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Friday, March 11

SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL
State A GBB Tourney in Watertown
Senior Menu: Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, sherbet, whole wheat bread.

Birthday: Nora Rix

Saturday, March 12

State A GBB Tourney in Watertown
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
Mass10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
3:00pm: 3 pm: (Open Gym for JK-8th for 6-12 from 5-7)

Come meet with local hiring businesses!

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

2016 ABERDEEN AREA JOB FAIR

Thursday, March 17

12:30 – 5 p.m.

Aberdeen Civic Arena
215 S Washington St
Please use West entrance

SD-2076330D

Sponsored By :

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

Let the Department of Labor and Regulation help you prepare

Write your resume • Fill out applications • Practice interviewing skills

There is no
cost to attend!

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program
USDOL Funded

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

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



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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Put our experienced team to work for you!



GROTON
Ford
GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

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Report from Pierre from Rep. Dennis Feickert, District 1

The final week of our 2016 Session has finished in a flurry of bills, amendments, and monetary decisions beginning on Monday and ending Friday. The Joint Appropriations Committee was tasked with making the final determinations on spending in preparing the 2016 General Funding Bill.

Next we'll have a two week break where we will recess until March 29 and then return for what is known as "Veto Day." It's possible that the Governor and the legislature will agree on all items and no vetoes will occur, but that would be an unusual ending in that there are almost always some issues which carry a veto.

Although there were many important issues throughout the Session, I'd like to focus on some that might not have gotten as much attention from the media, but are significant to rural South Dakota and District 1 constituents.

Land & Water Conservation

The buffer strip bill was sponsored primarily by Sen. Jim Peterson (D-Reville) and I was happy to co-sponsor and promote this bill. It passed the Senate 35-0 and the House 58-9. This bill gives land owners who plant perennial vegetation on cropland along lakes, rivers, and streams a tax break. These land strips (up to 50 feet wide) which includes land previously tilled will receive a non-crop rating when planted to buffers. I was proud to support this bill and help preserve two of our most vital resources- our land and our water.

Registration fee on farm vehicles

Another bill I was proud to co-sponsor was HB 1137 which easily passed through the House and Senate was delivered to the Governor today, (March 10). The registration fees on farm trucks have increased from \$4.26 million in 2009 to \$15.27 million. Cities had been receiving 15% of this money although farm trucks are forbidden to drive on city streets. HB 1137 gives townships another \$1 million to use on the 43,000 miles of township roads. This was a needed shift of revenues and helps solve some of the issues which were not adequately dealt with last year in the roads and bridges funding bill. As large equipment continues to move on township roads and bridges, we must not let the new revenues which came from last year's Transportation Bill, not end up being spent as intended. The legislature's intent was to see the money go to infrastructure improvements where they are needed the most: farm to market roads in the townships.

HB 1007-land Assessment

One of the most important bills passed for South Dakota's number one industry-Agriculture-was HB 1007.

I was proud to be a co-sponsor of this bill. This particular legislation authorizes contracts with South Dakota State University to do a two year update of all soil types in all counties developing soil ratings for cropland and non-crop. It will provide science based data that can be used for land assessments. The Ag Land Task Force met throughout the previous summer to develop this plan with the assistance of SDSU's plant science and economics departments. These updates often last for decades. It is important to do it right. I'm happy to report that HB 1107 was signed by the Governor into law on March 7th of this past week.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you, the residents of District 1 for the past eight years. Please feel free to contact me at rep.feickert@state.sd.us or call me at 605-216-3451 with any questions, concerns or comments.

The logo for Golden Living, featuring the word "golden" in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font above the word "living" in a darker blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. A thin, curved line in a light blue color arches over the text.

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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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6 AGENDA

School Board Meeting March 14, 2016 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of February 8, 2016 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
2. Approval of minutes of February 22, 2016 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
3. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as school of record.
4. Approval of February 2016 School Transportation Report and School Lunch Report.
5. Approval of February Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
6. Approval of February District bills for payment.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Lars Hanson, Marty Weismantel, Merle Harder
 - b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Dorene Nelson, Grant Rix
 - c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith
3. Continued discussion on Doney Field sign.
4. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation on projected impact of new education funding formula on Groton Area School District.
2. Approve signed 2016-2017 Teaching Contracts.
3. Approve bid specs for lawn tractor/mower and set bid opening for 2:00 PM on Monday, April 11 at 2:00 PM.
4. Set rate for summer 2016 Driver's Education [Recommendation: \$250; No Change].
5. Approve summer 2016 Drivers Education Employment Agreement with Mr. Wanner.
6. Review Department of Health Food Service Inspection of High School facility conducted on 2/17/16.
7. Approve resignation from Joel Guthmiller as Assistant Girls Basketball Coach.
8. Change start time of March 29, 2016 school board meeting from 7:00 PM to 5:00 PM for facilities planning session with FJJ.
9. Executive session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel.

ADJOURN

Reminder: Next meeting date is Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

Dollar General Special Exception Hearing Set

NOTICE OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION HEARING

The Groton Planning & Zoning Commission will continue the public hearing on March 28, 2016 at 7:00pm CDT at Groton Community Center, 109 N 3rd St, Groton, SD for a special exception of Title 11, Section 11.0104 of the Groton Zoning Ordinance. This application was made by Colby Capital, LLC for the operation of a retail Dollar General Store at the location of 1203 N Main St., Groton, SD, legally described as Lots 1-9, Block 4, Randalls Addition and its vacated alley; 12th Ave. Vacated between Main St and 3rd St; and Lot 18 Block 11, Randalls Addition. This would be in a Residential 3 Zone.

Any person wishing to present testimony for or against this special exception may appear in person or by representative at the above time and place.

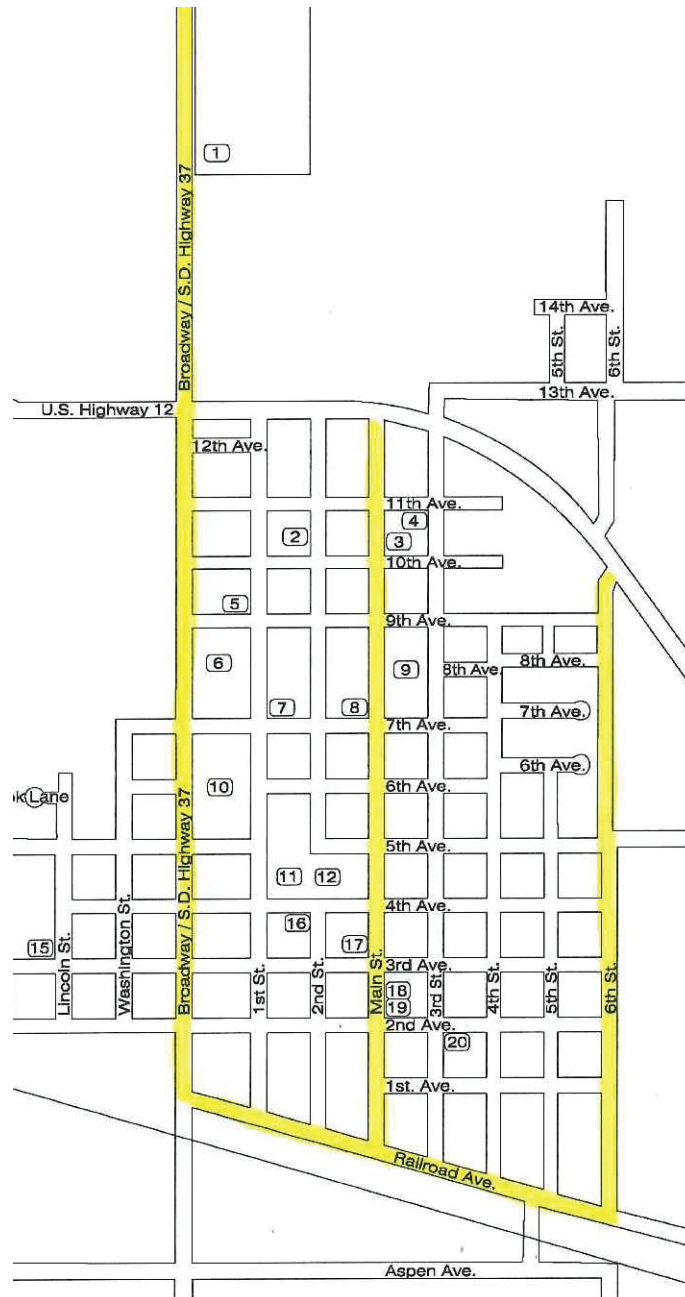
March 8, 2016

Anita Lowary

Zoning Administrator

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Effective March 8th, 2016 until further notice

To Help Preserve Our Streets

GROTON Garbage Pickup Service

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

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

Residents north of 13th Avenue (Olson and Jacobson Development) need to bring their garbage to the Bus Barns.

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

Thank you for your cooperation!!

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Today in Weather History

March 11, 1991: A developing winter storm, centered to the south of the Black Hills, caused heavy snow to fall on the northern Black Hills the evening of March 11 until the morning of March 12th. Snowfall totals of 3-9 inches were reported, including 9 inches at Custer, 8 inches at Deerfield, and 8 inches at Lead.

March 11, 2011: A very intense low-pressure area moving across North Dakota brought widespread blizzard conditions to central and northeast South Dakota. The low-pressure area brought 1 to 3 inches of snowfall to the region. This new snowfall combined with 30 to 50 mph winds with gusts to 60 to 70 mph brought widespread whiteout conditions. Traffic was brought to a standstill with many motorists having to be rescued and taken to a shelter. Hundreds of cars were stranded on mainly Highway 12 and Interstate-29. Two people traveling on Highway 10 in McPherson county told about how they became stuck and were picked up by another vehicle and that it took them over 2 1/2 hours to travel just a few miles to safety. Interstate-29 was closed from Watertown to Sisseton from 6 pm on the 11th until noon on the 12th. Many events were affected including the Girls State Basketball Tournament in Watertown. There were several overturned semis along with several vehicle accidents across the area. Some of the highest wind gusts included 56 mph at Watertown; 58 mph at Mobridge, Sisseton, and Faulkton; 59 mph at Aberdeen; 61 mph at Bowdle; 66 mph near Hillhead, and 71 mph west of Long Lake.

1911 - Tamarack, CA, reported 451 inches of snow on the ground, a record for the U.S. (David Ludlum)

1948 - Record cold followed in the wake of a Kansas blizzard. Lows of -25 degrees at Oberlin, Healy and Quinter established a state record for the month of March. Lows of -15 at Dodge City, -11 at Concordia, and -3 at Wichita were also March records. (The Weather Channel)

1962 - One of the most paralyzing snowstorms in decades produced record March snowfalls in Iowa. Four feet of snow covered the ground at Inwood following the storm. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Unseasonably cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S., and a storm over the Gulf of Mexico spread rain and sleet and snow into the Appalachian Region. Sleet was reported in southern Mississippi. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A blizzard raged across the north central U.S. Chadron NE was buried under 33 inches of snow, up to 25 inches of snow was reported in eastern Wyoming, and totals in the Black Hills of South Dakota ranged up to 69 inches at Lead. Winds gusted to 63 mph at Mullen NE. Snow drifts thirty feet high were reported around Lusk WY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Twenty-one cities in the central and southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 95 degrees at Lubbock TX equalled their record for March. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Forty-four cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Record highs included 71 degrees at Dickinson ND and Williston ND, and 84 degrees at Lynchburg VA, Charleston WV and Huntington WV. Augusta GA and Columbia SC tied for honors as the hot spot in the nation with record highs of 88 degrees. A vigorous cold front produced up to three feet of snow in the mountains of Utah. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2006 - Phoenix's record run for dry days finally ends at 143 days. The last measured rain fell on October 18, 2005. Not only did the rain break the dry spell, the 1.40 inches that fell was a record amount for the date.

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Today



Sunny

High: 70 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 40 °F

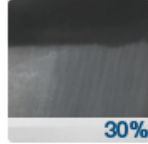
Saturday



Sunny then
Sunny and
Breezy

High: 69 °F

Saturday
Night



Chance
Showers

Low: 46 °F

Sunday



Chance
Showers

High: 65 °F

Sunday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 38 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 66 °F

High to Extreme Fire Danger/Records Possible

Highs Today

Location	Forecast High Temp	Record High Temp	Date When Forecast Temp is Considered a Normal High
Aberdeen	70°	64° in 1934	May 21 st
Pierre	74°	80° in 1995	June 2 nd
Mobridge	72°	75° in 1911	May 30 th
Sisseton	69°	62° in 2012	May 14 th
Watertown	68°	66° in 1990	May 10 th

Highs Saturday

Location	Forecast High Temp	Record High Temp	Date When Forecast Temp is Considered a Normal High
Aberdeen	69°	72° in 1934	May 17 th
Pierre	70°	82° in 2007	May 19 th
Mobridge	70°	80° in 2007	May 20 th
Sisseton	68°	70° in 1934	May 4 th
Watertown	66°	68° in 2015	May 3 rd

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 3/11/2016 5:43 AM Central

Published on: 03/11/2016 at 5:47AM

We'll be 2 months ahead of schedule temperature-wise Today and Saturday with highs ~30 degrees above normal. Record highs could fall as well, especially Today. One potential issue Today will be fire danger, particularly across central South Dakota as plenty of sunshine, low humidity, and some gusty winds will dry out area fuels. Looking further ahead, Sunday brings a chance for rain. Temperatures should remain very mild for several more days into the work week with more rain chances.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 58.4 at 3:53 PM

Low: 22.9 at 3:17 AM

High Gust: 18 at 3:37 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 64° in 1934

Record Low: -27 in 1948

Average High: 37°F

Average Low: 18°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.33

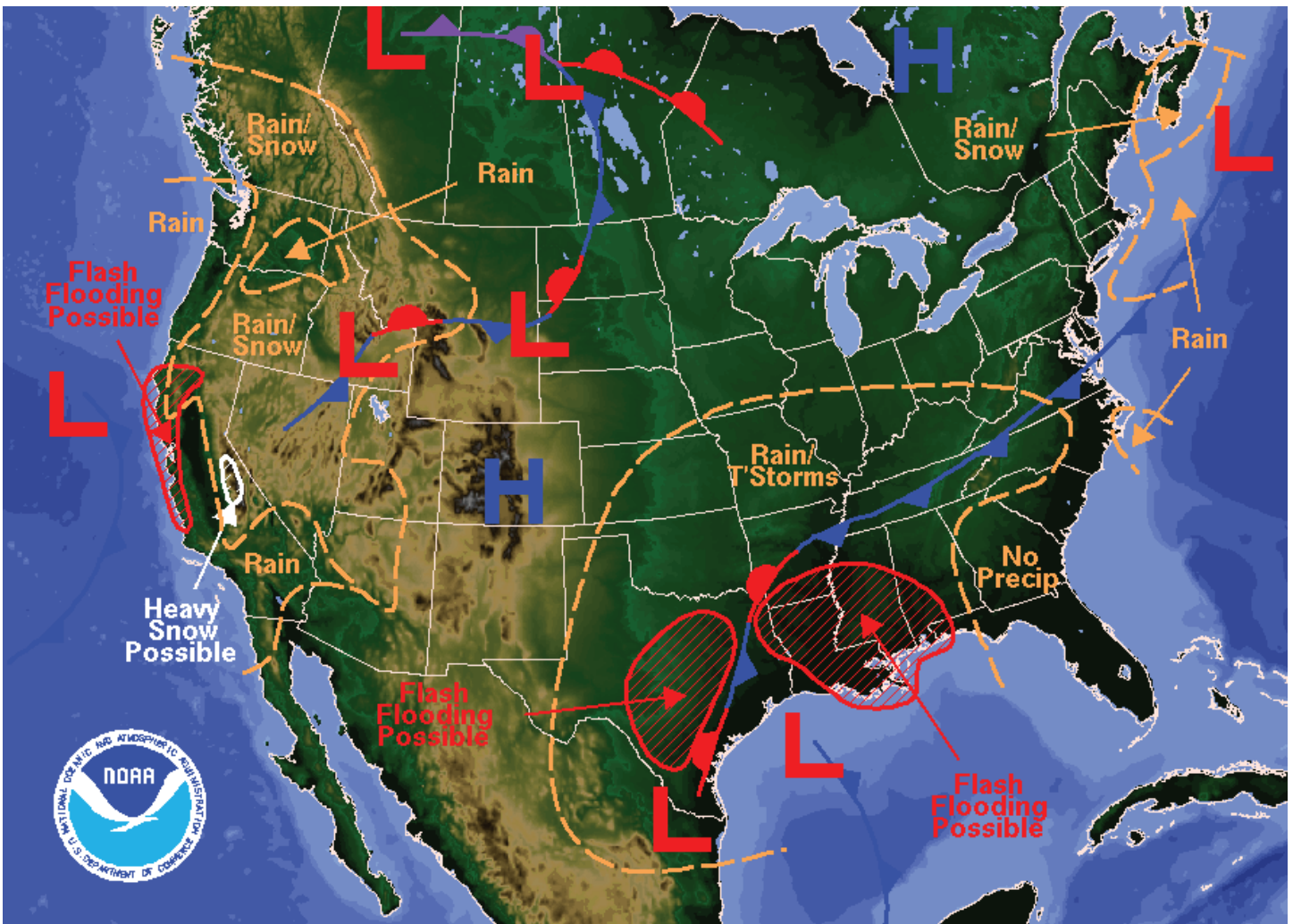
Precip to date in March.: 0.35

Average Precip to date: 1.35

Precip Year to Date: 0.95

Sunset Tonight: 6:35 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:50 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Mar 11, 2016, issued 4:02 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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HELP!

A teacher was encouraging his class to be kind and think of the needs of the people around them. "Remember, kids, you were put here to help others."

"But," protested one of the students, "what were the others put here for?"

Where would we be if no one helped us? What if no one taught us to read or write or do arithmetic? Sometimes we forget to think about all of the help that others have given us and focus only on ourselves. It is hard to imagine where we would be if no one ever took an interest in us.

So, if we have been helped, should we not also do the same for others? Indeed, we need to focus on the needs of others as much – or more – than we focus on our need. It's important for us to be mindful of the many times God has helped us when we least expected it.

And here is something to remember: May we never forget the fact that every time we help pull someone uphill, we will find ourselves getting closer to the top.

Just for today, rather than pointing a finger at someone, hold out a helping hand.

Prayer: Lord, help me to be alert to the needs of others all of the time. May my eyes always be open to see their needs, my ears open to hear their cries and my heart open to feel their pain. Let me always help others: in Your Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 John 3:16-24 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

News from the Associated Press

Thursday's Scores The Associated Press

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

State A Tournament

First Round

Hamlin 53, Elk Point-Jefferson 43

St. Thomas More 55, Dell Rapids 24

Webster 66, McLaughlin 63, OT

State B Tournament

First Round

Avon 46, Faith 38

Ethan 51, Irene-Wakonda 34

Sully Buttes 56, Leola/Frederick 27

South Dakota governor signs 20-week abortion ban into law

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Thursday signed a law prohibiting most abortions beyond 19 weeks of pregnancy, the latest state to enact such a ban.

The Republican governor "is sure that" the state's attorney general "will be prepared to defend the constitutionality of the bill," Daugaard spokeswoman Kelsey Pritchard said in an email. The measure offers some exemptions for women in medical emergencies, but not in cases of rape or incest. It is set to go into effect July 1.

The ban is based on the disputed premise that a fetus can feel pain at that stage, and Republican Rep. Isaac Latterell, the measure's main House sponsor, said it recognizes "the humanity of these children."

"I think it'll save lives because it lets women know that their children really are humans just like us," Latterell said. "I think it's a great step forward for our state, and I would like to see us do more to protect the innocent."

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

Timothy Stanley of Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota said the state is continuing to intrude on women's health care decisions.

"This is just another bill that puts politicians in the way of women's personal medical decisions," Stanley said. "I think this bill could do tremendous harm to the women who are the most vulnerable in the state of South Dakota."

The measure allows abortions later than 19 weeks if there is a medical emergency, but a claim or diagnosis that a woman intends to kill or harm herself aren't part of the exemption. The law says that when such an abortion is necessary because of an emergency, the doctor must "deliver the child in the manner which ... provides the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive," but only if that is consistent with preserving the woman's life and preventing an "irreversible" impairment of a major bodily function.

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, there's no record of a successful birth before 23 weeks. That would be roughly 21 weeks under the South Dakota measure, which relies on the "probable post-fertilization age." Doctors say the date of fertilization can't be scientifically pinpointed and estimate gestational age based on a woman's last menstrual period.

Performing an abortion that violates the new threshold is a Class 1 misdemeanor, which carries a pen-

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alty of up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. A woman who gets such an abortion would not be subject to that consequence.

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

Similar laws are in effect in 12 other states. Courts have blocked laws in Arizona, Idaho and Georgia.

Main run of 2016 legislative session coming to a close

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The main run of the South Dakota Legislature's 2016 session is coming to a close. Lawmakers are set to leave the state Capitol in Pierre on Friday after setting the state budget. They'll return March 29 for the consideration of vetoes by Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

The session opened on Jan. 12. State legislators debated and passed bills including a half-cent sales tax increase to help boost South Dakota's lowest-in-the-nation pay for teachers.

Once signed, it will be the first permanent increase to the state's sales tax rate of 4 cents per dollar in nearly half a century.

Family dismayed by vote to block seizure-disorder treatment

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — George Hendrickson watched this week as his immediate hopes for treating his young son with a non-intoxicating compound in marijuana went down with a bill in the South Dakota Legislature.

House lawmakers blocked a measure that would have allowed doctors to prescribe preparations of the compound, called cannabidiol, that were low in THC, an intoxicant in marijuana.

It was the bill's last stop before reaching Gov. Dennis Daugaard's desk, but opponents argued that law enforcement opposed the bill and that people might use it to get high.

Hendrickson's heart sunk, but Tuesday's vote wasn't a surprise. "Good old South Dakota, home of the dinosaurs," he said Thursday.

His plans for 3-year-old Eliyah, whose rare type of intractable epilepsy has previously been helped by the compound, shift quickly with a change in his son's condition. The family of five is eyeing a dauntingly expensive move from Sioux Falls to Colorado, where Eliyah was first treated with cannabidiol last year.

Hendrickson, 45, is also watching — with some hope — a broader ballot measure that would allow people with serious medical conditions to use marijuana.

But he also has a camper ready and a place to put it near Eliyah's hospital in Denver if an emergency requires the family to split up.

Eliyah has Dravet syndrome. Patients experience frequent, severe and potentially life-threatening seizures that typically start before they are 1-year-old. Standard epilepsy drugs often don't help control the seizures, which leaves patients with few treatment options.

When Eliyah briefly took cannabidiol last year — during the final stages of weaning him off a powerful barbiturate — it was like the family had a new son. He played with his parents and climbed the stairs at a house they were looking at in Colorado, rather than simply staring through them.

The bill that failed in the Legislature, which was amended down from a full-scale medical marijuana bill, would have allowed people with severe seizure disorders to use cannabidiol in liquid, oil or pill form. It's unclear how many people the measure would have affected.

Many House lawmakers were skeptical, including Republican Rep. Fred Deutsch, who said it's "not realistic" that there's no possibility users could get high. Rep. Kristin Conzet, a Republican who opposed the measure, suggested that families like the Hendricksons move to a state that allows people to use cannabidiol.

"This is not a bill for South Dakota," Conzet said, counseling lawmakers to exercise caution.

Seventeen states had passed such a law as of mid-January, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

GOP Sen. Blake Curd, who sponsored the changes to limit the bill to cannabidiol, said the effort will likely

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take more education, and that he thinks the issue is worth pursuing in the future.

Meanwhile, backers of the full medical marijuana ballot measure want to overturn Secretary of State Shantel Krebs' rejection of the initiative. Krebs said last month that supporters didn't turn in enough valid signatures to put the measure before voters.

Melissa Mentele, a medical marijuana advocate from Emery, said Krebs' office got it wrong when the measure was rejected. Krebs said Thursday that she hopes to finish verifying ballot measure challenges within about a month and a half.

The medical marijuana proposal is geared toward people with conditions such as cancer who proponents say could be helped by the plant. Mentele criticized lawmakers for killing the cannabidiol bill, but said supporters have a "no patient left behind policy," referring to the wider variety of conditions the fuller medical marijuana initiative would address.

Hendrickson said the cannabidiol bill would have been a great development, but the medical marijuana proposal would lead to broader treatment options. Mentele said a medical marijuana program won't become law in South Dakota through the Legislature.

"If it makes the ballot, I will laugh when it passes by a landslide," Mentele said.

Elderly woman's body found in freezer in South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement authorities in western South Dakota say the body of an elderly woman has been found in a freezer.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office says deputies found the body Thursday morning in a freezer at a Rapid City home. Deputies made the discovery while responding to a call about a possible missing person case related to an ongoing fraud investigation.

The sheriff's office says authorities are trying to confirm the woman's identity and the circumstances surrounding her death.

The sheriff's office and the Rapid City Police Department are investigating the case. They say they believe the body may have been transported from outside the state to Rapid City.

Iowa regulators approve Bakken pipeline permit

DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The last state permit needed for a pipeline that will carry a half-million barrels of crude oil daily from North Dakota to Illinois was approved Thursday by Iowa utilities regulators, who also gave the Texas-based company authority to use eminent domain for land that property owners are unwilling to voluntarily provide.

The Iowa Utilities Board voted unanimously to approve a hazardous pipeline permit for the Dakota Access pipeline, called Bakken pipeline because it will stretch 346 miles from Bakken oil fields in North Dakota to Illinois, crossing through 18 Iowa counties and 1,300 parcels of land.

"Together we weighed all the issues presented by the parties and found the issues of safety, economic benefits, environmental factors and landowners' rights to merit the most significant weight in reaching our decision," board member Elizabeth Jacobs said.

The board decided that the pipeline met the requirements of Iowa law requiring it to "promote the public convenience and necessity."

After the vote, about a dozen people in the audience stood one by one and stated, "I am an Iowan and I vote no." Board members quickly left the room. Outside of the building, opponents held a rally.

"That pipeline will be a legacy that we will live to regret if we do not stop it. It is going to poison the land," said Rodlynn Harrington, a Des Moines woman who was crying.

An appeal is likely from individual landowners, farmers and a coalition of environmental and property rights groups who have voiced concerns about spills that could harm farmland, rivers and streams.

"While the ruling is certainly a setback and disappointing landowners will assess how to move forward on appeal and they are going through that process," said John Murray, a Storm Lake attorney who represents

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the Northwest Iowa Landowners Association.

Lawsuits also are expected to challenge whether the board has the authority to grant eminent domain to a company building a pipeline for profit. Such authority is frequently given to publicly owned utilities, but not often to for-profit companies, like Dakota Access, which is owned by publicly traded companies Phillips 66 and Energy Transfer Partners.

Owners of 296 parcels of land have refused to sign easements allowing the pipeline to go through their property, and may fight land condemnation proceedings at the county level and appeal their individual cases to district court.

The pipeline has been in the works since 2014, after North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple urged industry and government officials to build more pipelines to keep pace with North Dakota's rapid oil production and reduce truck and oil train traffic. North Dakota is the nation's No. 2 oil producer behind Texas.

The project was first proposed when oil prices had slipped to about \$80 a barrel. They're now closer to \$40 a barrel.

"This is fantastic and certainly a big step in getting Bakken barrels to quality markets and further displacing foreign barrels," said Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, which represents hundreds of companies working in the state's oil patch.

Energy Transfer Partners, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Thursday, had set a completion date for the pipeline late this year. It already has begun stockpiling steel pipe in anticipation of getting the needed permits.

Iowa's permit requires Dakota Access to file with the board proof of a \$25 million general liability insurance policy that must be in effect for the life of the pipeline, as well as irrevocable guarantees that parent companies will be liable for any leaks or spills. It also must provide the board a timeline of construction and quarterly status reports beginning July 1.

Dakota Access says the construction in Iowa will create \$1 billion in economic benefit, including creating thousands of jobs.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources also approved a permit Thursday after finding no long-term environmental impact where the pipeline crosses public land, including the Big Sioux, Des Moines and Mississippi rivers. The project must still receive approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Fire at barn with about 200 tires billowing smoke for miles

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — A fire at a barn housing about 200 tires in southeast South Dakota is producing thick smoke that can be seen from miles away.

Emergency responders received the call about the blaze at the Royalwood Dairy Farm near Brandon around 2 p.m. Thursday. Several fire departments and the Minnehaha County Emergency Management are on scene.

The owners of the property tell the Argus Leader the fire began as a controlled burn. No cows have been hurt.

County's emergency manager Lynn DeYoung says fire crews are working to try to keep the blaze from spreading to other buildings. They're driving back and forth from Sioux Falls to get water to extinguish the fire.

The farm has hosted an open house every year since 2008 in June in celebration of Dairy Month.

Alleged leader in polygamous fraud case to remain jailed

BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A federal judge ruled again Thursday that one of the accused ringleaders of a polygamous sect's multimillion dollar food-stamp fraud scheme must remain behind bars.

The rejection of John Wayman's request to be allowed out on supervised release by U.S. Magistrate Judge Dustin Pead led Wayman's attorney to question whether his client and other suspects are being treated unfairly because of their religious beliefs.

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Pead denied Wayman's first request to be let out two weeks ago, and he earlier this rejected the same request from acting sect leader Lyle Jeffs.

They are among 11 people indicted by prosecutors on accusations the group diverted at least \$12 million worth of federal benefits, funneling some money into front companies to pay for a tractor and a truck.

Defense attorney Jim Bradshaw said any other person accused in a non-violent fraud scheme would be granted supervised release. "In spite of the court's expressing that it's not considering religion, it's clearly throughout his decision," Bradshaw said.

Pead said during the hearing in Salt Lake City that religion was not the basis for his ruling. But he acknowledged that it's concerning that the group seems to ascribe to a belief that governmental laws take a back seat to their religious beliefs.

Wayman is a member of a group based on the Utah-Arizona border known as the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The sect is a radical offshoot of mainstream Mormonism whose members believe polygamy brings exaltation in heaven. Polygamy is a legacy of the early teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but the faith prohibits it today.

Federal prosecutors have also been emphatic in saying that the bust — one of the biggest blows to the sect in years — is not about religion, but fraud.

Wayman has pleaded not guilty to the charges of fraud and money laundering.

Prosecutors have allowed seven of the 11 people indicted out on supervised release, but they fought to keep Wayman, Jeffs and two others who they say were ringleaders behind bars. So far, federal judges in Arizona and South Dakota have sided with the government.

Pead said another reason he's not letting Wayman out are allegations that Wayman briefly went into hiding in the mid-2000s, a period in which he also helped imprisoned sect leader Warren Jeffs evade capture.

Prosecutors argue Wayman is a risk to flee because of his unwavering loyalty to Warren Jeffs, who could instruct Wayman to go into hiding using the sect's network of houses around the country.

Bradshaw brought as witnesses four businessmen who aren't members of the sect to testify that Wayman is a reliable, honest man who wouldn't abandon a high tech machine work business that employs nearly 100 people.

"He's the most stand-up guy in the indictment," Bradshaw said.

Federal prosecutor Tyler Murray said Wayman is not the honest man defense attorneys are trying to paint him to be. He was heavily involved in the scheme, and his family, being one of the elites in the sect, benefited from the diverted food stamp funds at the expense of poor families who were supposed to get the benefits, Murray said.

That allegation seemed to strike a chord with Pead, who said it was troubling to hear that Wayman's family were comfortable well while others "were living on toast."

Chase in South Dakota ends in arrest of 2 for identity theft

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement authorities say two men are facing identity theft and other charges following a high-speed chase in northeast South Dakota.

Spink County State's Attorney Victor Fischbach says the men threw receipts and credit cards out the window during the chase Wednesday on U.S. Highway 281.

Fischbach says the chase for 38-year-old Elivanjob Espinosa-Leon and 46-year-old Wilmar Vargas-Rodriguez began after a gas station clerk in Redfield called authorities because the men were behaving suspiciously.

Fischbach says the men are believed to be involved in incidents in other areas, including Brown County, where several people reported compromised financial accounts due to skimmers recently found on two gas pumps. Fishback says Brown County authorities are aware of the arrests.

The men, believed to be from Las Vegas, are in custody on \$20,000 cash-only bonds. It wasn't immediately clear if they have legal representation.

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Arrest warrant issued for suspect in Sioux Falls shooting

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police have issued an arrest warrant for a Sioux Falls man accused of shooting his former girlfriend and then himself late last month.

Fifty-three-year-old Cameron Young is charged with attempted first-degree murder and alternate counts of aggravated assault.

Authorities allege that Young used a stolen gun to shoot 30-year-old Kellie Dagele before turning the gun on himself Feb. 26. Both remain hospitalized. Police say Young will be taken into custody once he recovers.

At the time of the shooting, Young had two other active warrants, both for violating a protection order.

2 Dakotas teams eliminated, 1 advances at NAIA tournaments

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Two of the seven college basketball teams from the Dakotas who made the fields for the NAIA Division II men's and women's national championship tournaments have been knocked out, while a third remains in the running for a national title.

The Dakota Wesleyan women's team defeated Haskell Indian Nations University 75-64 on Wednesday to advance, while the Jamestown women's team was upset by Oregon Tech 71-64.

The Dakota State men's team also lost, 96-81 to Saint Francis.

Men's teams from Valley City State and Dakota Wesleyan play their first games Thursday, along with the women's teams from Mount Marty and Dickinson State.

The men's tournament is in Point Lookout, Missouri, and the women's tournament is in Sioux City, Iowa. They run through March 15.

Fire destroys mink-processing business in Arlington

ARLINGTON, S.D. (AP) — Fire has destroyed a mink-processing business in Arlington.

The blaze at Top Lot Processors started shortly before 2:30 a.m. Thursday. Arlington Volunteer Fire Department Chief Gerry Bunker tells the Argus Leader that the building was engulfed when firefighters arrived and isn't salvageable.

KELO-TV reports that mink furs were stored in the building, and smoke could be seen from miles away.

No one was inside the building and no one was hurt. No neighboring buildings were damaged.

The cause of the fire wasn't immediately determined.

Analysis: Rivals still searching for formula to stop Trump

JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

MIAMI (AP) — Nine months after Donald Trump became a presidential candidate, his rivals are still searching for a formula to stop his improbable political rise.

They've ignored him and hoped he'd fade away. They've launched sharply personal attacks on his hair and his hand size. They've tried to discredit his business prowess and conservative record.

And in Thursday's Republican presidential debate, they grasped for the middle ground, drastically dialing back the vitriol and trying to instead politely poke holes in Trump's policy proposals.

At times, their approach succeeded in spotlighting Trump's often vague ideas for addressing the nation's domestic problems and foreign policy threats. But they also gave the billionaire space to sound more measured and moderate — almost presidential — at a time when he's already eyeing the general election.

"We're all in this together," Trump said. "We're going to come up with solutions. We're going to find the answers to things."

The civil contest in Miami marked a sharp course correction after the last GOP debate, which devolved into a series of juvenile personal insults that left some Republicans cringing. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio led that insult brigade, and then faltered badly in the primary contests that followed. Rubio now says he regrets his behavior and embarrassed his children.

Thursday's debate, the 12th for Republicans this primary season, came at the most pivotal moment of the tumultuous GOP race. Trump leads his rivals in the all-important delegate count after 24 voting contests,

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thrusting Republican elites into a tailspin of hand-wringing and denial.

Rubio and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, the last two candidates who have backing within the Republican establishment, face sudden-death primaries in their home states on Tuesday — a pair of winner-take-all contests that could put Trump's lead out of reach.

Cruz is closest to Trump in the delegate race and suggested again Thursday that Rubio and Kasich step aside to allow him to take on the real estate mogul one-on-one. After a reserved start to the debate, Cruz grew more aggressive as the two-hour contest progressed and warned Republican voters that nominating Trump would cost the GOP the White House.

"If we nominate Donald Trump, Hillary wins," said Cruz, a staunch conservative loathed by many of his Senate colleagues. He also argued that the businessman was overly simplistic on everything from trade to foreign policy, saying his solutions simply "don't work."

Rubio joined in at times. After Trump suggested Rubio was being too politically correct in his comments about the importance of working with Muslims to fight terrorism, the senator sharply shot back, "I'm not interested in being politically correct. I'm interested in being correct."

But there were just as many moments where the candidates let Trump slide, including on his acknowledgement that he's exploited immigration laws to bring skilled overseas workers to the U.S. to work for his companies and on his call for sending up to 30,000 U.S. ground troops to the Middle East to fight the Islamic State.

And none of the other candidates condemned Trump for comments that seemingly encouraged aggressive physical action against protesters at his campaign rallies.

"Washington isn't listening to the people. And that's the frustration that is boiling over," Cruz said when asked if he was concerned that the behavior of some of Trump's supporters would hurt the Republican Party in the general election.

The prospect of Trump winning the nomination has prompted some outside groups to start putting millions of dollars in television advertisements on the air to build a late case against him, including in Florida. The ads have largely focused on Trump's questionable business dealings, including legal action against the educational company Trump University. Yet none of the candidates attempted to build on the advertising campaign during the debate.

"I can't believe how civil it's been up here," Trump even said midway through the contest.

Trump has been forecasting a shift toward the general election, both in tone and in substance, and Thursday's debate gave him an opportunity to keep up that evolution. Well aware of the opposition to his candidacy from within his own party, he spoke frequently of Republican unity and urged those skeptical of him to rally around him for the good of the GOP.

"I think frankly the Republican establishment, or whatever you call it, should embrace what's happening," he said.

Carlin Isles trying to make Rio Games in rugby and track

PAT GRAHAM, AP Sports Writer

His sort of motivational messages are scribbled in marker on a poster hanging in his room: Carlin Isles is too small. Too weird. Not good enough. Won't amount to anything.

Simple reminders the rugby/track standout has jotted down of all the negative things said about him. Fuel to go faster, he explained.

As a kid growing up in foster care who was constantly getting into fights, running away from home and hardly ever had enough food on his plate, Isles promised himself it wouldn't always be like this. He and his twin sister were eventually adopted, and his freaky fast speed led him down a different path.

The 26-year-old is a good bet to earn a spot on Team USA as rugby sevens makes its Olympic debut at the Rio Games. Maybe even in track as well, should he qualify in the 100 meters at the Olympic trials in July.

Doubt he can accomplish it? That's exactly why he created his poster.

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"I've been through a lot and that just makes me hungry," said Isles, who will compete in the opening round of the 60 meters Friday at the U.S. indoor championships in Portland, Oregon. "I'm hungry to be somebody. I'm hungry for success. I'm scared to be ordinary."

His tale is far from ordinary.

The last image he has of his birth mother was through the back of a police car when he and his sister were taken away when they were young. In foster care, he never celebrated a birthday. He couldn't read or write very well, either. Meals were so scarce that out of necessity he would eat anything, including dog food.

"It was survival," said Isles, who grew up in Massillon, Ohio. "I just prayed to get out of that life. I wanted a better life, where I wouldn't be just another statistic. Because if I continued like that, I'd probably be dead or in jail."

Enter Starlett and Charles Isles, who were eager to expand their family. They adopted Carlin and his sister Cambra — two minutes older — when they were nearly 8 years old.

Almost instantly, things changed. As he settled in, Carlin realized he had a talent — speed.

He was coaxed out for football, but had trouble learning the plays (he struggled to read until middle school). In the backyard, his adoptive father set up milk jugs as offensive linemen to teach him what holes to burst through.

And did he ever burst. This is an athlete who said he once ran the 40-yard dash in 4.13 seconds.

The 5-foot-8, 168-pound Isles ended up at Ashland University, where he excelled in track, setting the school's indoor record in the 60 meters (6.68 seconds), and on the football field, once returning a kickoff 100 yards.

"His talent really came through, even more than any of us could even imagine," said Starlett, who has eight kids, five that were adopted.

After college came a quandary — what to do with that quickness? The doors weren't exactly open for football or track.

"I didn't want to work a 9-to-5 job, because I knew I had a gift," Carlin Isles said.

He was looking on the Internet for a track workout when he stumbled upon footage of rugby. Intrigued, he did some digging and placed some calls to Team USA for guidance. They set him up with a club team in Aspen, Colorado.

One problem — getting there. Using the last \$500 to his name, he moved himself to the mountains to learn a new sport.

Turns out, he was a natural.

His speed was so extraordinary that he was dubbed "the fastest man in rugby." There's a highlight reel of his explosive moves that's been viewed more than 6.7 million times on YouTube.

That blazing speed led a top rugby team from Scotland — the Glasgow Warriors — to sign him. It wasn't just rugby teams drawing interest, either. The Detroit Lions added him to their practice squad before he elected to focus on rugby.

"That's where my purpose was," explained Isles, who's sponsored by Red Bull, Nike, Citibank and California Almonds.

This weekend, as his U.S. rugby teammates play in Vancouver, British Columbia, he's making a detour to Oregon to dabble in sprinting. He only recently dusted off his spikes to see if he still could fly down the track in a race.

He could. With very little training, too.

Now, he's thinking big — Olympic trials and trying to earn a spot for the Rio Games in a second sport.

Watch out, Usain Bolt. No, really.

"Yeah, I can beat Bolt," cracked Isles, who currently lives in San Diego. "That would be a tough one, but I'm not going to say no. Because who puts limits on themselves?"

Certainly not Isles.

Early in his life, there were doubters who said he wouldn't amount to anything. He made mental notes of those derogatory comments and compiled his poster a few years ago. There are positive messages as

well, like "Don't chase your dream — outrun it."

"I've painted the picture of my life just how I wanted to paint it," Isles said.

His version of the picture ends only one way — with a gold medal.

"That would mean everything," Isles said. "All the suffering, all the tears, all the sacrifice, it would be all worth it."

Governor to visit swamped northern portion of Louisiana

GERALD HERBERT, Associated Press

BILL FULLER, Associated Press

BOSSIER CITY, La. (AP) — Record-setting flooding in northern Louisiana prompted numerous high-water rescues of stranded families and animals and officials said some levees could overflow Friday.

Davyon Hill, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's office in Shreveport, said skies cleared Thursday in the region but the area was not yet out of the woods.

"It's not over with," he said. "There's still part of a low pressure system that's in central Texas that is moving this way, and overnight it will likely bring another bout of rain to the region."

If weather permits Friday, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards planned to tour Shreveport and Bossier City and Monroe, the governor's spokeswoman Shauna Sanford said.

Edwards late Thursday issued a statewide declaration of emergency in light of the severe weather that's already hit those areas and predictions of more rain.

Bossier Parish Sheriff's Lt. Bill Davis said two more subdivisions in south Bossier City and the area immediately around and next to Louisiana Downs racetrack were now under a mandatory evacuation. Golden Meadows and Southgate subdivisions were added to the list late Thursday.

Davis said Red Chute Bayou above Interstate 20 was still rising, and officials anticipate the levees will likely overtop by Friday morning.

Michael Konnovich Jr., 45, his wife and two children have lived in the Golden Meadow subdivision for about 12 years. In that time, he said he's never seen as much water as he's seen in the past few days.

"Typically, it will come up and drain off," he said. "But not this time. The water is just over my 5-foot chain link fence. I just don't know where this water is coming from."

So far, Konnovich said, water has not entered his home but adds if the predicted overnight rain is between 3 and 5 inches, it will creep inside. He said he, friends and neighbors had been sandbagging his home and others in the neighborhood since early Thursday in an effort to ward off the rising water.

"I am truly blessed by this community and the friendships I have for helping with these sandbags," he said.

State officials said a 6-year-old girl was among three people killed in Louisiana during two days of severe weather that left roads covered in water and sent more than 1,000 people fleeing their homes.

Edwards said he authorized Major Gen. Glenn Curtis, adjutant general for the Louisiana National Guard, to deploy up to 750 guard members in flooded areas. Curtis said the Guard had deployed roughly 400 people along with 30 to 35 "high-water vehicles" and 15 to 18 boats to assist in search-and-rescue operations in north Louisiana.

Guard spokeswoman Rebekah Malone said the Guard has evacuated 361 people from homes in Bossier, Ouachita and Morehouse parishes since Wednesday. Guardsmen have also evacuated 70 dogs, 16 chickens and even a guinea pig.

In Bossier City — across the Red River from Shreveport — about 3,500 homes were under a mandatory evacuation as a precaution because a bayou was approaching the top of its levee.

Many north Louisiana corn fields got more than 10 to 12 inches of rain as the seedlings were just sprouting, Dan Fromme, an LSU AgCenter corn expert, said in a blog post Thursday. He said they can't survive more than 2 to 4 days of flooding before they've grown six leaves.

However, he said in an email, damage assessments won't be possible until "the later part of next week," at the earliest.

Rain also pummeled parts of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi.

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In southern Arkansas, heavy rainfall prompted the closure of some schools and roads, and forecasters said the deluge will continue there for the rest of the week. Meteorologists with the National Weather Service say officials have reported water rescues and evacuations near Dermott, Arkansas, as water rises in low-lying areas.

The National Weather Service says 3 to 10 inches of rain has fallen in counties along the Mississippi River in western Tennessee, eastern Arkansas and northern Mississippi since late Tuesday, flooding roads, parking lots and fields. The flood threat is expected to continue into Friday, as another 1 to 3 inches of rain could fall in the Mississippi Delta region, meteorologist Scott McNeil said.

One weather-related drowning was reported in both Oklahoma and Texas earlier this week.

GOP final 4 tone down rhetoric, if not their differences

NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A surprisingly restrained Donald Trump used the latest presidential debate to send a none-too-subtle message to Republicans still wary of his insurgent candidacy: "Be smart and unify." Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio toned down their rhetoric, too, concluding that all-out attacks against Trump didn't work.

"I can't believe how civil it's been up here," Trump declared at one point in Thursday's face-off of the GOP's final four.

The candidates now charge out of Miami with four days left to make their final arguments before next week's all-important big-state presidential primaries.

Trump was picking up an endorsement from onetime rival Ben Carson before heading to St. Louis and Chicago; John Kasich headed for his must-win home state of Ohio; Rubio made his home-stand in Florida and Cruz was shuttling from Florida to Illinois.

In all, 367 Republican delegates are at stake Tuesday in Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio and the Northern Mariana Islands, a delegate haul that could go a long way toward determining the GOP nominee.

Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, too, will be competing on Tuesday, with Clinton out to regain momentum after her startling loss to Sanders in Michigan this week.

Trump's rivals, in a desperate scramble to halt his march to the nomination, gradually ramped up their criticism as the latest debate wore on.

Rubio's overarching message: "I know that a lot of people find appeal in the things Donald says. The problem is presidents can't just say anything they want because it has consequences around the world."

Cruz, eager to cement his position as the party's last best alternative to Trump, had a string of criticisms of the GOP front-runner, too, saying flatly at one point: "His solutions don't work."

When it was over, Trump pronounced it an "elegant" discussion. He was clearly intent on projecting a less bombastic — and more presidential — image.

"We're all in this together," he said early on, sounding more like a conciliator than a provocateur as he strives to unify the party behind his candidacy. "We're going to come up with solutions. We're going to find the answer to things."

In a lengthy discussion of the threat posed by radicalized Muslims, Trump refused to back away from his recent statement that "Islam hates the West." He said he wouldn't stoop to being "politically correct" by avoiding such statements.

Rubio had a sharp comeback: "I'm not interested in being politically correct. I'm interested in being correct."

The Florida senator said the only way to solve the problem of violent extremists is to work with people in the Muslim faith who are not radicals.

Cruz bundled together his criticisms of Trump for what he called simplistic solutions on trade and on Islamic terrorists, saying, "The answer is not to simply yell, 'China: bad, Muslim: bad.'"

The candidates split down the middle — Trump and Cruz vs. Rubio and Kasich — on the likelihood of the GOP race coming down to a brokered Republican convention this summer.

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"I think I'm going to have the delegates, OK?" Trump said.

As for who has a realistic chance of winning the nomination, Trump simply wrote off Rubio and Kasich, saying, "There are two of us that can, and there are two of us that cannot, OK?"

Cruz heartily agreed with Trump on that.

Rubio countered that disappointing "delegate math" aside, he'd keep on fighting.

Kasich, for his part, said it wouldn't be so bad to have a contested convention. He added there are plenty of primaries left so "let's not get ahead of ourselves."

In a meaty discussion of Social Security, Cruz and Rubio both said they'd gradually lift the retirement age for younger workers to help stabilize the system and stave off financial disaster for the program.

Trump, in contrast, said he'd do "everything within my power not to touch Social Security, to leave it the way it is."

On that issue, the GOP front-runner couldn't resist taking a dig at the Democrats, saying he'd been watching them intensely — "even though it's a very, very boring thing to watch" — and that they weren't doing anything on Social Security.

Trump was questioned about whether he had set a tone at his rallies that fueled violent encounters between supporters and protesters.

"I truly hope not," he said, but added that many of his supporters have "anger that is unbelievable" about how the country is being run and that some of protesters were "bad dudes."

In the race for Republican delegates, Trump has 459, Cruz 360, Rubio 152 and Kasich 54. It takes 1,237 to win the Republican nomination for president.

Michigan, Ohio State help NCAA Tournament causes

JOHN MARSHALL, AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Michigan could not afford a loss in its opening game of the Big Ten Tournament and expect to get an NCAA Tournament invite.

The Ohio State Buckeyes were in the same situation, though with even less leeway.

Both took care of the first step in rebuilding their NCAA Tournament resumes on Thursday, but still have some work left if they want to be in the big bracket.

Michigan has to play No. 10 Indiana while the Buckeyes have to get through No. 2 Michigan State.

"We had a good win today, but we can't enjoy it for too long because we know we have IU tomorrow," Michigan's Zak Irvin said.

The Wolverines (21-11) had to rally to keep their NCAA hopes alive.

Duncan Robinson hit a 3-pointer with 46 seconds left to tie it, then Irvin drained a jumper from the wing with 3.3 seconds left to give Michigan a 72-70 win over Mississippi.

Find a way to beat the Hoosiers and Michigan should have its ticket punched.

Ohio State (20-12) rallied with a late 7-0 run to knock off Penn State 79-75, setting up the showdown with the Spartans.

Michigan State won both meetings during the regular season in routs, so the Buckeyes will have their hands full if they want their season to continue.

"We're trying to get these guys to understand, they've never been in this situation before in a conference tournament," Ohio State coach Thad Matta said after the win over Penn State.

"You're playing Michigan State for the third time in two weeks, they're a great basketball team. We have to play better than we've played the last two games. We've been working on a game plan and hopefully we can get this in in the next 24 hours."

ON THE RISE

Florida. The Gators (19-13) enhanced their NCAA chances with a 68-61 win over Arkansas in the SEC Tournament. Beating No. 17 Texas A&M on Friday would be a bigger boost and a loss to the Aggies will leave them squirming on the bubble.

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San Diego State. The Aztecs (24-8) took a necessary step by beating Utah State in the Mountain West Conference quarterfinals. They'll likely still need to do more, starting with Friday's semifinal against Nevada.

George Washington. The Colonials (23-9) won a can't-lose game against Saint Louis in the Atlantic 10 Tournament, but still could use some resume padding. GW faces St. Joseph's in the third round on Friday.

Alabama. The Crimson Tide (18-13) needed a deep run in the SEC Tournament to boost its NCAA prospects and got off to a good start, knocking off Mississippi 81-73. The next one will be tougher. Alabama faces No. 2 seed Kentucky Friday in the quarterfinals.

FADING HOPES

Vanderbilt. The Commodores (19-13) did what they could not do in the SEC Tournament: Lose to Tennessee. Now Selection Sunday will be much more tense.

Washington. The Huskies (18-14) needed to at least reach the Pac-12 Tournament title game and lost in the quarterfinals to No. 8 Oregon in the quarterfinals. NIT time.

Pittsburgh. The Panthers (21-11) have a solid record and beat Syracuse in the ACC opener. A rout at the hands of No. 7 North Carolina will at least make them sweat a bit on Selection Sunday.

Oregon State. OK, fading might be a strong way to put it. The Beavers (19-12) were in decent shape heading into the Pac-12 Tournament and beat Arizona State in the second round. A loss to No. 24 California in the quarterfinals may at least give them pause while waiting to find out if their 26-year NCAA Tournament drought will end.

Nancy and Ronald Reagan, inseparable in life, together again

MICHAEL R. BLOOD, Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — Nancy Reagan called her husband's presidential library "the shining city on the hill," using a phrase that President Reagan had borrowed from history to describe his aspirations for the nation.

Inseparable in life, they will be reunited again on that hilltop, side by side.

The former first lady will be buried beside her "Ronnie" Friday at the library they loved, after being mourned and celebrated by family and hundreds of friends from Hollywood, Washington and beyond in a private service.

She was "just a beautiful lady," said John Sandoval, who with his wife, mother and infant daughter joined a crowd of over 1,000 Thursday at the library to see the flower-draped casket.

"I think it was just the unity they shared through his governorship, through his presidency, that brought people together," Sandoval added.

Forecasters warned that Thursday's brilliant skies could be replaced by thunderstorms and wind. A tent was erected over the site of the service.

The sprawling, Spanish Mission-style library is located between the Reagan's post-White House home in the upscale Bel Air section of Los Angeles and Rancho del Cielo, the "ranch in the sky" where the Reagans spent their leisure time, sometimes on horseback, in the rugged mountains near Santa Barbara.

The guest list for the funeral tells a story about their lives, which stretched from Hollywood's Golden Age to the California statehouse during Reagan's time as governor to the Washington Beltway. Four of the five living first ladies and relatives of every president dating to John Kennedy were expected to attend.

It will bring together Democrat and Republican, an unusual tableau at a time of deep division in Washington and the 2016 campaign trail. Hillary Clinton plans to take a break from the presidential campaign to attend, and other politicians on the list cover the political spectrum, from Newt Gingrich to Nancy Pelosi.

Nancy Reagan's two children, Patti Davis and Ronald Prescott Reagan, will be among the speakers at the funeral, which will include choirs and a Marine Corps band.

James A. Baker, who served in the Reagan administration, and former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw also will give remarks during the private ceremony officiated by the Rev. Stuart Kenworthy, vicar of Washington National Cathedral.

On Wednesday and Thursday at the library, lines of mourners and Reagan faithful filed slowly past the former first lady's closed casket, blanketed with white roses and peonies, Mrs. Reagan's favorite flower.

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Tears often fell. The crowd, many in graying years, spoke to an era closed, a time of "morning again in America" and the Reagan doctrine intended to weaken Soviet influence during the Cold War.

Reagan left the presidency after eight years, on January 20, 1989.

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

Mrs. Reagan, who died Sunday at 94, planned the smallest details of her funeral. She selected the funeral's flower arrangements, the music to be played by a Marine Corps band and the list of guests invited to the private memorial.

The library site, where the 40th president was buried in 2004, provides sweeping views of horse country dotted with oaks and, on a clear day, a vista to the Pacific.

The Reagans "just fell in love" with the spot, Boston developer and Republican fundraiser Gerald Blakeley recalled in a 2004 interview. He was part of a partnership that donated the land where the library now sits.

"We're just grateful for the Reagan years," Ray Brooks of Simi Valley said Thursday as he waited in line with his wife Jackie to board a shuttle to the library grounds, where Mrs. Reagan's casket was placed in the marble lobby with a bronze statue of a smiling Ronald Reagan nearby.

"Everybody, no matter how they felt about those years, when they look back they remember them as good years because of the example they set. We need an example like that now," Brooks said.

Trump's rough handling of rally dissenters stirs questions

ALLEN G. BREED, AP National Writer

To Rakeem Jones, flanked on all sides by uniformed sheriff's deputies, it was more than just the shock of being ejected from a political rally for Donald Trump. The black man felt as if he was being transported back in time.

"It's not the America they portray on TV," the 26-year-old said, the day after he was wrestled to the ground by officers and punched in the face during the campaign event in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

But to friend Ronnie Rouse, who caught the incident on video, it was "totally American."

"This is the America everybody wants to ignore," the music producer told The Associated Press Thursday. "This is the America, when people tell you, 'Oh, racism doesn't exist.' It's here."

What should we make of scenes like this Wednesday evening at Crown Coliseum?

They have become a regular thing at Trump rallies, and while security experts say Trump has every right to quash dissent at events he's paying for, they say the Republican front-runner is playing with fire by not tamping down uncivil behavior and assault.

"I would go so far as to say that I find that abhorrent," security consultant Stan Kephart, a former police chief in Arizona and California, said of Trump's failure to call out his pugnacious followers. "To me, he's pressing the line. He's doing things that you would see a showman do."

What's Trump's attitude about all of this?

He once said he'd like to personally punch a protester in the face, and has pledged to pay his supporters' legal bills if they get in trouble.

He's spoken fondly of the "good old days" when police could rough protesters up without fear of backlash. "But today," he said Wednesday in Fayetteville, "they walk in and they put their hand up and they put the wrong finger in the air ... and they get away with murder. Because we've become weak."

During Thursday night's debate in Miami, Trump said some of the protesters at his rallies "are bad dudes and have done bad things." But he said he hopes he hasn't played a role in inciting the violence with some of his provocative language.

In Fayetteville, strong words between Trump supporters and protesters quickly ignited.

Rouse said his group was reacting to an insult against one of their party when they were suddenly swarmed by officers, and Jones was thrown to the floor. As he was being led away, Jones said he could hear Trump shouting, "Go home to your mama." Jones' mother died eight years ago.

Jones said the man who hit him was allowed to stay, but on Thursday, the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department charged John Franklin McGraw of Linden, North Carolina, with assault and disorderly conduct.

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The role of law enforcement in these situations is not simple.

"We respect folks' First Amendment rights to free speech. We're not there to police the protesters," said Robert K. Hoback, a spokesman for the Secret Service, commenting on reports that Secret Service agents escorted protesters out of a recent Trump event in Georgia. He said they only act on threats to the "protectee."

Crowd control expert Paul Wertheimer, who has been keeping track of Trump events, said he hasn't seen any instances where law enforcement or private security have overstepped. But he thinks the candidate should show more tolerance for protest.

"I think he, in general, knows what he's doing, and he does this intentionally to stir up the crowd," said Wertheimer, head of Los Angeles-based Crowd Management Strategies. But he said the candidate is taking a risk.

"I think things can quickly get out of control if he continues to act this way," said Wertheimer, who's consulted with authorities in Ferguson, Missouri, Baltimore and other recent hot spots. "The man or woman on the stage with the mic has a lot of power — to calm things down or to provoke confrontations, to inspire or to create an atmosphere of intolerance."

Kephart, the ex-police chief, agrees that Trump should be a little more willing to take the boos and heckling. What he shouldn't tolerate, he said, is violence.

"If you don't say anything, you're assenting to it. You're saying it's OK," he said.

In an email about the North Carolina incident and arrest, Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks said Thursday, "We are not involved."

Whether someone's rights are being trampled depends on the venue, be it public or private, said Ken Paulson, president of the First Amendment Center at the Newseum in Washington.

"Basically, you always have to remember that the First Amendment says, 'Congress shall make no law.' It doesn't say, 'Trump shall make no rules in a private setting,'" Paulsen said.

But a public place doesn't become "a private country club," he added, "just because somebody writes a big check."

10 Things to Know for Friday

The Associated Press

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

1. GOP FIELD BARRELS TOWARD ALL-IMPORTANT PRIMARIES

Elections in Florida and four other states next week will go a long way toward determining the outcome of the primary season.

2. TRUMP RALLIES CAN BE ROUGH AND TUMBLE

Campaign events for the GOP front-runner have been marked by scenes of protesters being hauled out — and even outright assaults by Trump's followers.

3. FILES SURFACE WITH PERSONAL DATA ON MILITANTS

The documents could help authorities track down and prosecute foreign fighters who returned home after joining the Islamic State group.

4. WHY SOME AMERICANS WANT TO DO AWAY WITH DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Opponents of changing the clocks twice a year argue that traffic accidents, heart attacks and strokes increase when we change time.

5. CLOSURE OF MIGRANT TRAIL THROUGH BALKANS RAISES WORRY

Concern mounts that people desperate for sanctuary or jobs in Europe are turning to smugglers to find other pathways.

6. 'TRUDEAUMANIA' ARRIVES IN AMERICA

The first state dinner of Obama's final year honors Canada and its newest sensation named Justin: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

7. HOW CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS AIM TO COMBAT SMOKING

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A measure passed by the state Assembly would raise the legal age for purchasing and using tobacco and e-cigarettes from 18 to 21.

8. FAMED MOVIE SET DESIGNER DIES AT 95

Ken Adam gave "Dr. Strangelove" its cavernous War Room and James Bond supervillains their futuristic lairs.

9. WHERE WATERING HOLES ARE DRYING UP

The number of neighborhood bars across the U.S. is shrinking as more people do their drinking in restaurants and huge sports bars.

10. LAST HOLDOUT FOR POSTSEASON CONFERENCE TOURNEYS FINALLY GIVES IN

The Ivy League will add men's and women's basketball tournaments next season that will determine the conference's automatic berths for the NCAA Tournament.

Ford makes police car doors that stop armor-piercing bullets

DETROIT (AP) — It's a first for police cars: Doors that can protect against armor-piercing bullets.

Ford will soon be offering the doors on its Police Interceptor sedans and SUVs. They'll be the first in the U.S. to meet the Justice Department's highest standard for body armor, the equivalent of a bulky SWAT team vest.

The doors are designed to stop a .30-caliber bullet shot from a high-powered rifle like an AK-47. That's more powerful ammunition than many soldiers carry.

Ford has offered factory-installed ballistic panels on its police car doors since 2008. But previous versions protected against handgun fire and non-armor piercing bullets. Between 5 percent and 10 percent of police vehicles Ford sells have the optional ballistic protection, which costs around \$1,500 per door.

But Randy Freiburger, a Ford engineer who works with police customers, said the company was getting frequent requests for better protection, particularly from police in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. So engineers started working on upgraded panels.

"In some places outside the U.S., they face the armor-piercing threat on a daily basis," Freiburger said. "This is the price of entry for those markets."

Ford was also facing pressure from its rivals. Dodge began offering non-armor piercing protection on police versions of the Charger in 2012. Ford controlled 60 percent of the U.S. police vehicle market in 2015.

Other automakers, including Land Rover and Audi, make vehicles from high-strength steel that can protect against armor-piercing bullets. But the cost would likely be out of reach for most police departments. The armored Range Rover Sentinel, which is not sold in the U.S., starts at \$569,000. A Ford Police Interceptor SUV — which is based on an Explorer — starts around \$30,000.

Ford's ballistic panels — which cover most of the door — have two layers. The outside is made from ballistic-grade ceramic tile. When a bullet hits the tile, it disperses the energy and starts to break the bullet into pieces. The inner layer is made from aramid fiber, which is the same material used for Kevlar. The fiber catches the shrapnel from the bullet.

If bullets strike twice in the same spot, which is rare, the panels will still offer some protection, Ford says.

Freiburger said increasing the ballistic protection was an engineering challenge. The composition of the ceramic tile and the interior fiber had to be changed. The doors also weigh more, so engineers had to make sure that the hinges would hold them.

Ford will continue offering both non-armor piercing and armor-piercing doors for departments with different needs. Pricing for the upgraded protection hasn't been announced.

The doors aren't available to the public. In fact, they're destroyed when police cars are scrapped so they can't get into criminals' hands.

Freiburger said the car windows do not have ballistic protection because it significantly increases the weight of the glass. Bulletproof glass could also make it more difficult to get injured people out of a patrol car.

Bill Johnson, executive director of the National Association of Police Organizations, said police are frequently targeted when they're in their cars, so they will likely welcome the more advanced protection.

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"Any kind of protection that can be added into the vehicles that officers are driving in is a great idea," Johnson said."

No rail deal, strike draws closer for New Jersey commuters

DAVID PORTER, Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Negotiations between rail worker unions and New Jersey Transit concluded without a deal Thursday, as a strike deadline neared that would affect tens of thousands of commuters whose cost of traveling to New York City each day has already soared in recent years.

The parties met for several hours Thursday at a Hilton hotel in downtown Newark, two days after representatives for both sides expressed optimism at the tenor of the negotiations. Each spent Wednesday reviewing details of proposals made the day before.

By mid-afternoon Thursday, NJ Transit's special counsel said he was still optimistic that a deal could be struck before the 12:01 a.m. Sunday deadline but that key issues such as wages and health care remained in play.

The two sides planned to resume their face-to-face talks Friday morning.

More than 4,000 NJ Transit rail workers have authorized a strike for early Sunday. The two sides have yet to agree on wage increases, health care costs and the length of a contract.

Unions have been working without a contract for nearly five years.

The approximately 105,000 people who commute into New York via NJ Transit, the nation's third-largest commuter railroad, have endured fare increases in the last six years that have raised prices more than 30 percent.

In early 2010, for example, a commuter from Princeton to New York paid \$366 for a monthly pass that now costs \$499. The round-trip off-peak discount, \$22.50 six years ago, was eliminated and a roundtrip ticket now costs \$35.

For Tom Wright, president of the urban planning think tank Regional Plan Association and also a Princeton commuter, said the fare hikes become less palatable when they're combined with service disruptions.

"People understand that every year, costs inch up a little, and they probably have gone up faster than they should have lately," he said. "But as you feel that service is getting worse at the same time, you're paying more, that's when you say, 'I can't stand this anymore.'"

If there's any consolation for rail riders, it may be that motorists are even worse off.

Toll increases on the New Jersey Turnpike and at bridge and tunnel crossings into New York operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey have raised the cost of driving by more than 80 percent since mid-2011.

For cash payers, a roundtrip commute from Turnpike Exit 11, about 25 miles from New York, during peak periods went from \$284 per month to \$518 by last December, fueled largely by the Port Authority's raising of the tunnel toll from \$8 to \$15 over five years.

If there is a rail strike, those kinds of numbers could become relevant quickly for thousands of rail commuters: NJ Transit warned last week that only about 4 in 10 will be able to get into New York on the extra buses the agency said it would press into service as a contingency plan.

Gary Dellaverson, NJ Transit special counsel, said Thursday both sides hoped to settle the dispute before talks spilled into Saturday.

"Their desire and our desire, at least as of this moment, is the same, which is to reach a peaceful, across-the-table resolution," he said.

Union officials didn't comment on the negotiations when they emerged Thursday from the ballroom where talks were being held.

Judge hears dispute involving Ohio's youngest primary voters

ANN SANNER, Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Allowing 17-year-old Ohioans to vote in the swing state's presidential primary would cause "mass confusion" days before the election, an attorney for the state's elections chief told a

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judge Thursday.

But an attorney for nine teen voters claimed her clients have a right to vote in Tuesday's primary.

The arguments before the Franklin County Common Pleas Court judge came in a lawsuit over a policy for the state's youngest voters.

Ohio law allows 17-year-olds who will be 18 before the fall election to vote in the primary, with some exceptions. The young voters can decide on congressional, legislative and mayoral contenders but can't vote on tax levies, ballot issues or a political party's central committee candidates.

A manual for elections officials issued last year by Republican Secretary of State Jon Husted says 17-year-olds can vote "solely on the nomination of candidates" — and not in the presidential primary "because delegates are elected and not nominated."

Nine 17-year-old registered voters from central Ohio are suing Husted over his interpretation of the law. They claim the elections chief's directions violate their voting rights and run counter to the state constitution and court decisions.

The newbie voters want Judge Richard Frye to issue an emergency order blocking Husted's instructions that forbid them to vote in the presidential primary.

Husted has said Ohio has operated under the same rules in past primaries, and the law is clear.

Complicating matters is that early voting has been underway in Ohio for weeks.

Chad Readler, an attorney for Husted, said the plaintiffs' request "would create mass confusion at the boards of election." He told the judge that some 17-year-olds' ballots were already being processed by local elections officials.

"It's too late to unscramble the egg, essentially," Readler said.

Frye noted that 17-year-old voters can still cast ballots through Election Day.

"What about the eggs that are not yet scrambled if we haven't yet broken the shells on them?" he replied.

The teens' attorney, Rachel Bloomekatz, also noted there may be some 17-year-old voters who were told they could not vote in the race and didn't.

"But just because early voting has been underway for a bit doesn't mean that we should deny the rest of all of these 17-year-olds the right to vote," she told the court.

A ruling from Frye could come as soon as Friday.

Separately, Democrat Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign has filed a federal lawsuit over the limitations.

At least 20 other states allow 17-year-olds to vote in presidential primaries or caucuses, though rules sometimes vary based on political party, according to FairVote, an organization that tracks electoral issues.

California lawmakers vote to raise smoking, vaping age to 21

JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California lawmakers voted Thursday to raise the legal age for purchasing and using tobacco and e-cigarettes from 18 to 21, putting the nation's most populous state on the brink of becoming only the second after Hawaii to bar teenagers from lighting up, dipping or vaping.

Before it can become law, Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown must sign the legislation, which has already passed the state Assembly. His spokesman said the governor generally does not comment on pending legislation.

Only Hawaii has adopted the higher age limit statewide, although dozens of cities, including New York and San Francisco, have passed similar laws of their own.

"We can prevent countless California youth from becoming addicted to this deadly drug, save billions of dollars in direct health care costs and, most importantly, save lives," said Democratic Sen. Ed Hernandez, who wrote the bill.

The higher age limit, part of a package of anti-tobacco bills, won approval despite intense lobbying from tobacco interests and fierce opposition from many Republicans, who said the state should butt out of people's personal health decisions, even if they are harmful.

The six bills that passed both houses represented California's most substantial anti-tobacco effort in

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nearly two decades, according to the American Cancer Society.

"With California having such a huge population, it's going to be very impactful nationwide," said Cathy Callaway, associate director of state and local campaigns for the society.

Advocates noted that the vast majority of smokers start before they are 18, according to data from the U.S. surgeon general. Making it illegal for 18-year-old high school students to buy tobacco for their under-age friends will make it more difficult for teens to get the products, they said.

Opponents said American law and custom has long accepted that people can make adult decisions on their 18th birthday and live with the consequences. Eighteen-year-olds can register to vote, join the military, sign legally binding contracts, consent to sex and do just about any legal activity besides buying alcohol.

In response, Democrats changed the bill to allow members of the military to continue buying cigarettes at 18.

"You can commit a felony when you're 18 years old and for the rest of your life, be in prison," Assembly Republican Leader Chad Mayes said. "And yet you can't buy a pack of cigarettes."

Another bill would classify e-cigarettes, or "vaping" devices, as tobacco products subject to the same restrictions on who can purchase them and where they can be used.

The Food and Drug Administration has proposed regulations for e-cigarettes, but none has taken effect.

Anti-tobacco groups fear that vaporizers are enticing to young people and may encourage them to eventually take up smoking.

"All the progress we've made since 1965 to educate people about the hazards of smoking may be for naught as vaping has started a new generation of nicotine junkies that will be helplessly addicted and will ultimately graduate to smoking cancer sticks," said Sen. Jeff Stone, a Republican.

Others say the devices are a less harmful, tar-free alternative to cigarettes. They have not been extensively studied, and there is no scientific consensus on their risks.

A vaping industry group, the Smoke-Free Alternatives Trade Association, urged Brown to veto the bill, saying in a letter that it could pose problems for vape shops.

"The stigma of being equated with tobacco has many negative consequences," the group wrote.

The bills would also expand smoke-free areas to include bars, workplace break rooms, small businesses, warehouses and hotel lobbies and meeting rooms. Smoking bans would apply at more schools, including charter schools, and counties would be able to raise their own cigarette taxes beyond the state's levy of \$0.87 per pack.

The legislation would take effect 90 days after the governor signs it.

The Senate vote came just over a week after San Francisco officials opted to raise the tobacco buying age to 21, making it the largest city to do so after New York. Nationwide, more than 120 municipalities have raised the smoking age, according to Tobacco 21, a group that advocates the policy shift nationally.

Hawaii was first to adopt the higher age limit statewide. New Jersey's Legislature voted to raise the smoking age from 19 to 21, but the bill died when Republican Gov. Chris Christie decided not to act on it before a January deadline.

Anti-smoking groups are collecting signatures for a November ballot initiative that would raise the cigarette tax to \$2 a pack and direct the money to health care, tobacco-use prevention, research and law enforcement.