolina, but Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are eyeing bigger prizes in March, a month that will determine whether the Vermont senator can keep pace in the White House race.

Clinton shook off some of the anxieties shadowing her campaign with a solid victory in Saturday's Nevada caucuses.

The results offered a glimpse of her strength with black voters. They are a crucial group in South Carolina, which holds its primary this coming Saturday, and in other Southern states with contests on March 1, Super Tuesday.

Sanders has yet to prove he can consistently expand his base of support beyond white liberals and young voters. His campaign cited progress with Latinos in Nevada, but his advisers are clear-eyed about the challenges on Super Tuesday. They are mapping out plans to stay close to Clinton in the delegate count until the race turns to friendlier territory later in March.

"Because we can do the long game, once we get past March 1, the calendar changes dramatically," said Jeff Weaver, Sanders' campaign manager. "It's frontloaded for her, but we have the ability to stay in the long game."

More than half the 2,383 delegates needed to win the Democratic nomination will be determined in the 28 states that hold primaries and caucuses in March.

Clinton and Sanders should have enough money to stay in the race for weeks afterward, but the delegate tally at the end of the month could make the results inevitable.

For Sanders, strong showings in March are more important because of Clinton's lead with superdelegates — the party leaders who can support any candidates regardless of how their states vote.

Clinton has captured the support of 451 superdelegates compared with Sanders' 19.

Underpinning Clinton's strategy are the painful lessons of her 2008 primary loss to Barack Obama. Clinton's campaign failed to account for the Democratic Party's system of allocating delegates proportionally in voting contests, then watched superdelegates, who can shift their allegiances, move toward Obama as the campaign stretched late into the spring.

Under the proportional system, avoiding overwhelming losses that can dramatically shift the delegate totals is almost as important as outright victories.

"Other than Vermont, I don't see a single state where Hillary Clinton is going to lose in a blowout. I see a lot of states where Hillary Clinton will probably win by a lot and that equals real delegate yield," said David Plouffe, the architect of Obama's 2008 campaign and a Clinton supporter.

"I know that's not sexy, but I think that's how the Clinton campaign has structured their campaign this time after some of the lessons from eight years ago."

Few observers had foreseen Sanders as a serious threat to Clinton. But he has energized young people, working-class voters and liberals with his impassioned calls for breaking up big Wall Street banks and making tuition at public colleges and universities free.

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"I think the more people know our record, the better we do," Sanders said Sunday on CBS' "Face The Nation."

Sanders' prolific online fundraising has given him staying power and he has pledged to take his campaign into the Democratic convention in July.

While Sanders outraised Clinton in January, a new fundraising report showed he went on a spending spree at the start of the year and ended last month with about \$15 million in available cash — less than half of Clinton's cash on hand.

That's enough to stay competitive and Sanders' team is eying delegates in March 1 states such as Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma and his home state. He also hopes to flex his muscles in two other states with contests that day, Colorado and Virginia, and help him make the case that he is more electable than Clinton.

Sanders' campaign has cited entrance polls of Nevada caucus-goers showing him doing better than Clinton among Latino voters. But the high margin of error in the polls makes it impossible to say with confidence whether either candidate held a lead among the group.

While Sanders was campaigning in South Carolina on Sunday, he planned to be in Massachusetts for a college rally and campaign in Norfolk, Virginia, on Tuesday.

Clinton also was spending time in Super Tuesday states. She flew from Nevada on Saturday to Texas, a huge delegate prize, for a late-night rally in Houston. She planned to raise money in California and then campaign in South Carolina.

Beyond Super Tuesday, Clinton and Sanders are looking ahead to the March 15 contests in Florida, Illinois, Missouri and Ohio. Big wins in those states for either candidate would put the nomination within sight.

Clinton's support among black voters could pay dividends because of the way Democrats award high-performing congressional districts with a greater share of delegates.

Many of the most delegate-rich states have large minority populations, including Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Illinois and Florida, giving Clinton an inside track to accumulate delegates in March.

Ballot question on Morales re-election in trouble

CARLOS VALDEZ, Associated Press

FRANK BAJAK, Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Voters' eagerness for new blood in Bolivian politics and thinning patience with government corruption may make President Evo Morales' current term in office his last.

Early results and an unofficial partial vote count early Monday indicated Morales' bid to extend his presidency by amending the constitution was headed toward a narrow defeat.

Morales has governed for a decade. A "yes" vote in Sunday's referendum would have let Bolivia's first indigenous president seek a fourth term in 2019.

The referendum's timing could not have been worse for Morales. He was stung this month by an influence-peddling scandal involving a former lover and by a deadly incident of political violence.

Two unofficial "quick counts" by polling firms that looked at counts from a sampling of polling stations said 52 percent voted "no." One firm, Ipsos-Apoyo, said it saw ballots at one of every 15 polling stations.

Official vote counting was slow. With just 23 percent polling stations reporting just after midnight, the "no" vote stood at 67 percent. But vote reports were particularly slow in coming from the countryside, where Morales is most popular. State television halted election coverage shortly before midnight.

A frustrated Vice President Alvaro Garcia said at a news conference Sunday night that the vote was so far "a technical tie" — too close to call.

"No one has won, nor has anyone lost," he said. Morales did not make an appearance.

Michael Shifter, president of the Inter-American Dialogue think tank in Washington, called the tight vote a surprising, major blow to Morales, who tallied more than 60 percent in his 2014 re-election.

"While few can deny that Bolivia has seen impressive economic growth and social progress under Morales' rule, many voters are sending a message that it is not enough — they are demanding clean government, accountability and more competitive politics," Shifter said.

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Morales, who entered politics as a coca growers union leader, could now be motivated to groom a successor, he added.

Bolivia's constitution, enacted in Morales' initial term, permits presidents and vice presidents to serve two consecutive terms. Morales' first term was deemed by a high court not to have counted.

International observers reported only minor irregularities in Sunday's vote.

The referendum followed by days a political bombshell: A former lover of Morales was named sales manager of a Chinese company in 2013 that has obtained nearly \$500 million in mostly no-bid state contracts. Morales denied any impropriety and his claim to have last seen the woman in 2007 was questioned when a picture of them together last year emerged.

The case deepened doubts about the integrity of Morales' governing Movement Toward Socialism, which has been wracked by scandals.

Adding to Morales' woes, six city workers died of smoke inhalation last week in El Alto, the teeming city adjacent to the capital of La Paz, in an attack blamed on pro-Morales agitators. The attackers torched documents that allegedly incriminated the previous mayor in payroll corruption.

Both developments blighted Morales' achievements in cutting poverty, spreading Bolivia's natural resource wealth and empowering its indigenous majority during a decade in office.

Eusebio Condori, a retired schoolteacher, said he voted "no" because the scandal and the deaths "confirm that this government doesn't have a plan for Bolivia, only for itself."

A mother of three, Maria Espinoza, said she voted "no" because she believes in term limits. She echoed the complaint of others that too many jobs depend on political patronage.

South America's left has recently been sullied by scandal — and punished at the ballot box in Argentina and Venezuela — but Morales had personally remained unscathed.

His movement has been discredited, however, by the skimming of millions from the government-managed Fondo Indigena, which runs agricultural and public works in the countryside.

Morales presided over an unprecedented economic boom as prices for raw materials soared just as he took office.

He built airports, highways and the pride of La Paz, an Austrian-built aerial tramway system. He also put a Chinese-built satellite into space. Average per capita income rose from \$873 to \$3,119 and a new indigenous middle class was born.

But the boom is over. Bolivia's revenues from natural gas and minerals, making up three-fourths of its exports, were down 32 percent last year.

Economists say Morales leaned heavily on extractive industries to pay for populist programs and failed to diversify the economy.

In addition, judicial corruption has been endemic and press freedom suffered as major news outlets were purchased by people friendly to the government. Critical media and environmentalists complained of harassment by the state.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 22, the 53rd day of 2016. There are 313 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 22, 1732 (New Style date), the first president of the United States, George Washington, was born in Westmoreland County in the Virginia Colony.

On this date:

In 1784, a U.S. merchant ship, the Empress of China, left New York for the Far East to trade goods with China.

In 1862, Jefferson Davis, already the provisional president of the Confederacy, was inaugurated for a six-year term following his election in Nov. 1861.

In 1865, Tennessee amended its constitution to abolish slavery.

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In 1909, the Great White Fleet, a naval task force sent on a round-the-world voyage by President Theodore Roosevelt, returned after more than a year at sea.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge delivered the first radio broadcast from the White House as he addressed the country over 42 stations.

In 1935, it became illegal for airplanes to fly over the White House.

In 1940, the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, was enthroned at age four in Lhasa, Tibet.

In 1959, the inaugural Daytona 500 race was held; although Johnny Beauchamp was initially declared the winner, the victory was later awarded to Lee Petty.

In 1967, more than 25,000 U.S. and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation Junction City, aimed at smashing a Vietcong stronghold near the Cambodian border. (Although the communists were driven out, they later returned.)

In 1974, Pakistan officially recognized Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan).

In 1980, the "Miracle on Ice" took place in Lake Placid, New York, as the United States Olympic hockey team upset the Soviets, 4-3. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1996, the space shuttle Columbia blasted into orbit on a mission to unreel a satellite on the end of a 12.8-mile tether. (The cord broke just before being extended to its full length.)

Ten years ago: Insurgents destroyed the golden dome of one of Iraq's holiest Shiite shrines, the Askariya mosque in Samarra, setting off an unprecedented spasm of sectarian violence. Thieves stole \$96 million from a Bank of England cash depot 30 miles southeast of London in Britain's largest cash robbery. (Six men were later caught and almost half of the money was recovered.) Eight workers at a Nebraska meatpacking plant came forward to claim a \$365 million Powerball jackpot.

Five years ago: A defiant Moammar Gadhafi vowed to fight to his "last drop of blood" and roared at supporters to strike back against Libyan protesters to defend his embattled regime. A magnitude-6.1 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, killed 184 people. Somali pirates shot to death four Americans taken hostage on their yacht several hundred miles south of Oman. Former White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel was elected mayor of Chicago.

One year ago: At the 87th Academy Awards, "Birdman" won best picture; Julianne Moore received the best actress Oscar for "Still Alice" while Eddie Redmayne was recognized as best actor for "The Theory of Everything." Joey Logano won his first career Daytona 500 after taking the lead following a restart with 19 laps remaining.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Paul Dooley is 88. Actor James Hong is 87. Hollywood "ghost singer" Marni Nixon is 86. Movie director Jonathan Demme (DEH'-mee) is 72. Actor John Ashton is 68. Actress Miou-Miou is 66. Actress Julie Walters is 66. Basketball Hall of Famer Julius Erving is 66. Actress Ellen Greene is 65. Former Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., is 64. Former White House adviser David Axelrod is 61. Actor Kyle MacLachlan is 57. World Golf Hall of Famer Vijay Singh is 53. Actress-comedian Rachel Dratch is 50. Actor Paul Lieberstein is 49. Actress Jeri Ryan is 48. Actor Thomas Jane is 47. TV host Clinton Kelly is 47. Actress Tamara Mello is 46. Actress-singer Lea Salonga (LAY'-uh suh-LAHN'-guh) is 45. Actor Jose Solano is 45. International Tennis Hall-of-Famer Michael Chang is 44. Rock musician Scott Phillips is 43. Singer James Blunt is 42. Actress Drew Barrymore is 41. Actress Liza Huber is 41. Rock singer Tom Higgenson (Plain White T's) is 37. Actor Zach Roerig is 31. Actor Daniel E. Smith is 26.

Thought for Today: "It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one." — President George Washington (1732-1799).