

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, March 14

School Breakfast: Egg Omelette, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Meatball, baked tiny potatoes, broccoli and dip, fruit.

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

Birthdays: Beatrice Schauer, Katie Lyren, Nicole Taylor, Erin Sternhagen, Kalen Kjellsen, Mendy Jones, Sydney Erickson, Ulrich Ulvog

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

7:00pm: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 15

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

School Lunch: Pizza crunch, baked beans, lettuce salad, fruit.

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hot dish, tomato spoon salad, pears, cornmeal muffin.

Birthdays: Clayton K (Butch) Farmen, Jim Ack-

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
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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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Glimpse From Greenfield

Brock Greenfield
State Senator
District 2

The final week of session began with the House and Senate spending the first two days clearing their calendars of bills that remained in-play. The final three days were reserved for conference committee meetings to iron out differences of opinions between the houses on bills that had passed one body in one form and were subsequently amended

in ways that did not meet with agreement of the other body. Also, the appropriations committee put the final touches on the general appropriations bill which funds the government for the next fiscal year.

HB 1078 embodied an issue that had been introduced many times in recent years but had not met with approval. It is known as the "good Samaritan" bill and it states that a person under 21 years of age cannot be prosecuted for underage alcohol consumption IF that person contacts law enforcement on behalf of somebody who is in need of emergency medical treatment. It is contingent upon the person filing the report remaining at the scene and assisting the person in need of emergency treatment until help arrives and cooperating with law enforcement and EMT's upon their arrival. It also allows a person to place the call seeking emergency medical attention on his or her own behalf. Similar laws passed in other states have led to lives being saved because there is less hesitation to seek treatment for alcohol related emergencies when the fear of prosecution is taken out of the equation. Although rare, tragedies have occurred when minors have abandoned their friends in need for fear of legal ramifications. This year's legislation passed the House, 64-1, and the Senate, 33-1. It awaits a final decision from the Governor.

HB 1110 is another bill that has seen many failed attempts in the past. It seeks to expand Medicaid to provide prenatal care for pregnant women who are illegal or undocumented aliens. This bill has proven to be exceedingly controversial, in that it extends services to nonresidents at the expense of US residents who are taxpayers. While the hope is that it will lead to healthy babies, some argue that it will make South Dakota a de facto sanctuary state because once babies of undocumented aliens are born here, they are citizens and the state has no recourse to seek to deport their undocumented parents. The bill passed the

House, 53-14, and the Senate, 22-11. I voted against the bill because there is currently nothing that precludes anybody from receiving necessary medical attention regardless of citizenship status. This merely places a greater burden on our taxpayers at the expense of those who have chosen not to follow our immigration laws.

Speaking of babies, the Senate passed HB 1157, which strengthens our informed consent laws relative to abortion by requiring that women be told that even after they have taken Mifepristone (aka RU-486) as the first step in a medical abortion, should they have second thoughts, there is a chance that by discontinuing the process and not taking Misoprostol to complete the abortion. I have read numerous accounts of pregnant women who have chosen not to take the second drug, and they have delivered perfectly normal, healthy babies. The chances of being able to carry their baby to term after taking Mifepristone is somewhere around fifty percent if they do not take Misoprostol. Al-

golden
living

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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lowing them access to this information is important, in that they be given the fullest information possible at a very difficult time. I carried the bill on the floor, and it prevailed 29-4.

SB 131, which rewrites the education funding formula, came back to the Senate substantially different than when it passed a couple weeks ago. The bill had been changed to reduce the target teacher-to-student ratio in small schools to 12-to-1 (down from 12.5-to-1) when it went before the House Appropriations Committee. That made the bill more palatable for many of us who represent more rural legislative districts with small schools. However, on the floor, the bill was amended to remove a provision in the law to allow for schools experiencing declining enrollments to average their enrollment over two years, rather than just being tied to their fall enrollment in the current school year. This safeguard had been present in our old funding formula because it allowed schools to adjust to enrollment changes and any anomalies that occurred due to large graduating classes and small incoming classes the following year. Sometimes such dynamics happen and they are very temporary, with the enrollment stabilizing the following year. This provision allows the schools to absorb the falloff in enrollment without having to consider reducing staff. When this averaging element was removed from SB 131, it had a net effect of reducing state aid to education by \$5.6 million. While it may affect schools of all sizes in a given year, it disproportionately hurts small, rural schools. Another issue contained within SB 131 is the redistribution of "other funds" which have been retained by local school districts and have been outside the formula for years. Going forward, the schools will lose their "other funds" and they will be redistributed across the state. Some schools win and some schools lose big in this process. While "other funds" generated by wind energy projects have been changed from the initial draft of the bill, school districts will still lose the wind dollars that contribute to local effort over time until the state eventually redistributes 100% of those monies. Finally, the bill was amended to establish a statement of legislative intent that speaks to focusing on providing accelerated increases to starting teachers and those below midpoint in those their applicable pay scales. While the statement of legislative intent currently is merely a suggestion, I heard from some administrators who object to the notion that the legislature is directing them to spend dollars in a way that may not be consistent with what they have to offer to retain veteran teachers. If they choose to act outside the bounds of the statement of legislative intent, there is some concern as to what the ramifications could be down the road. A number of Senators attempted to send the bill to conference committee to try to improve the bill, but we lost a few people who said they would support the effort and we failed 16-19. As it stands, SB 131, in my opinion, represents the blueprint to forced consolidation as small, rural districts experience difficulties in achieving the target student-teacher ratios and the target salaries. As I stated last week, some of the larger schools who are dealing with vastly different economies of scale benefit greatly from this new formula, and they will be the ones who have ample resources to attract educators at the expense of those of us in rural South Dakota. My concern is that the long-term impact of SB 131 will leave us wishing we had provided the additional dollars raised by this year's tax increase WITHOUT changing the per-student formula that has been in place since 1995. That concern was confirmed multiple times when I heard that the intention was to force schools to make "tough choices". And, as I've also stated previously, we know that the package of bills ultimately seeks to displace 400 teachers from schools as those schools seek to meet their targets.

This year was an interesting experiment in the legislative process. Many bills were assigned to committees that didn't typically deal with the subject matter contained within the bills. The education bills were assigned to Senate State Affairs and then to House Appropriations. The Education Committees did not have an opportunity to take a look at them from a policy standpoint. The tax increase bill was assigned House Appropriations and then to Senate Appropriations. Again, the Taxation Committees were not afforded the opportunity to hear the policy arguments. This was true of a number of bills. HJR 1002 which unsuccessfully called for South Dakota to join in calling for an Article V Convention to propose new amendments to our US Constitution was sent to the Senate Taxation Committee, while virtually all bills dealing with taxes and assessments were ushered to the Ag, Local Government, or State Affairs Committees. In my sixteen years working for the people of our district, I truly have not seen so many irregularities relative to the process.

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In an increasingly chaotic world, I appreciate those who have offered words of encouragement and who have remained committed to praying for us as we work to represent the best interests of our district(s) and of all South Dakotans. I want to extend my heartfelt thank you for all your support, as well as for giving me the opportunity to be one of your voices in Pierre. I realize we don't all always agree on every issue, but I will always remain committed to making informed decisions based upon all the information I can gather. And I appreciate that so many of you are involved in your government, as you contact me, participate in cracker barrels, and read my articles. I believe it is paramount that a person conduct him- or herself with honesty and integrity and that he or she remains accountable to you.

If any bills you are interested in are vetoed between now and March 29, please feel free to be in contact with me concerning your thoughts. For now, I thank you once again, and I wish you a very blessed remainder of the year. I hope to see you along the trail.

Brock

Groton Lions Club elect new officers

The Groton Lions Club elected new officers, who will be installed in July.

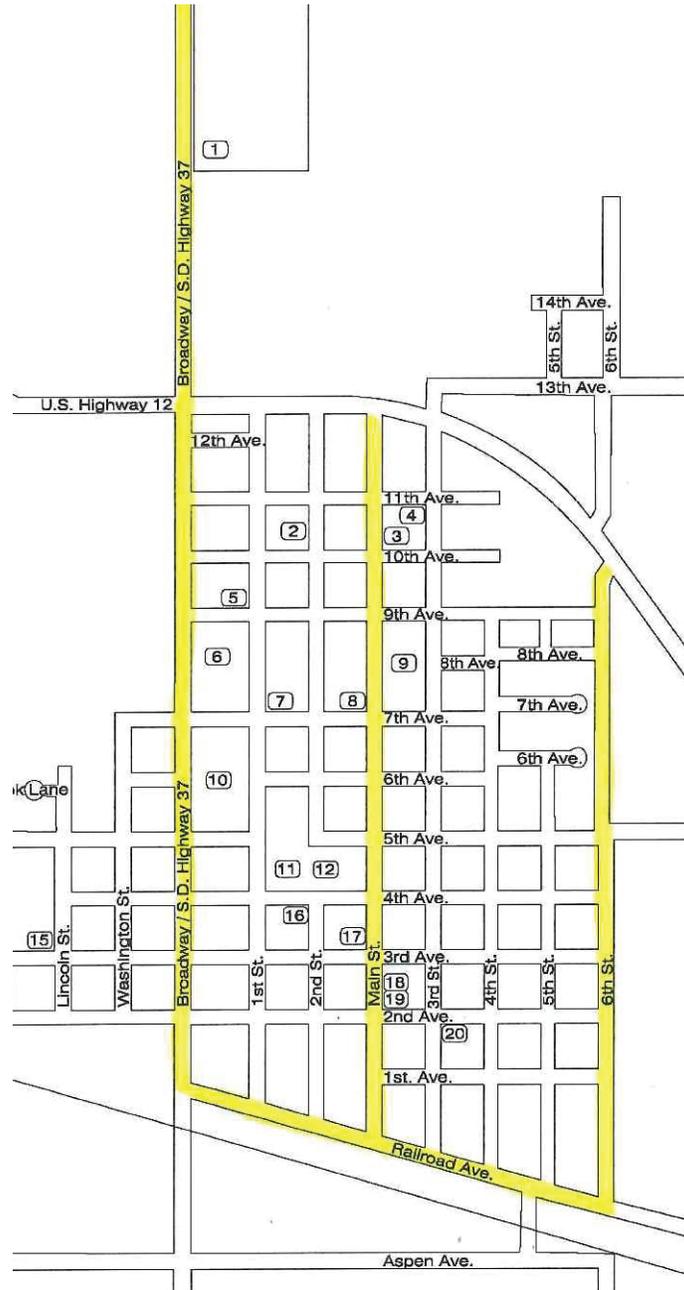
Those elected were Dave Pigors, president; Lee Schinkel, first vice president; Justin Olson, second vice president; Nancy Larsen, secretary; and Mark Wattier, treasurer.



Groton High School vocal soloists performed for the Groton Kiwanis Club at a recent meeting held at the Groton Community Center. Lee Schinkel introduced (L-R) Micah Poor, Madelyn Wright, Jenifer Fjelstad, Maggie Simon, Macy Knecht and Tylan Glover, all GHS students who performed solos. Cody Swanson (far right) is the K-12 instructor.

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Effective March 8th, 2016 until further notice

To Help Preserve Our Streets

GROTON Garbage Pickup Service

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation!!



OPEN HOUSE

March 17-18-19



Hop on in for savings!

Sign up for door prize!

Lori's 
Pharmacy

CARDS, GIFTS & NOVELTIES

1205 N 1st St., Groton

Swisher, Flihs are state winners in National Corn Yield Contest

Two area corn growers have been honored as state winners in the 2015 National Corn Yield contest sponsored annually by the National Corn Growers Association.

Travis R Swisher of Groton, SD, placed second in the state in the A No-Till/Strip-Till Non-Irrigated Class with a yield of 242.3905 bushels per acre. The hybrid used in the winning field was DEKALB DKC46-36RIB.

Jeffery Flihs of Groton, SD, placed third in the state in the A No-Till/Strip-Till Non-Irrigated Class with a yield of 238.8493 bushels per acre. The hybrid used in the winning field was DEKALB DKC46-20RIB.

The local growers were one of 407 state winners nationwide. The 2015 contest participation included 7,729 entries from 45 states. Of the state winners, 18 growers – three from each of six classes – were named national winners, representing nine states.

The average yield among national winners was 386.4 bushels per acre – greater than the 2015 U.S. average of 169.3 bushels per acre. Six of the national winners recorded yields of 400 bushels or more per acre.

“This harvest, the world witnessed the incredible bounty U.S. corn farmers can provide to meet the growing need for food, fuel and fiber both in our nation and around the world,” said NCGA President Chip Bowling, a corn grower from Newberg, MD.

“Our contest participants demonstrated that America’s farmers continue to strive for excellence while adopting state-of-the-art tools which help them meet those goals,” Bowling continued. “The top yield in this year’s contest – a tremendous 532.0271 bushels per acre achieved by David Hula of Charles City, VA, - is a testament to these efforts.”

Farmers are encouraged through the contest to utilize new, efficient production techniques.

Agronomic data gleaned from the contest reveal the following:

- Average planting population for the national winners was 40,861 seeds per acre, compared to 34,123 for all entrants.
- National winners applied an average of 364.06 pounds of nitrogen, 116.39 pounds of phosphorus and 231.78 pounds of potassium per acre.
- Average commercial nitrogen use per bushel of yield was 0.94 pounds for the national winners and 0.89 pounds for all entrants.
- 27.78 percent of the national winners applied trace minerals, compared to 38.74 percent of all entrants.
- Use of manure as a fertilizer was consistent. 38.89 percent of national winners applied manure, compared to 16.06 percent of all entrants.

The National Corn Yield Contest began in 1965 with 20 entries from 3 states. The highest overall yield was 218.9 bushels per acre, while the national yield average was in the mid-60 bushel-per-acre range.

The winners were recognized March 4th at the 2016 Commodity Classic, the premier convention and trade show of the U.S. corn, soybean, sorghum, wheat and equipment industries, held this year in New Orleans, LA. For a complete list of winners and for more information about NCYC, visit the NCGA website at www.ncga.com.

The National Corn Growers Association represents more than 41,000 members, 48 affiliated state corn grower and checkoff organizations, and hundreds of thousands of growers who contribute to state checkoff programs.

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Today in Weather History

March 14, 1989: A fast moving winter storm produced freezing rain and heavy snow across most of South Dakota. Visibilities were reduced to 100 ft within areas of blowing snow. Driving conditions became treacherous, resulting in abandoned vehicles, several accidents, and the temporary closing of I-29 from Sioux Falls to the North Dakota border.

March 14, 1990: Heavy Snow fell across parts of southwest, central, and north central South Dakota from the late afternoon on the 13th into the morning hours of the 14th. Highest accumulations were recorded in the north-central part of the state, including 9 inches at Gettysburg, 8 inches at Pollock, and 5 inches at Pine Ridge.

March 14, 2002: Heavy snow of 6 to 16 inches fell across parts of central and northeast South Dakota from the early morning to the evening hours. Some freezing rain fell across parts of the area before changing over to snow. Also, the winds increased from the north resulting in blowing snow and reduced visibilities. The combination of ice, heavy snow, and blowing snow resulted in very difficult travel conditions. There were several accidents across the area along with many vehicles sliding off the road. Schools either started late or were closed. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Blunt, 7 inches at Murdo, 8 inches at Stephan and Clark, 9 inches at Gann Valley and Miller, and 11 inches at Highmore and Watertown. Locations with a foot or more of snowfall included, 12 inches at Hayti and Milbank, 14 inches at Castlewood and Presho, 15 inches at Clear Lake, and 16 inches at Kennebec.

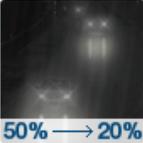
1933: A deadly tornado outbreak affected the Middle Tennessee region, including Nashville on this day. The outbreak, which produced five or more tornadoes, killed 44 people and injured at least 461 others. The strongest tornado, F3, cut a path through the center of Nashville. About 1,400 homes were damaged or destroyed. Windows were blown out of the State Capitol Building.

1935: Suffocating dust storms occurred frequently in southeast Colorado between the 12th and the 25th of the month. Six people died, and many livestock starved or suffocated. Up to six feet of dust covered the ground. Schools were closed, and many rural homes were deserted by tenants.

2008: An EF2 tornado moved through downtown Atlanta, Georgia shortly before 10 pm damaging the Georgia Dome where the SEC men's basketball tournament was underway. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the NWS Office in Peachtree City, Georgia.

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Den...	Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
							
	20%	50% → 20%	20%		20% 30%	50% 50%	40% 40%
	Fog then Slight Chance T-storms and Patchy Fog	Chance Showers then Slight Chance Rain	Slight Chance Rain and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance Rain/Snow then Chance Rain and Breezy	Chance Rain/Snow then Chance Snow	Chance Rain/Snow then Chance Rain
	High: 70 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 55 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 45 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 41 °F

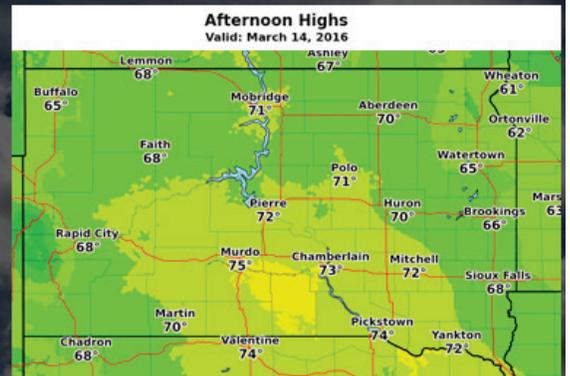
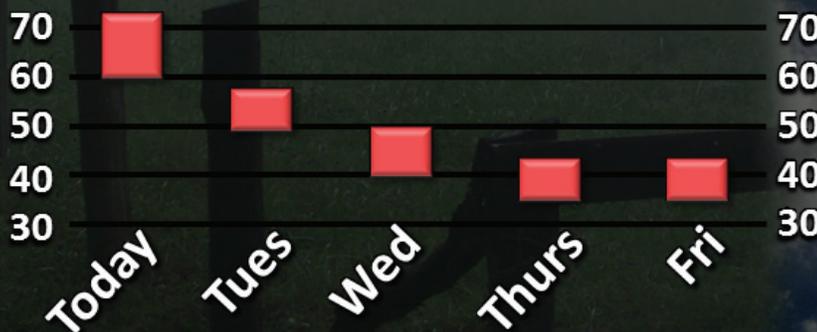
Last Day of Very Warm Temperatures

Dense fog this morning over eastern South Dakota

Very High Grassland Fire Danger over Central South Dakota

**Scattered showers develop this afternoon and continue into tonight
A few rumbles of thunder are also possible**

Forecast High Temperatures



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, South Dakota

www.weather.gov/abr



NWSAberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Published on: 03/14/2016 at 4:12AM

Another warm day is on tap for the area, with highs once again in the 60s to lower 70s. Dense fog will lead to slow travel across eastern South Dakota this morning. Much colder air will move into the area for the second half of the work week, bringing temperatures back to normal.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 66.0 at 6:55 PM

Low: 49.1 at 11:59 PM

High Gust: 27 at 11:31 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 71° in 1981

Record Low: -31 in 1897

Average High: 39°F

Average Low: 19°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.44

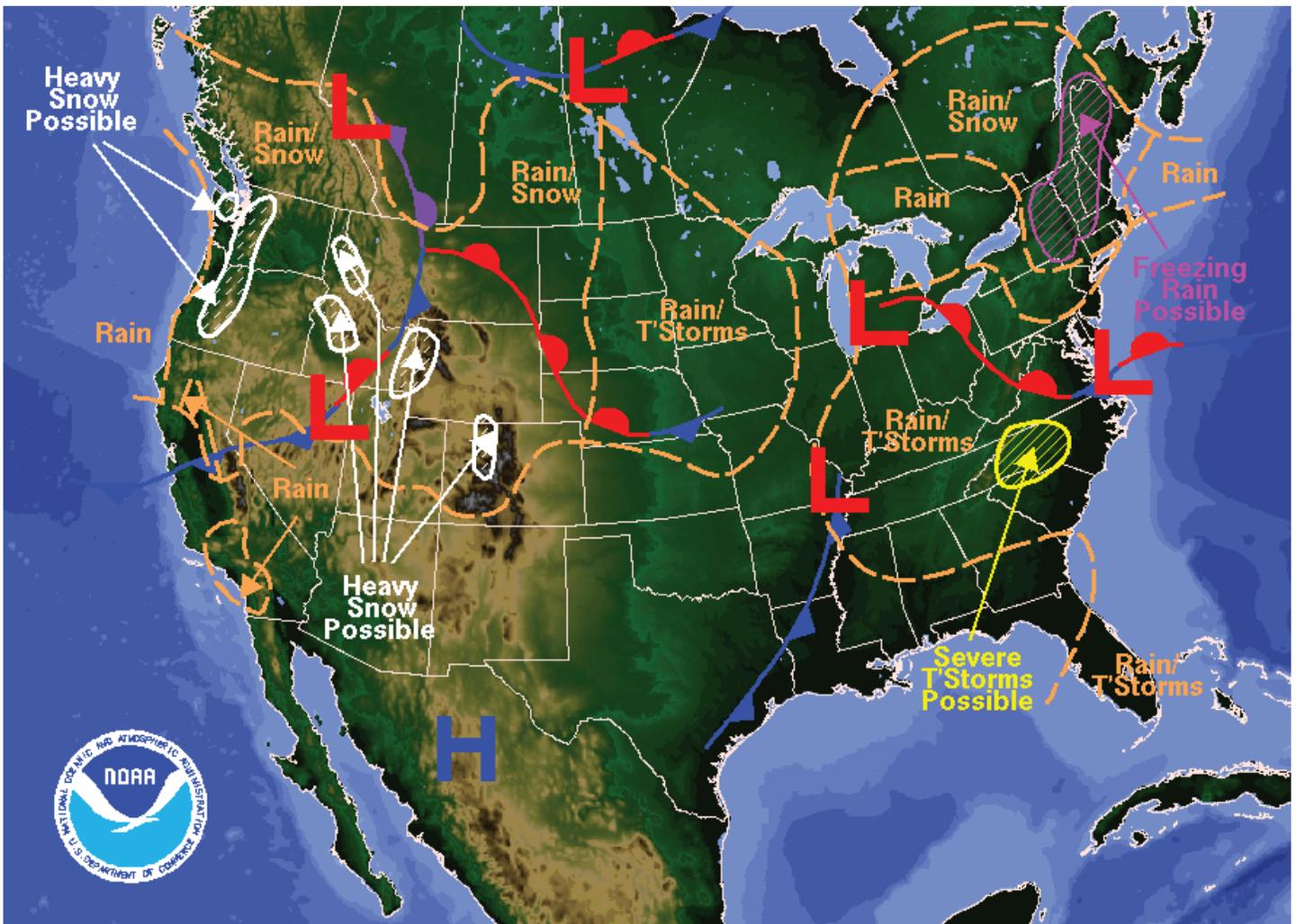
Precip to date in March.: 0.35

Average Precip to date: 1.46

Precip Year to Date: 0.95

Sunset Tonight: 7:39 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:45 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Mar 14, 2016, issued 3:53 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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PLEASE DO BETTER

One day a television reporter received a letter from a young girl. It read: "When I grow up I want to do what you do. Please do it better!"

When we see others doing something, often anything, we are critical and think there are ways they could improve their work. And, it is much easier for me to want to change someone – actually, anyone – than for me to want to change myself.

Jesus said, "Judge not," and He wondered how it was possible for us to see the speck in our brother's eye in spite of the log that we had in our own eye.

One sure way to improve the quality of our lives is to turn them over to Jesus and to measure whatever we do by what He has done. When He imparts His wisdom in our minds, implants His strength in our bodies, instills His truth in our hearts, fills our hearts with His love, we will be so busy doing His work that we won't have time to criticize others.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to keep my eyes upon You, my ears open to Your voice, my heart available to Your love and Your life an example for me to follow. Let me be less critical and more compassionate in my relationships with others: in Your Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Matthew 7:1-5 Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

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News from the  Associated Press

No. 1 overall seed Kansas lands in NCAA South Region

AARON BEARD, AP Basketball Writer

Kansas closed the regular season with momentum and yet another conference championship in a dominating Big 12 run. Now the Jayhawks head into the NCAA Tournament as the top overall seed.

Kansas headlines the South Region, earning a No. 1 seed for the sixth time in 10 seasons and 12th time overall. The Jayhawks open play against 16-seed Austin Peay on Thursday in Des Moines, Iowa, as they chase a second championship under coach Bill Self and first since 2008.

The regional semifinals and finals will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, with the Jayhawks topping a field that includes Villanova, Miami, California and Maryland.

"It's kind of like having a stellar high school career, and when you get to college you have to start all over and go compete," Self said Sunday. "It's a fresh start and this is a fresh start."

Kansas (30-4) has won 14 straight games and followed a 12th straight Big 12 regular-season title with a tournament title to reach 30 wins for the fifth time in seven seasons. Kansas has been a No. 1 or No. 2 seed for seven straight tournaments.

"We're just playing so well as a team, sharing the ball, defending well," senior Perry Ellis said. "If we keep doing that, we'll be fine."

Behind Kansas is No. 2 seed Villanova, one of six teams to hold the top spot in the Top 25 this year. The Wildcats (29-5) appeared poised for a top seed before losing to Seton Hall in Saturday's Big East Tournament final, and that might have bumped Villanova out of the East — where the Wildcats would've had a chance to play Sweet 16 and Elite Eight games in Philadelphia about 30 miles from campus.

They open play Friday in Brooklyn, New York, against 15-seed UNC Asheville as they try to reverse their trend of early exits. The Wildcats haven't made it out of the opening weekend since reaching the Final Four in 2009 with three losses as a No. 1 or 2 seed.

"We have heard that all year," Villanova coach Jay Wright said Sunday. "It's really been a challenge for our players during the regular season when people say, 'Well this doesn't matter anyway, you've got to get past the second round.' I love the way they handled that."

Some things to watch in the South Region:

MIAMI'S VETERANS: Third-seeded Miami (25-7) brought back a lot of experience from a run to last year's NIT final. Now the Hurricanes are preparing for their first NCAA game since reaching the Sweet 16 in 2013, opening against 14th-seeded Buffalo on Thursday in Providence, Rhode Island. Senior center Tonye Jekiri is the only player left from that 2013 team, through top scorers Sheldon McClellan and Angel Rodriguez, as well as junior Kamari Murphy, played in the NCAAs before transferring to Miami.

SECOND-ROUND THROWDOWN? No. 5 seed Maryland (25-8) started the year ranked in the top five and reached No. 2 in February before stumbling into the NCAAs with five losses in eight games. If they can get through Friday's opener against 12-seed South Dakota State in Spokane, Washington, the Terrapins could find themselves matched up with fourth-seeded California (23-10) — which features two of the nation's top freshmen in Jaylen Brown and Ivan Rabb, along with a defense that led the Pac-12 by holding opponents to 39-percent shooting. Cal, which opens against 13-seed Hawaii, has the highest seed in its history.

IOWA'S FADE: Iowa (21-10) has slid from a top-10 ranking to a No. 7 seed with six losses in eight games. The Hawkeyes, who went one-and-done in the Big Ten Tournament, are down to their last chance to stop that slide when they face 10th-seeded Temple (21-11) on Friday in Brooklyn.

UCONN'S SHOT: Connecticut (24-10) survived in a memorable game against Cincinnati in the American Athletic Conference Tournament with a shot from beyond halfcourt to force a fourth and final overtime, part of a run to the league title. Now the ninth-seeded Huskies look to keep things rolling — and maybe pull another low-seeded title run as they did two years ago — when they face No. 8 seed Colorado (22-

11) on Thursday in Des Moines.

BUBBLE-TEAM BATTLE: Vanderbilt (19-13) and Wichita State (24-8) squeezed into the field of 68, though they'll start with Tuesday's First Four matchup in Dayton, Ohio, for the right to claim the No. 11 seed. The winner meets sixth-seeded Arizona (25-8) on Thursday in Providence.

Prison plays hide-and-seek with ex-polygamist sect leader

MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Earlier this year, a wife of former polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs tried to visit him at a Texas state prison with a tiny microphone implanted in her hollowed-out watch. Another time recently, a woman planning to visit the convicted sex offender was denied entry after a metal detector found something buried in her hair and she refused to show it to a corrections officer.

Such is the hide-and-seek game authorities play with the self-styled prophet of the breakaway Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, who is serving a life sentence for sexually assaulting his 12- and 15-year-old child brides at a church compound in West Texas.

Prison officials said it was the second time recently that Jeffs' wives were caught trying microphone-in-the-watch that ploy. Those and other details emerged in Phoenix earlier this month at a trial involving Arizona and Utah church followers that offered a rare glimpse into how Jeffs still tries to exert control from behind bars.

Among other breaches of prison rules, Jeffs' phone privileges were temporarily suspended in 2012 when it was determined the caller at the other end was broadcasting the conversation on a speakerphone. And a Texas prisons official testified at the Phoenix trial that some mail sent by Jeffs was blocked when it appeared to be written in code.

From his arrival in 2011 at an East Texas prison, the 60-year-old Jeffs presented special challenges.

He began receiving more than 1,000 letters a day, mainly from followers of the sect that broke away from the Mormon church when it disavowed polygamy. That's more than all the other 1,000 inmates combined at the Powledge Unit prison near Palestine, where he is held in "protective custody" to shield him from other inmates.

Jennifer Smith, who supervises the prison agency's mail operation, says every piece of mail is opened and inspected for things such as contraband. Jeffs' mail volume has subsided somewhat, although his daily amounts still sometimes exceed 300 letters. Outgoing mail also is examined.

Operating a business from a penitentiary is not allowed, said Texas prisons director William Stephens, and attempts to do so are stopped as soon as possible.

Jeffs gets few visitors, makes only a smattering of phone calls, sends out a handful of letters and doesn't socialize much with others, prison officials said. He doesn't have a cell partner and is given the opportunity to be outside his cell just three hours a day for recreation. His meals are delivered to his cell.

"He has little interaction with the staff or other offenders," said Jason Clark, spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. "He keeps to himself."

He routinely refuses media requests for interviews, and denied such a request from The Associated Press.

He can have up to 10 people on an approved visitor list that can be revised every six months. Texas limits an inmate's phone list to 20 numbers and a contractor monitors the calls.

Texas authorities declined to provide the visitor and phone lists to The Associated Press, saying such records were confidential. But a prison official testifying at the Phoenix trial said two of Jeffs' brothers, Isaac and Nephi, are his most frequent visitors.

Jeffs is searched before he's brought to the visitation area and isn't allowed to bring anything except his prison ID. For immediate family visits, he's sits across a table from them. Other visitors speak to him from behind a screen. A corrections officer is nearby.

But phone calls to attorneys are not monitored because of attorney-client privilege. Letters marked as legal mail remain sealed until they're opened in Jeffs' presence and checked for physical contraband. Inmates and their lawyers are allowed to exchange documents during prison legal visits and those are not screened.

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Outgoing mail marked as legal correspondence avoids scrutiny of the mailroom clerks, although the name on the letter is checked to ensure that person really is a lawyer.

Willie Jessop, a former church security chief who has renounced the group, said at the Phoenix trial that he received more than 100 coded letters taken out by Jeffs' attorneys. They were decoded by his wives and then distributed to followers.

Jeffs fired his attorneys during his 2011 Texas trial and the AP was unable to determine if he now has a lawyer.

Two lawyers who have dealt with Jeffs denied they served as couriers for him. One attorney during two depositions taken in 2014 at the Texas prison said their discussions never focused on religion.

"Was I a messenger for the church? The answer is no," said lawyer Brian Walsh.

Michael Piccarreta, an Arizona lawyer who's represented Jeffs in criminal cases from 2007 to 2010 — before Jeffs arrived at the prison — said he had not heard of lawyers serving as couriers.

"I'm not aware of that occurring," he said. "That was not an issue."

Jessop said members of the sect who blindly followed Jeffs for years are still writing him because they are leaderless and desperate for guidance.

"It's just going to take time to wear this out, just like coming to grips with the fact there's no Santa Claus living at the North Pole," he said.

2 projects kick off orange barrel season in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Orange barrel season in Sioux Falls is kicking off with two projects on Interstates 29 and 229.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation says the projects will completely reconstruct about three miles of I-29 from north of Tea Exit 73 to north of 57th Street, and about one mile of I-229 from the I-29 interchange to just west of the Louise Avenue exit, including on and off ramps.

The first part of construction is scheduled to begin Monday, when northbound vehicles on I-29 from north of the Tea Exit to north of 57th Street will be redirected to the temporary pavement and bridge that was built in 2015.

The entire \$33.8 million project is expected to be completed in early November.

Lawmakers took up teacher pay, transgender issues in session

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Legislature ended the main run of the 2016 session after passing the state budget and approving a tax hike to raise teacher pay. But it was lawmakers' deliberations and Gov. Dennis Daugaard's veto of a bill that would have limited the bathrooms that transgender students could use that drew widespread attention. Here's a look at some of the issues lawmakers considered this year:

TEACHER PAY

Legislators passed a half-cent sales tax hike that puts more than \$60 million in new funding toward helping boost South Dakota's lowest-in-the-nation pay for teachers to a target average of \$48,500 per year. Daugaard signed a package of education measures, including the tax hike, which will also go to property tax relief and salaries at technical schools.

TRANSGENDER MEASURES

Lawmakers were unsuccessful in passing several measures this session related to transgender people, including the one the Republican governor vetoed, which the House failed to override earlier this month.

ABORTION LIMITATION

Lawmakers approved — and Daugaard signed — a measure banning most abortions beyond 19 weeks of pregnancy. The prohibition is based on the disputed premise that a fetus can feel pain at that stage. Rep. Isaac Latterell, a Republican, has said the measure recognizes "the humanity of these children."

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RETIREMENT SYSTEM CHANGES

Daugaard also signed into law changes to the retirement system for future public employees, including a two-year increase in the normal retirement age for many new workers. The changes apply to people starting work after June 30, 2017.

SEIZURE TREATMENT

House lawmakers blocked a bill that would have allowed doctors to prescribe preparations of a compound, called cannabidiol, that are low in THC, an intoxicant in marijuana. It was aimed at helping people treat intractable epilepsy.

SCHOOL CHOICE

A bill that would give insurance companies tax credits for contributions to help lower-income students attend private schools is on Daugaard's desk. The measure would allow companies to get an 80 percent tax credit for total contributions to a grant organization. The credits could total up to \$2 million each budget year.

BOOZE BUCKS

The Legislature passed a bill that would distribute a share of alcohol tax revenue to counties, where officials say they're having to spend more on court- and jail-related expenses, such as court-appointed attorneys. House lawmakers voted unanimously to send the bill to Daugaard, who has said he opposes the plan. The bill passed both chambers with margins that would suggest a veto could be overridden.

INDUSTRIAL HEMP

A state Senate committee defeated a bill that would have allowed the cultivation of industrial hemp. Advocates argued the crop could be a significant economic development opportunity and could lead to jobs in South Dakota, but public safety representatives opposed the plan and Daugaard has said he's against allowing industrial hemp in the state.

2016 session sees tax hike signed, transgender bill blocked

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — With the passage of a nearly \$4.6 billion budget, the Legislature capped a session last week that saw a historic tax hike to boost the state's bottom-shelf teacher pay and the rejection of a bill that would have made South Dakota the first state to limit the bathrooms that transgender students could use.

The Republican-held Legislature narrowly passed a second tax increase in as many years, this for a pay raise for teachers as part of an overhaul of education funding. Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed the measure Friday, making it the first permanent increase to the state's sales tax rate of 4 cents per dollar in nearly half a century.

Mary McCorkle, president of the South Dakota Education Association, called it "historic" and "a day of celebration."

And overall, Senate Republican leader Corey Brown said lawmakers made South Dakota a better state this session.

"Unequivocally, I think we did," he said.

The main part of the session ended Friday, but the Legislature will return to Pierre on March 29 to decide whether to accept or override any vetoes that come from Daugaard.

The Republican governor put his signature on a package of education measures that in part raise the state's target average teacher salary to \$48,500 per year. The average teacher salary was \$40,023 in budget year 2014 — the lowest in the nation. The tax hike puts more than \$60 million in new funding toward teacher salaries, with a chunk for property tax relief and a small portion for salaries at technical schools.

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But it was Daugaard's move to block South Dakota from requiring transgender students to use bathrooms corresponding with their birth sex that drew widespread attention, and applause in some circles; an effort to override his veto failed in the state House.

It was one of several measures lawmakers proposed this session related to transgender people, none of which passed. Advocates say the bathroom bill was meant to protect the privacy of students and not meant to be hurtful, but one transgender student told lawmakers it made him feel like he is "not a human being."

Supporters of a measure that would have allowed people to treat severe seizure disorders with a non-intoxicating compound in marijuana also walked away disappointed this year. The measure failed in the state House after passing through the Senate.

Meanwhile, abortion opponents left the session with a win when Daugaard signed a measure prohibiting most abortions beyond 19 weeks of pregnancy. Daugaard said South Dakota is "not breaking new ground" with the ban, adding he believes abortion should be discouraged.

Another new law changed the retirement system for future public employees, including a two-year increase in the normal retirement age to 67 for many new workers. Advocates say it's intended to maintain the sustainability of the system.

Lawmakers this session also supported a tuition freeze for South Dakota residents who attend one of the state's public universities or technical schools. The state budget includes nearly \$1.6 billion in general state spending, which is about 11 percent more than the current fiscal year.

"We do what D.C. doesn't. We balance our budget every year since 1889," House Republican leader Brian Gosch said. "We have another balanced budget, and I believe that as long as I live, we will always have a balanced budget."

Lawmakers' work may not be done for this year. Daugaard said he would like a special legislative session to consider expanding the Medicaid program for low-income and disabled people to another 50,000 South Dakota residents if his administration determines that moving forward would be viable.

Dakotas' business leaders to join USDA secy on trade mission

GARRISON, N.D. (AP) — Business leaders from North Dakota and South Dakota are part of a group that will join the nation's top agriculture officer on a trade mission to the South American countries of Peru and Chile.

The leaders will begin the five-day trip with Agriculture Department Secretary Tom Vilsack on Monday. The trip's goal is to expand export opportunities for food and agricultural products from the U.S.

South Dakota will be represented by the ethanol producing company Poet, which is based in Sioux Falls. North Dakota's representation will come from the Bismarck-based group LL-International LLC and the grain processing and exporting company JM Grain, which is headquartered in Garrison.

Peru and Chile are members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an agreement at the center of President Obama's trade agenda that Congress hasn't ratified.

Man gets 10 years in prison for sexually abusing girl

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man who admitted sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Jeffrey Viken has sentenced 39-year-old Edgar James Brown Bear. The Allen resident was also ordered to register as a sex offender and spend 10 years on supervised release.

Authorities say Brown Bear sexually abused the girl in May 2015 while both of them were at a home in Allen, a community within the exterior boundaries of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Authorities say Brown Bear warned the girl to "not tell anyone" about the incident.

Brown Bear was charged days after the incident and pleaded guilty in August to sexual abuse of a minor. He is now under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

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Amtrak train derails in southwest Kansas; injuries reported

CIMARRON, Kan. (AP) — An Amtrak train has derailed in southwest Kansas, sending about 20 people to the hospital.

An Amtrak statement says the train was traveling from Los Angeles to Chicago early Monday when it derailed just after midnight about 20 miles west of Dodge City.

Kansas Highway Patrol communication specialist Patricia Munford says five train cars are on their side.

Amtrak says about 20 passengers have been taken to hospitals in Dodge City and Garden City. All others were taken to a recreation center and will be given alternate transportation to their final destination.

Amtrak says the train consisted of two locomotives and nine cars and had about 128 passengers and 14 crew members on board.

Dodge City is about 160 miles west of Wichita.

Officer dead in shooting near police station; answers sought

JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

CHEVERLY, Md. (AP) Police and the public were seeking answers for why a gunman opened fire outside a police station in a Maryland suburb of the nation's capital, killing an officer in what the police chief called an "unprovoked attack."

Prince George's county police chief Hank Stawinski said the shooter opened fire on the first officer he saw outside the station around 4:30 p.m. Sunday in Landover, a suburb about 10 miles northeast of downtown Washington, D.C.

A gun battle followed, with several officers shooting at the suspect, who was wounded, Stawinski said at a news conference. On Sunday night, hours after the shooting, Stawinski had few answers for reporters about what led to the gunfire.

"It wasn't about anything," he said of the shooting, which claimed the life of a four-year veteran of the department who would have turned 29 years old this week.

Police were going about their business on the quiet, rainy Sunday afternoon when the gunman fired at the first officer he saw outside a Maryland police station, prompting a gun battle that left undercover narcotics officer Jacai Colson fatally wounded.

Authorities said Colson was pronounced dead at a hospital and the suspect was wounded but expected to survive.

Speaking at the Sunday evening news conference, Stawinski said that once the first shot was fired, several officers fired back at the suspect. He couldn't say how many shots were exchanged in the confrontation.

"Those officers did not shrink. They bravely advanced and engaged this individual," the chief said.

Prince George's County State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks called the shooting an "act of cowardice" and a "horrific act of evil."

She promised an aggressive investigation and prosecution of the suspect and another suspect arrested soon after the shooting. Their names were not immediately released.

Stawinski said the second man was believed to have been present with the suspected shooter when the shots erupted, but fled and was later arrested.

The Washington Post (<http://wapo.st/1M12KZ1>) reported that one woman nearby grabbed her sleeping 14-month old baby from his play pen when she heard what she thought might be either firecrackers or gunshots. The woman told the newspaper she looked outside and saw a man dressed in black firing a handgun.

"He fired one shot, and then he started pacing back and forth, then fired another shot," said Lascelles Grant, a nurse. She added that police began pouring out of the station. "Just looking outside, I'm like, 'Oh my God, look at all these police officers running out, putting their lives really in danger.'"

The woman couldn't immediately be reached by The Associated Press.

Immediately after the shooting, police advised residents near the police station to stay inside, and others to avoid the area, because of an "active shooter" situation. They later lifted the "shelter in place" advice.

Parked police cars lined the road to the hospital where Colson was taken Sunday evening. Officers

huddled in the hospital's lobby, somberly awaiting news.

"The officers are devastated," Stawinski said later after the officer was pronounced dead.

The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are aiding local police in the investigation, spokesmen for the two federal agencies said.

Survivors of Ivory Coast attack describe confusion and fear

ROBBIE COREY-BOULET, Associated Press

CHRISTIN ROBY, Associated Press

GRAND-BASSAM, Ivory Coast (AP) — Survivors of the first attack by Islamic extremists in Ivory Coast described scenes of confusion and fear as the jihadists gunned down defenseless civilians at a beachfront resort area. The attack left 16 dead.

Those who make a living off tourism believed the attack on Sunday would deal it a huge blow.

"Here, we work every day so foreigners (can) come here to relax ... With all that has happened, I don't think that the clients are going to come back now," said Francois Tanoh, who rents beach chairs to tourists.

Frenchman Charles-Philippe d'Orleans said he was at the beach with a friend when he heard the first shot, and thought it was a firecracker; then he heard another and louder one. A security guard told beachgoers not to worry, that some youths had tried to enter the paid-access beach and that another guard had fired his weapon into the air, d'Orleans told French radio RTL.

But then more shooting broke out and d'Orleans and others hid behind a wall with gunmen "to the right, to the left, toward the road and toward the beach," d'Orleans told the radio interviewer. He said that when the gunfire receded he and his friend sped away in a car.

"Afterward we said 'Wow, we actually escaped something big," he said.

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara is scheduled to preside over an emergency cabinet meeting Monday to respond to the attack by al-Qaida extremists.

The attack on Grand-Bassam was the first of its kind in Ivory Coast. Officials had been bracing for one in the wake of similar assaults by al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb in neighboring Burkina Faso and Mali.

Despite heightened security measures in recent months, the extremists attacked civilians at one of the country's top destinations for both Ivorians and foreigners, but security forces apparently responded quickly.

Ivorian newspapers on Monday morning featured graphic photos of dead bodies sprawled on the beach. The headline for one paper, Le Patriote, read: "We are Grand-Bassam!"

"These terrorist attacks can happen anywhere, at any time," Ouattara said Sunday after visiting the Etoile du Sud hotel, one of three hotels where gunmen opened fire. "We have shown that we have the capacity to contain the damage that can result."

France's Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault will travel to the West Africa country on Tuesday alongside Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve. One French citizen was killed.

French President Francois Hollande condemned the attack as cowardly and odious.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier confirmed in Berlin that a German woman was killed.

The 16 dead included 14 civilians and two Ivorian special forces, Ouattara said. Six assailants were also killed and at least 22 people — 19 civilians and three special forces — were wounded, Ouattara said.

Appearing on state television Sunday night, Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko said the 14 civilian victims came from countries including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, France, Germany and Mali.

The toll could rise, Bakayoko said.

Officials were not ready to provide information on the attackers, though authorities were in possession of mobile phones and other evidence that would allow them "to go to the source" of the attack, Bakayoko said.

He urged Ivorians to remain strong in the face of the extremist threat.

"It's a grave event, but we must face it," he said.

The attack in Grand-Bassam was the third major attack on a tourism center in West Africa since November. Dozens of people were killed in a siege at a Malian hotel in November and an assault on a hotel and cafe in Burkina Faso in January. Analysts had warned for months that Ivory Coast could also be hit by jihadists.

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Bakayoko said authorities had taken steps to prepare the country for an attack, crediting their work with reducing Sunday's loss of life.

"There was anticipation. You know that our country has been targeted for a few years. We did whatever we could," Bakayoko said.

He said security forces had responded within 30 minutes and that within two hours the assailants had been killed.

Sites in Grand-Bassam were among more than 100 that had been under heightened surveillance in recent months, Bakayoko said, adding that those measures were going to continue.

"Count on us. We are going to reinforce the surveillance," he said.

Statements condemning Sunday's attack came from countries including the United States and Britain. The Paris prosecutor's office said it had opened an investigation into the attack, calling it murder in connection with a terrorist enterprise. Anti-terrorism investigators will handle the probe because there was a French victim.

Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb claimed responsibility, according to SITE Intelligence Group which monitors jihadist websites.

Human Rights Watch also issued a statement condemning the "horrific terrorist attack." The group, which has accused Ivory Coast of rights abuses in response to past security challenges, also called for human rights to be respected as the investigation progresses.

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 Monday:

1. TURKISH AIRSTRIKES HIT KURDISH REBELS AFTER SUICIDE BOMBING

The death toll in the bombing rises to at least 37, with 125 injured in the blast in the heart of Turkey's capital, officials say.

2. GOP CANDIDATES PIN HOPES ON PIVOTAL PRIMARIES

Donald Trump fights Ohio Gov. John Kasich in that state's crucial primary on Tuesday, while Marco Rubio fights to stay alive a day before Florida's vote.

3. SYRIAN CHILDREN HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF COUNTRY BEFORE WAR

Five years into the bloodshed, Syrian children growing up as refugees are silent victims of the horrific turmoil.

4. AMTRAK TRAIN DERAILS IN SOUTHWEST KANSAS

Eleven people are taken to hospitals after the train left the tracks west of Dodge City.

5. WHO WAS A SURPRISING NUMBER 1 ON SELECTION SUNDAY

Oregon receives a No. 1 seed for the NCAA Tournament, joining Kansas, North Carolina and Virginia with top billing.

6. HOW SEVERE WEATHER IN 2 STATES DAMAGES THOUSANDS OF HOMES

Widespread flooding from rain-filled rivers in Louisiana and Mississippi swamps nearly 5,000 homes.

7. CHEMICAL ACCIDENT KILLS 8 AT THAILAND BANK

The deaths occurred as workers accidentally released fire extinguishing chemicals during an upgrade of the safety system at Siam Commercial Bank's headquarters in Bangkok, officials say.

8. WHY EUROPE'S VIEWS ON MIGRANTS ARE SHIFTING

The refrain of Europe's migrant crisis has changed from "welcome" to "enough already" due to endless waves of asylum seekers.

9. TROUBLE REMAINS FOLLOWING FAILED FOR-PROFIT SCHOOL'S REVIVAL

An Associated Press review of Corinthian Colleges Inc.'s operations Press shows that despite oversight by the Obama administration, the business model for what had been a failing chain of career training schools hasn't fundamentally changed.

10. COMPETITORS HEAD TOWARD FINISH LINE IN ALASKA DOG RACE

Mushers press their dog sled teams toward the end of Alaska's famous Iditarod after a snowmobiler intentionally rammed into two top competitors, killing one dog and injuring others, authorities say.

Louisiana, Mississippi: Thousands of homes damaged in floods

CAIN BURDEAU, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Widespread flooding in Louisiana and Mississippi has damaged thousands of homes, and the risk of rising water prompted additional evacuations Sunday.

At least four deaths have been reported in Louisiana amid the flooding that began last week, and the National Guard has rescued nearly 3,300 residents. Two fishermen have been missing for days in Mississippi.

Flood warnings were in effect across the region as many rivers remained dangerously high. Also of concern was another line of thunderstorms that hit parts of Oklahoma, Arkansas, northern Louisiana and northern Mississippi on Sunday night, bringing more rain and reports of tornadoes in Arkansas.

"At this point, any rain will aggravate the flooding situation," Davyon Hill, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Shreveport, said.

Downpours — part of a system that affected Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee and Alabama — have submerged roads and cars, washed out bridges and forced residents to flee homes.

In Louisiana, emergency officials said more than 4,958 homes were damaged. That number is expected to rise as more reports come in from areas still battling floodwaters. Mississippi reported that 185 homes were damaged by floodwaters and about 650 homes sustained minor damage.

On Sunday, President Barack Obama signed an order declaring the flooding in Louisiana a major disaster. The president's declaration triggers federal aid for flood victims.

Louisiana Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser said he was worried that many flood victims had not purchased flood insurance.

"A lot of these people I spoke to did not have flood insurance because they had never flooded before," Nungesser said in a telephone interview.

He warned that residents may not get federal disaster aid if they didn't have insurance. "It's not going to be the open check book," he added.

Authorities in Louisiana's Natchitoches Parish said Harold Worsham, 78, drowned while trying to flee floodwaters on Saline Bayou. The sheriff's office said Worsham was in a boat that capsized as he and two others were moving items from a home onto an aluminum boat. At least three others have died in the state.

On Sunday, Mississippi officials said they were still looking for two missing fishermen but had no reports of injuries or deaths there.

Flooding on rain-swollen rivers remained a major concern.

It's the most widespread non-hurricane flooding the Louisiana National Guard has ever dealt with, said Col. Pete Schneider, a guard spokesman.

The National Guard said it had about 1,400 soldiers and air crews at work in flooded areas throughout Louisiana, deploying in high-water vehicles, boats and three helicopters. By Sunday morning, National Guard crews had evacuated more than 3,295 people and 316 pets as part of its round-the-clock operations.

Sunday night, officials said reports of a breached levee prompted evacuations in a rural northeastern Louisiana community, but residents were allowed to return to their homes after flooding was less severe than expected.

Caldwell Parish Sheriff's Deputy Jack McKeithen said the department began evacuating residents in rural Hebert, a community of between 1,500-2,000 residents, after receiving word Sunday evening that a levee was topped and 2-4 feet of water could be headed for the area.

McKeithen told The Associated Press that after authorities realized several hours later the influx of water would be far less severe, residents were allowed back.

In the adjacent Richland Parish, Director of Homeland Security Dawn Williams told The News-Star the parish jail was evacuated as a precaution.

Trump turns eyes toward pivotal primaries

BILL BARROW, Associated Press

KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

HANOVERTON, Ohio (AP) — GOP front-runner Donald Trump tried to prove over the weekend that no perceived misstep can derail his march to the Republican presidential nomination.

Trump enjoyed a relatively controversy free multi-state tour Sunday ahead of primaries that could determine whether he wins the GOP nomination without a contested summer convention.

Perhaps most critical to that equation is Tuesday's winner-take-all contest in Ohio, where the real estate mogul and the popular governor, John Kasich, have intensified their focus on one another — Trump calling his rival "a baby" and Kasich suggesting Trump and the violence at some of his rallies represent a "dark side" of American society.

Besides Ohio, candidates are readying their closing arguments in Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina and Florida, with the total number of delegates at stake Tuesday accounting for more than a quarter of the 1,237 necessary for nomination.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz argues that only he can keep Trump from reaching the required majority, while Florida Sen. Marco Rubio tries merely to remain relevant, hoping his home-state voters defy the polls and give him justification to extend his candidacy.

Trump tried Sunday to shift attention away from the intense criticism that followed harrowing scenes Friday of a melee in Chicago, where he canceled a scheduled rally amid a near-riot among his supporters, protesters and authorities.

"If we can win Ohio, we're going to run the table, folks," Trump boasted in West Chester, Ohio, on Sunday, one of three events he held with only occasional interruptions from protesters.

None of those interruptions led to violence, a stark turn from the scenes in Chicago and a Saturday rally in which a dissenter stormed the stage as Trump spoke, only to be subdued by Secret Service agents.

"We're not provoking. We want peace. ... We don't want trouble," Trump told a crowd in Bloomington, Illinois.

Kasich wasn't buying it, reversing his months-long practice of avoiding the topic of Trump.

Speaking with The Associated Press aboard his campaign bus between stops in Ohio, Kasich read a list of Trump quotes compiled by an aide. They included Trump's comments that his audiences should "hit back" a little more and a statement that he'd like to "punch" a protester "in the face."

Beyond what Kasich highlighted, Trump has often declared the country must "toughen up," and suggested one man who was physically assaulted at a November rally deserved the treatment. He confirmed earlier Sunday that he was considering assisting a North Carolina man charged with assault after video captured him sucker-punching a protester at a March 9 rally in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Said Kasich: "It's really cause for pause."

Later, Kasich told a crowd in Hanoverton, Ohio, without mentioning Trump: "Do we go to the dark side, with negativity, the gnashing of teeth ... or do we go to the hopeful and the light side?"

Trump answered this weekend by casting Kasich as weak and deliberately mispronounced his rival's Czech surname.

"He's not the right guy to be president. He's not tough enough, he's not sharp enough," Trump said at an event outside Dayton.

In line with his protectionist economic pitch, Trump hammered Kasich for supporting the North American Free Trade Agreement as a member of Congress in the 1990s.

And he went on to incorrectly identify the governor as KASE-itch. "Like, most people don't even know how to pronounce his name. Kase-ick! Kase-ick!" Trump mocked. "He cannot do the job, folks. He's not your president."

Kasich will campaign in Ohio Monday with 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney and 2008 vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin will campaign separately for Trump Monday in Florida.

Despite Sunday's relative calm, Trump's events unquestionably have become increasingly tense over the

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course of his campaign, and the candidate has frequently called for aggressive tactics against protesters, with Chicago's events giving his rivals a new opening to criticize a front-runner they side-stepped or even praised for months.

Cruz said Trump encourages an essentially un-American atmosphere.

"I'm troubled by the rallies that Donald holds, where he asks all the people there to raise their hand and pledge their support to him," Cruz said on NBC's "Meet the Press," continuing, "This is America. We don't pledge allegiance to a man. We pledge allegiance to a flag."

A distant third in delegates, Rubio compared Trump to third-world "strongmen," and said the tone of the campaign "is really going to do damage to America."

The senator has gone so far as to say his supporters in Ohio should vote for Kasich to help derail Trump. Kasich has not returned the favor.

Cruz argued in Columbus, Ohio, that Republican voters are wasting their time with either Kasich or Rubio. "It's mathematically impossible for either one of them to win 1,237" delegates, he said, referring to Kasich and Rubio.

Indeed, Kasich has yet to win a single primary; Rubio has won two.

Against that backdrop, Trump continued to blame protesters, media and even Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders for the caustic environment around his campaign. Trump said the Sanders campaign is organizing protesters, a charge Sanders called "a lie."

Trump assured his backers their frustration is righteous rage against a corrupt political and economic system. He cast his naysayers as "bad people" that "do harm to the country."

Though by the end of his busy Sunday, he seemed to miss the commotion.

In Boca Raton, where he spoke in an outdoor amphitheater on a balmy Florida night, he asked, 20 minutes into his speech, "Do we have a protester anywhere? Do we have a disrupter?"

Fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad to make history for Muslim-Americans

LUKE MEREDITH, AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ibtihaj Muhammad stood beaming on the podium in Budapest in 2013, flashing a bright smile, a world championship bronze medal and the red, white and blue hijab that perfectly encapsulated who she is as an athlete and a person.

Muhammad, a New Jersey-born fencer, is a proud Muslim and an equally proud American. And this summer at the Rio Olympics, Muhammed will seek to stand up for her community by fighting for a country that hasn't always fought for those who share her faith.

Muhammad, the middle daughter of a retired detective and special education teacher, will become the first U.S. athlete to compete in the Olympics while wearing a hijab, the head scarf required of Muslim women.

Those circumstances have put Muhammad, 30, on a platform well beyond sports.

She's hoping her presence as an Olympian can help counter the recent wave of anti-Islamic sentiment in the U.S., triggered in part by Donald Trump's comments about banning Muslims from the U.S.

"I feel like I've been blessed to be in this position, to be given this platform. When I think of my predecessors, and people who've spoken out against bigotry and hate, I feel like I owe it not just to myself but to my community to try to fight it," said Muhammad, who is ranked seventh in the world in the women's saber. "There are people who don't feel safe going to work every day, that don't feel safe being themselves. I think that's a problem."

The irony of Muhammad's rise to international fencing success is that it was about as American as one might imagine.

Well, almost.

Muhammad tried nearly every sport as a kid, from softball and track to tennis. But the constant modifications Muhammad would have to make to her uniform — like adding sleeves or wearing pants when her teammates had on shorts — were growing tiresome.

Then one day while in the car with her mother, a 12-year-old Muhammad noticed a fencing practice through the windows of a local high school. Since fencers are covered from head to toe for protection,

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Muhammad knew right away she had found her calling — and perhaps even a way to help pay for college. Muhammad soon hooked up with the Westbrook Foundation, an organization run by former Olympian Peter Westbrook to teach fencing to underserved communities in metro New York. She later earned a scholarship from Duke, where she was a three-time All-American.

“Don’t be fooled by that pretty face. She has something in her that it takes in real champions, that unbelievable will to win,” said Westbrook, who in 1984 became the first African-American to win an Olympic medal. “She is able to dig five stories deep to pull something out. And when she loses? Oh my God.”

Still, Muhammad put fencing largely aside after college, turning to teaching while she considered applying to law school. But she was still curious enough about her fencing to turn to a new coach, Akhi Spencer-El, who is also connected with the Westbrook Foundation.

Muhammad was Spencer-El’s first protégé. Muhammad said she found in him someone who believed in her abilities as much as she did. That was enough to give Muhammad the push she needed to rededicate herself to the sport.

“I noticed she was something different. There was so much competitiveness,” Spencer-El said. “I knew I could get her to be on a level with the best in the world.”

It took a while, but Muhammad got there.

Muhammad made her first world championship in 2010, and she helped the Americans win a team bronze a year later. Two years ago, Muhammad was part of her first gold medal-winning senior world team.

Athletes have had to fight for the right to wear religious head coverings in sports like basketball and soccer, where FIFA changed its rules to allow hijabs in 2012.

But Muhammad has never had to downplay her faith in competition or in life. She often sports multi-colored hijabs on and off the strip and has even started a clothing website with her siblings, Louella.com, for Muslim women seeking more colorful options while still adhering to their religion.

Muhammad has suffered her share of backlash, though. On Saturday at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas, Muhammad was asked by a volunteer to remove her hijab for a security photo and later tweeted that she couldn’t “make this stuff up.”

But Muhammad is intent on using her time in the spotlight to show the U.S. and the rest of the world that Muslim-Americans should be embraced rather than shunned.

“I’ve never questioned myself as an American and my position here,” Muhammad said. “This is my home. This is who I am. My family has always been here. We’re American by birth, and it’s a part of who I am and this is all that I know.

“So when I hear someone say something like, ‘We’re going to send Muslims back to their country,’ it’s like, “Well, where am I going to go? I’m an American.”

After crash, competitors press toward Iditarod finish line

RACHEL D’ORO, Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Musher pressed their dog sled teams closer to the finish line in Alaska’s famous Iditarod on Sunday after a snowmobiler intentionally rammed into two top competitors at speeds up to 100 mph, killing one dog and injuring others, authorities said.

The crash Saturday was not the first encounter between teams and snowmobiles, but they are rare, experts said. It’s just one of the perils of the 1,000-mile race, which covers long stretches of unforgiving terrain, including two mountain ranges, the mighty Yukon River and the wind-scoured Bering Sea coast.

Besides conditions that can bring blinding snow and ripping winds, mushers also have to contend with fatigue, brutal cold and the occasional encounter with wildlife, such as moose.

A 26-year-old man arrested in the crash appeared in court via video Sunday. Arnold Demoski of the checkpoint village of Nulato is accused of intentionally driving a snowmobile into the team of Aliy Zirkle, who finished second in the race three times from 2012 to 2014, and then the team of four-time Iditarod champion Jeff King. One of King’s dogs, Nash, was killed and at least two others were injured.

Demoski has said he was returning home from a night of drinking when he struck the teams. He was

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going about 100 mph when he crashed into King's team and about 40 mph when he struck Zirkle's team, court documents say.

He was charged with assault, reckless endangerment and reckless driving. His bail was set at \$50,000, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported (<http://is.gd/Zwk0tb>). Attorney Bill Satterberg declined to comment to the newspaper.

In 2008, a crash between a mushing team and a snowmobile occurred around the same area on the Yukon River. It killed one dog and left another permanently injured. At the time, people on snowmobiles, which are commonly called snowmachines by Alaskans, were coming and going from a community gathering in Nulato.

Such incidences are rare and deemed accidental, Iditarod CEO Stan Hooley told The Associated Press on Sunday. Based on what he has been told, Saturday's incident appears to be malicious, and that is an anomaly on the trail, he said. There is probably more risk getting into a car than seeing such a scenario again, he said.

"Mushers and snowmachiners know the key to incident-free encounters on a multiuse trail is common sense," Hooley said.

Snowmobiles serve an important purpose in the race, being used for trail clearing and marking, as well as the occasional rescue, said Dan Seavey, a veteran of five Iditarods.

"Many of us have had near hits," said Seavey, who came in third in the inaugural 1973 race.

But today's mushers also take more precautions than they used to, relying on headlamps and reflective materials to stand out on the trail.

Seavey said he also has seen snowmobilers go out of their way to be responsible users of the trail.

"We definitely don't want to demonize snowmachiners," he said.

His grandson and the defending champion, Dallas Seavey, was leading the race and gunning for his fourth victory. The winner is expected to reach the finish line in Nome early this week. Seventy-seven teams remain in the race.

The man arrested in Saturday's crash told Anchorage news station KTUU-TV that when he woke up and heard what had happened, he checked his snowmobile and realized he had done it.

The snowmobile was missing a part and had rust-colored stains, Demoski said. He said he doesn't remember the crash.

"I just want to say I'm sorry," he said.

'10 Cloverfield Lane' opens well, but 'Zootopia' roars

JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Moviegoers didn't have much to go on with the mysterious "10 Cloverfield Lane," but the words "Cloverfield" and "J.J. Abrams" were enough.

The Abrams-produced monster movie, a so-called "spiritual successor" to 2008's found-footage hit "Cloverfield," opened with a better-than-expected \$25.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That was good enough for second place to the Disney animated hit "Zootopia," which stayed on top with \$50 million in its second week, a slide of only 33 percent from its opening weekend.

The weekend's biggest disappointment was Sacha Baron Cohen's "Brothers Grimsby," which flopped with a mere \$3.2 million. It's a career low box-office debut for the shape-shifting British comedian by a wide margin.

Perhaps sensing trouble, Sony Pictures had postponed the release date of the R-rated comedy numerous times. Whereas Cohen's most popular characters — Borat and Ali G — were deployed largely to satirize America, moviegoers showed less enthusiasm for the British parody of "Brothers Grimsby," a poorly reviewed R-rated, U.K.-set spy comedy.

With the multiplexes stuffed with R-rated offerings ("Deadpool," "London Has Fallen," "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot"), the acclaimed "Zootopia" has had family audiences all to itself. The film, which imagines a metropolis inhabited by animals, will have little competition before "The Jungle Book" arrives in mid-April.

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Taking in \$83.1 million internationally over the weekend, "Zootopia" has already made more than \$430 million globally.

"With the marketplace loaded with R-rated fare, if you're a family with kids, the only game in town right now is 'Zootopia,'" said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "That film is reaping the benefits of studios somehow not realizing: 'Hey, there's a big void in this marketplace.'"

The directorial debut of Dan Trachtenberg, "10 Cloverfield Lane," arrived with the opposite kind of hoopla that preceded Abrams' previous film, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." The release of "10 Cloverfield Lane," made for just about \$13 million, wasn't much advertised until an ominous Super Bowl spot.

Megan Colligan, head of distribution and marketing for Paramount Pictures, said the sly, cryptic campaign got people talking about a movie that revealed little except its two stars (John Goodman, Mary Elizabeth Winstead) in a bunker.

"From a marketing level, it's a challenge when a movie takes place in a relatively enclosed space and you're promising but not showing a bigger final act," Colligan said. "But I think part of the excitement and mystery around the 'Cloverfield' name led to the promise that something exciting was going to happen, and the trust in J.J. as a brand that he delivers."

Making little impact in their debuts were Lionsgate's romantic comedy "The Perfect Match" (\$4.2 million) and Focus Features' Christian tale "The Young Messiah" (\$3.4 million).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Zootopia," \$50 million (\$83.1 million international).
2. "10 Cloverfield Lane," \$25.2 million (\$1.5 million international).
3. "Deadpool," \$10.8 million (\$11.3 million international).
4. "London Has Fallen," \$10.7 million (\$12 million international).
5. "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot," \$4.6 million.
6. "The Perfect Match," \$4.2 million.
7. "The Young Messiah," \$3.4 million.
8. "The Brothers Grimsby," \$3.2 million (\$3.2 million international).
9. "Gods of Egypt," \$2.5 million (\$26.4 million international).
10. "Risen," \$2.3 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Zootopia," \$83.1 million.
2. "Kung Fu Panda 3," \$28.6 million.
3. "The Divergent Series: Allegiant," \$26.7 million.
4. "Gods of Egypt," \$26.4 million.
5. "Ip Man 3," \$13 million.
6. "London Has Fallen," \$12 million.
7. "Deadpool," \$11.3 million.
8. "The Revenant," \$6.9 million.
9. "Hail, Caesar!" \$3.8 million.
10. "The Brothers Grimsby," \$3.2 million.

How open record laws are applied in state legislatures

The Associated Press

One of several stories by The Associated Press, McClatchy and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel marking Sunshine Week, an annual celebration of access to public information

Lawmakers in every state have adopted laws requiring most government meetings and records to be open to the public. But in some states, lawmakers have exempted themselves from complying.

The Associated Press sent open-records request to the top lawmakers in all 50 states and most governors, seeking copies of their daily schedules and emails from the government accounts for the week of Feb. 1-7. The AP received more denials than approvals from lawmakers. It did not generally request emails from private accounts because rules and practices on those vary widely from state to state.

Summaries showing how they responded in each state:

ALABAMA

Alabama's top lawmakers agreed to release emails from official legislative accounts, although documents shed little light on legislative business. Spokespeople for legislative leaders said the lawmakers largely do not use the accounts for state business. The hundreds of pages of released emails showed almost entirely incoming correspondence from constituents. Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley does not have a state email account that he uses for state business, according to his office. Legislative leaders also agreed to release their calendars for the week, which coincided with the first week of the Alabama legislative session. The calendars showed a variety of public and private events, including receptions hosted by interest groups and meetings with the governor, a college chancellor and lobbyists.

ALASKA

Under a policy set by the Legislative Council, records of a legislator while in that lawmaker's possession are not public records based on the deliberative process privilege and a state constitutional provision dealing with legislative immunity. But all lawmakers can decide whether to release information from their records. Republican Senate President Kevin Meyer provided a copy of his calendar and allowed a reporter to look over an aide's shoulder to see how his email inbox is sorted. The other three top legislative leaders ultimately denied the request, responding with either a legal opinion on what the law requires or a copy of the legislative records' policy. Gov. Bill Walker's office released a copy of his calendar. It was still working on a request for his emails.

ARIZONA

Arizona's public records law applies broadly to the governor and Legislature as well as any elected official. It requires records to be released in most instances, although there are exemptions for security, privacy interests and some deliberative matters. Senate President Andy Biggs doesn't keep a calendar, but his staff released his emails for the week, apparently unredacted. House Speaker David Gowan released a calendar that redacted the subject of some meetings but included attendees, apparently citing the deliberative process exemption. He received or sent more than 1,500 emails, but staff had not yet reviewed them all because the Legislature is in session. Democratic House and Senate leaders also said they would comply, but with even smaller staffs had not yet reviewed and released all the documents. The governor's office provided unredacted calendars and emails, although it appears Gov. Doug Ducey sent no emails and most he received were form letters.

ARKANSAS

Arkansas' top lawmakers declined to provide schedules or correspondence from their publicly listed email accounts, citing exemptions in the state's open-records laws. Republican Senate President Pro Tem Jonathan Dismang, Democratic Senate Minority Leader Keith Ingram and Republican House Speaker Jeremy Gillam all turned down the AP requests soon after receiving them. Rep. Michael John Gray, the Democratic

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minority leader in the House, responded Saturday after the AP contacted the chamber's spokeswoman. The Arkansas Freedom of Information Act exempts the correspondence of the governor and state legislators from public access, despite the act's expressed intent to allow residents to track the performance of officials "in public activity and in making public policy." Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson's office turned down the AP's emailed records request in a letter sent through U.S. mail.

CALIFORNIA

The Assembly and Senate Rules committees declined requests for emails and calendars for the top legislative leaders, citing a number of exemptions including privacy and legislative privilege. California's legislative branch is bound by a less transparent public records law than the executive. It exempts from public disclosure all "correspondence of and to individual members of the Legislature and their staff" as well as any communications between private citizens and the Legislature. The committees also cited a 1991 California Supreme Court decision allowing government agencies to maintain the secrecy of public officials' appointment calendars. Gov. Jerry Brown's office said it releases the governor's calendar monthly and declined to provide earlier access to a week of appointments. Brown's office said he did not use his official email account during the first week of February, the week requested by the AP.

COLORADO

Colorado's legislative leaders agreed to release personal calendars and emails — for a price. Three of the four lawmakers said responding to the public records request would require them to spend time reviewing the documents, which triggers a \$30 per hour search-and-retrieval fee under the Colorado Open Records Act, according to Legislative Legal Services Director Dan Cartin. Senate President Bill Cadman, House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullinghorst and Rep. Brian DeGrosso estimated the costs to be between \$30 and \$125 each to comply with the request. Sen. Lucia Guzman provided the documents without a fee. Gov. John Hickenlooper's office provided his calendar and emails without charge, after requesting a four-day time extension to identify the appropriate emails.

CONNECTICUT

Much of Connecticut's open records law applies to the Legislature and the governor. All four top legislative leaders and the governor said they would provide emails and schedules to the AP, and three of the lawmakers had done so by early March. The amount of material provided to the AP varied by leader. Some schedules were more detailed than others. Many of the emails provided included mass letters or news releases about particular subjects, such as a national popular vote for president or abusive practices of debt collectors. In some cases, emails were sent from members of the public who were responding to mass emails the legislative leaders had sent in advance of the new legislative session to supporters. While the Legislature must abide by the records portion of Connecticut's Freedom of Information act, state lawmakers have exempted themselves from requirements surrounding the noticing of public meetings and posting requirements for agendas.

DELAWARE

Delaware legislative leaders refused to provide their emails. The Legislature has specifically exempted emails of lawmakers and their staffs from the state's Freedom of Information law, as well as any communications between lawmakers, or between lawmakers and their constituents. A bill to remove those exemptions was introduced earlier this month but has yet to be heard in committee. An attorney for the lawmakers also said many activities on their daily schedules are exempt from disclosure, asserting that exemptions allowed by statute or common law extend to the concept of "legislative privilege" based on the Delaware Constitution and common law. The attorney nevertheless released portions of the lawmakers' schedules while asserting that doing so was not a concession that the information is subject to the FOI law. The activities mostly involved appearances at community meetings and charitable events. The deputy legal counsel for Democratic Gov. Jack Markell said the governor's office is working diligently to respond to the AP's request, but that more time is needed because review of the records requires legal

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advice. Markell's office has previously denied formal records requests for his emails.

FLORIDA

Florida's open-records law applies to lawmakers and the governor, and all responded by to the AP's request by providing copies of their government emails and daily calendars. But some initially said there could be costs. The House Republican and Democratic leaders, for example, were swamped with hundreds of emails for the week of Feb. 1-7, as the chamber was considering bills allowing guns on college campuses and the open carrying of firearms. They said the records request would require extensive staff time and fees, so the AP narrowed the scope to review only certain emails. Some lawmakers have dealt with the open-records law by not using email for public business. Only the response from Democratic Senate Minority Leader Arthenia Joyner included substantial emails both to and from the legislator. Republican Gov. Rick Scott's response consisted of a reference to a website where he publishes his schedules and emails.

GEORGIA

Three of the state's top lawmakers — the House speaker and minority leaders of both chambers — refused to release calendars or emails. In emails denying the requests, legislative counsel Wayne Allen said the General Assembly is not subject to the Georgia Open Records Law. Allen cited a 1975 state Supreme Court decision in a case over access to legislative committee meetings. The Supreme Court found that the state's law regarding open meetings does not apply to the General Assembly because the Legislature is not an "agency" under the open meetings law. Allen said "agency" is defined the same way in state law regarding open records. The Supreme Court's majority opinion in that case also states: "If the House, the Senate, or both want to let the sun shine more brilliantly and more pervasively upon their deliberations and actions, they can do so by adopting rules and procedures applicable to their operations that will accomplish this purpose." Sen. David Shafer, the Senate's president pro tem and a Republican from Duluth, did not respond to the open records request or a follow-up message emailed to his Senate account. By comparison, Gov. Nathan Deal's office released seven pages of emails and Deal's calendar for the week, including all of his meetings at the Capitol.

HAWAII

Hawaii's top Democrat and Republican in the House did not supply emails and calendars, saying that the state constitution provides immunity from the request; a statement some dispute. They also cited state laws that provide exemptions for personal files for members of the Legislature and "government records that, by their nature, must be confidential in order for the government to avoid the frustration of a legitimate government function." Senate President Ronald Kouchi's office also denied the request, citing an appeal before the state Office of Information Practices that would determine what the Legislature is obliged to provide. Of the lawmakers, only the state's lone Republican Senator, Sam Slom, divulged the requested information, handing over printed emails and calendars. Gov. David Ige's office asked for more time to respond to the request, and then provided some of the governor's emails while withholding others. He provided a calendar that showed only his public events.

IDAHO

Idaho's top four legislative leaders agreed to release their emails and personal calendars after requesting an extension for more time to review them for possible exemptions. Together, the speaker of the House, Senate president pro tem and minority leaders in both chambers had more than 3,700 emails. Lawmakers' emails are public records under Idaho's open records laws, a statute the Legislature adopted in 1990. However, fulfilling that request would not have been free because state law allows officials to charge after providing one free hour's of work. Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's typically provides emails and personal calendars with little to no redaction.

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ILLINOIS

Neither the Senate nor the House, both controlled by Democrats, turned over any records. House Speaker Michael Madigan of Chicago, speaker for 31 of the last 33 years, doesn't use email or keep an appointment calendar, spokesman Steve Brown said. The Senate said it is not required to disclose any of the requested records because of legislative immunity granted by the state constitution. Both the House and Senate also argued that the requested documents are not public records, as defined by the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, because they are held by individuals who do not constitute "public bodies." They may also be withheld, officials argued, under exemptions in the law for documents that contain "preliminary" discussions and that prohibit disclosing records when doing so would be a "clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." Gov. Bruce Rauner, a Republican, disclosed a fairly detailed appointment calendar — more detailed than before The Associated Press and other media raised objections to redactions — but indicated there were no responsive emails.

INDIANA

Indiana's Access to Public Records law states that "all persons are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government." But lawmakers argue that their "work product" is exempt. The Indiana Supreme Court will hear arguments March 17 in a case brought by advocacy groups that sued House Republicans for refusing to release possible email exchanges with energy industry lobbyists. GOP leaders who control the Legislature say releasing the emails would reveal constituents' sensitive and personal information. And they say their schedules contain details from their private lives that are not related to state business. Republican Gov. Mike Pence's office says a request for one week of emails by The Associated Press was "too broad" and that his schedule is exempt from public records law. Meanwhile, minority Democrats are split on the issue. Senate Minority Leader Tim Lanane said GOP Senate leaders instructed him not to release the documents. House Minority Leader Scott Pelath said his office is reviewing his records to see what may be released. The state's public access counselor, Luke Britt, disagrees with lawmakers' decision not to release emails: "There is no exemption in public records law for historical practice or longstanding policy," he said.

IOWA

Staff for top legislative leaders cited the Iowa Constitution in their refusal to release work emails and daily calendars for the lawmakers. The Iowa Supreme Court has upheld that authority. The secretary of the Democratic-majority Senate cited a constitutional section that states each chamber shall "determine its rules of proceedings." The state Supreme Court, in a 1996 ruling involving public access to telephone records maintained by the Senate, confirmed both chambers have authority over policies regarding confidentiality and legislative proceedings. The chief clerk for the Republican-controlled House said the constitution specifies each chamber "solely controls the dissemination" of such records. The Senate secretary added that the requested emails and calendars have not customarily been deemed public documents and that their release "would almost certainly have a detrimental chilling effect on citizens' constitutional rights and willingness to petition their elected officials." The state's public records law does apply to the office of the governor, and a records request for work emails and daily calendars to Gov. Terry Branstad's chief of staff, Michael Bousset, yielded more than 400 emails and attachments. Staff for his office said some documentation was withheld according to exemptions in that law. Branstad, who does not have a work email, releases a weekly calendar of public appearances.

KANSAS

The Kansas Open Records Act specifically exempts legislators' records from potential disclosure, and both Republican Senate President Susan Wagle and GOP House Speaker Ray Merrick cited the exemption in declining to release calendars or emails from state accounts. However, the Legislature's two top Democrats — Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley and House Minority Leader Tom Burroughs — released their calendars and emails. Hensley's office responded to the AP's request within days, releasing more than 1,000 pages of documents and indexing them in black binders. Burroughs' office released about 600 pages of documents. Republican Gov. Sam Brownback acknowledged last year that he uses a private cellphone

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and email account for official communications and has been doing so since he was a U.S. senator in the 1990s because sometimes it's not clear whether something represents official business. His office released his calendar and about a dozen pages of copies of emails from his official state account.

KENTUCKY

Kentucky's governor and top legislative leaders refused to release their emails or detailed personal calendars. An attorney for the Legislative Research Commission said lawmakers' emails have always been protected by law "to encourage effective and frank communication." An attorney for Republican Gov. Matt Bevin said the governor sent and received four emails during the one-week period covered by The Associated Press' open-records request. Three of those emails were recommendations while the fourth email was a status update on a complaint or investigation. The attorney cited state law that exempts preliminary recommendations "in which opinions are expressed or policies formulated." Both the governor and the legislators cited a 1995 Kentucky Court of Appeals case that ruled calendars are "draft documents" and not subject to public disclosure.

LOUISIANA

The Senate's top lawmakers released their personal calendars, although the Senate president's calendar had few engagements listed on it. House leaders haven't yet released their calendars. Lawyers for both the House's and Senate's top lawmakers have said they will release some emails, but said it takes time to sift through the documents and remove those that don't involve public business. They also indicated they intend to remove emails that are granted exemptions, like for advice given by legislative staff. Staff members for the lawmakers say they must do the work around other obligations. With the Legislature in a special session to deal with the state's worst budget problem in nearly 30 years, no date was given for turning over emails. By comparison, Gov. John Bel Edwards' office released his calendar and emails within days of the request, although the email correspondence was limited. Edwards spokesman Richard Carbo said the governor rarely uses email.

MAINE

Public records, such as emails and personal calendars, must be made available "within a reasonable period of time," according to Maine law. Senate President Michael Thibodeau, a Republican, produced email and calendar records four days after receiving a request from The Associated Press. The staff for Gov. Paul LePage said it would take two months to provide the same type of records. In a letter to the APs, Jennifer Tarr, a state employee who oversees public record requests for the Republican governor, said the administration has a backlog of pending requests and is handling them in the order they are submitted. A "good-faith non-binding time estimate is that it will take us two months to provide the requested records," she said.

MARYLAND

Maryland's Public Information Act gives the public the right to access government records without unnecessary cost and delay. However, not all government records are disclosable under the law. For example, state legislators are shielded from disclosing documents relating to legislative activities by an absolute constitutional privilege, according to counsel for the General Assembly. When the AP requested emails and a daily schedule of activities for top lawmakers for the first week of February, most of the records would not have been releasable under the law, according to the attorney. However, the legislators waived legislative privilege and released hundreds of pages of documents, anyway. The governor's office also released his emails and calendar for the same week's period.

MASSACHUSETTS

Democratic House Speaker Robert DeLeo and Republican minority leader Brad Jones declined to release

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their emails or personal calendars, citing state law that exempts the Legislature from the state's public records law. Senate President Stan Rosenberg also cited the legislative exemption, but Senate Counsel Grace Miller, in a letter to The Associated Press, said the Democratic leader agreed to make available his calendar and emails "in the spirit of openness and transparency associated with Sunshine Week." Rosenberg's office subsequently turned over to the AP hundreds of pages of email correspondence from the week of Feb. 1-7. Many of them were from constituents or advocacy groups and involved pending legislation on issues such as charter schools, solar energy and even public records reform. Republican Gov. Charlie Baker also turned over his schedule and several hundred pages of email correspondence from the week, with some material redacted for reasons including privacy or security. The governor and his predecessors have also claimed an exemption from the public records law but have selectively responded to requests over the years.

MICHIGAN

Requests for records were denied in Michigan by Gov. Rick Snyder and all but one of the four legislative leaders. A letter from Snyder's deputy legal counsel said the governor's office "is expressly exempt from FOIA's coverage." Snyder recently voluntarily released his emails and those of his staff related to Flint's water crisis. The Senate Business Office, responding on behalf of Republican Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof and Democratic Minority Leader Jim Ananich, said emails and daily activity schedules are not financial records and therefore not subject to public inspection under Senate rules. In 1986, the state attorney general said lawmakers are not subject to FOIA, issuing an opinion that the Legislature's intent in enacting the 1976 open-records law was to exclude legislators from the definition of "public body." Financial records are subject to disclosure, though, under the Michigan Constitution and legislative rules. In a letter, the House Business Office said Republican Speaker Kevin Cotter's emails and calendar would not be released because the House of Representatives is not subject to FOIA. A spokeswoman for Democratic Minority Leader Tim Greimel said he would release the records requested by the AP.

MINNESOTA

Top lawmakers in Minnesota refused to release their emails or schedules, and they don't have to do so. The Legislature exempted itself from Minnesota's open records law, deferring instead to internal House and Senate rules that don't require lawmakers to turn over their own records. Legislators defend the long-standing exemption, arguing it protects sensitive communication with constituents and allows them to freely consider issues. But Democratic House Minority Leader Paul Thissen says he will push this year to subject the Legislature to the same rules as other public officials. Gov. Mark Dayton has routinely released scores of emails. But Minnesota governors have long protected their personal schedules.

MISSISSIPPI

The top Republicans in the Mississippi Legislature, Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, and House Speaker Philip Gunn, refused to release their emails or schedules. The Democratic leaders in each chamber, Sen. John Horhn and Rep. David Baria, did not respond to requests for the records. In denying a request, Gunn wrote that the state's 1983 Public Records Act does not apply to members of the Legislature. Gunn also wrote that disclosing the requested records would endanger the privacy of other legislators and of constituents "who should be able to expect a private communication with his or her legislator about policy." Republican Gov. Phil Bryant's office released his schedule and emails with some information, such as telephone numbers, redacted. The schedule showed Bryant attended a funeral, held several meetings about economic development projects, ate meals with legislators, spoke to community college students and went on a hunting trip in Arkansas.

MISSOURI

Three of Missouri's top four lawmakers — the House speaker, Senate president pro tem and Senate mi-

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nority leader — all denied requests to release their government emails and daily calendars. The Missouri Sunshine Law applies to any “public governmental body.” The Legislature has interpreted that to cover its two chambers and various committees but not each individual lawmaker. It points to a July 2003 ruling of a state appeals court panel, which said a St. Louis school board president as an individual was not a “public governmental body” and thus not individually subject to the Sunshine Law. House Minority Leader Jake Hummel, a Democrat from St. Louis, was the only legislative leader to release his records. He believes the Sunshine Law applies to individual lawmakers and has instructed House Democrats to comply. Gov. Jay Nixon also released his daily calendar and emails, although the emails consisted only of news clips and press releases. A Nixon spokesman said the governor doesn’t typically communicate by email.

MONTANA

The state’s top lawmakers generally cooperated with requests for emails and schedules, but in some cases were reluctant to do so. The Senate president, Debby Barrett, responded only when pressed. When she did respond, she simply stated that she conducted no official business via email during the week in question. A legislative subcommittee last month took up the issue of public requests for email and directed staff to clarify existing guidelines, including the use of personal email addresses in the conduct of public business. Some legislators, even when using government-issued accounts, balked at providing all correspondence that flowed through their government-issued accounts, citing privacy. Staff members for Gov. Steve Bullock said they would work on fulfilling the request, but about a month later had yet to produce the documents.

NEBRASKA

The state’s top lawmakers agreed to release detailed personal calendars but refused to provide their emails. The main reason they cited is to protect the sensitive and personal information of their constituents. Nebraska’s open records law exempts “correspondence, memoranda and records of telephone calls” related to a state lawmaker’s duties. They can only be released to the public with the lawmaker’s approval. Nebraska has the country’s only unicameral legislature. By comparison, Gov. Pete Ricketts’ office released about 600 pages of emails from the governor’s public account, which mostly consisted of correspondence from constituents and Twitter notifications (the governor and his staff say they no longer use personal email accounts for state business). The governor also released his public schedule but refused to disclose the governor’s personal calendar, which includes all of his meetings at the Capitol.

NEVADA

Lawyers representing the state’s top lawmakers declined to provide any emails or calendars. Their 28-page denial cites a bill rushed through on the chaotic last day of the 2015 legislative session that strengthened laws granting “legislative immunity” from records requests and covers all communications, even electronic ones. The lawyers also pointed to a statute that absolves the lawmakers from paying any court costs or attorney’s fees when they are sued over records requests, even when they lose the case. By comparison, Gov. Brian Sandoval’s office released a detailed calendar of his week that included phone calls with legislative leaders and U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, a “veteran of the month” ceremony and a private black tie dinner in Las Vegas. Lawyers for his office said they needed more time to meet a request for his emails.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Gov. Maggie Hassan’s legal counsel said it is a long-standing position of the state Department of Justice that New Hampshire’s Right to Know law does not apply to the governor’s office. However, Hassan’s schedule and some emails were provided in accordance with the state constitution. The office withheld 51 documents it said were exempt because of attorney-client privilege, being in draft form, or because they dealt with personnel issues or the deliberative processes. The state’s top lawmakers did not yet respond to the AP’s request. Legislators’ emails, phone records and calendars have been considered exempt from

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public view, based on a 2011 opinion interpreting the state's Right to Know Law from then-Attorney General Michael Delaney. Last year, the state Democratic Party was turned down when it requested communications records between the Republican state Senate president and Republican U.S. Sen. Kelly Ayotte, her staff and any paid consultants. Senate Legal Counsel Richard Lehmann wrote that the position taken by legislators on the matter "has been uniform and consistent in response to requests from both major political parties and the press."

NEW JERSEY

All four of New Jersey's legislative leaders denied a request for records and schedules under the Open Public Records Act. The law exempts certain legislative records, such as correspondence with constituents, from being made public. But in practice, the Legislature exempts itself from disclosing records. Gov. Chris Christie denied a request for emails under an exemption for deliberative documents. His office released statements on his schedule that had been made public, although they included no detailed information about his agenda. Instead, they directed the reader to contact his presidential campaign, which he quit after a poor finish in New Hampshire.

NEW MEXICO

The Legislative Council Service provided calendars with rough itineraries for lawmakers that included breakfasts and dinners sponsored by industry and interest groups, with a few redactions for personal appointments. A small share of the work-related appointments included names of individuals, and none described the content of conversations. Lawmakers also released hundreds of emails. They were mainly from constituents, and only three were outgoing emails. Three emails were withheld by one lawmaker under an exemption for correspondence with staff at the Legislative Council Service, which helps lawmakers draft legislation. Republican Gov. Susana Martinez provided her daily calendar but delayed responding to the request for emails beyond the 15-day deadline for immediate inspection of records, saying her office was busy reviewing legislation for approval or veto. She also invoked open records law provisions related to "excessively burdensome and broad requests."

NEW YORK

New York lawmakers aren't subject to the state's open-records law. Republican and Democratic leaders of the Senate and Assembly declined to disclose their schedules and emails, citing their rules that don't require it. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has proposed extending the open-records law to the Legislature. The Cuomo administration has been criticized by journalists and issue advocates for slow and often limited disclosures under the law that does apply to executive agencies beyond a prompt initial response acknowledging receipt of requests.

NORTH CAROLINA

State law defines public records as those "made or received pursuant to law or ordinance in connection with the transaction of public business." But the General Assembly passed laws that let lawmakers choose to keep confidential documents created by legislative employees. And legislative leaders also believe emails from constituents aren't "made or received pursuant to law or ordinance" and are thus privileged except in limited circumstances. It's led to a mix of results from the requests to legislative leaders. The offices of House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate leader Phil Berger say calendars are created by legislative workers and are confidential. They also agreed to provide a limited number of emails, most of which were press releases or financial statements from other agencies. House Minority Leader Larry Hall said he had nothing that "would be responsive to your request under the public records laws." Senate Minority Leader Dan Blue, however, provided close to 500 emails, dozens of which came from citizens urging him to oppose changes proposed by the state employee health insurance governing board.

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NORTH DAKOTA

State law exempts the Legislature from the open-records law. The Republican House and Senate majority leaders denied the AP's records requests for emails and calendars, citing the law. But the Democratic minority leaders complied with the request. House Majority Leader Al Carlson, R-Fargo, said he does not conduct "political correspondence" on his state email; rather, he uses a personal email account and "encourages all caucus members to do the same." He said some Republican House members eschew email altogether in favor of traditional mail. Gov. Jack Dalrymple, who is subject to the law, released his emails and calendar.

OHIO

Ohio law requires the Legislature, governor and other state agencies and offices to release most public records, including official calendars and emails, that serve to document the functions, policies, activities or decision-making of the office. Certain exceptions exist for records or portions of records considered to raise privacy, proprietary or security concerns. Legislators also are allowed to withhold work-related documents that are exclusively for personal use, such as personal calendars, meeting notes and personal papers.

OKLAHOMA

Most of Oklahoma's top lawmakers refused to release their calendars or emails, citing an exemption in the Open Records Act for the Legislature. The Republican and Democratic leaders in the Senate sent a joint response to the AP's request, citing the statute's exemption. House Speaker Jeff Hickman sent a separate rejection from the House's general counsel. Only House Democratic Leader Rep. Scott Inman agreed to provide both his detailed calendar and all of his emails. Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin's office is not exempt from the Open Records Act, and the AP's request was acknowledged by her general counsel's office and placed in a queue behind other pending requests. Fallin's office has typically taken a year or more to respond to records requests, prompting a legal challenge from the Oklahoma Democratic Party that is pending in district court. Oklahoma law says a public entity should provide "prompt, reasonable access to its records but may establish reasonable procedures which protect the integrity of the organization of its records and to prevent excessive disruptions of its essential functions."

OREGON

Oregon's governor and top lawmakers have agreed to comply with the requests for calendars and emails, which are public record under state law. Half of the eight top lawmakers who received records requests released their calendars, including the Senate president and House speaker. Some information was redacted, including phone numbers, addresses and details about specific events. Release of the calendars from the other four lawmakers and the governor are pending, as are the requests for emails. Legislative staff said the number of emails is 1,000 or more for the governor and some lawmakers. It's common for responses to records requests to take months in Oregon, particularly with the governor and lawmakers while they are in session. Although Oregon's public records laws are applied broadly, there are some exceptions for the Legislature. For example, lawmakers and legislative staff can ignore records requests filed between the 15 days leading up to the start of the legislative session and when it adjourns. When the session is over, however, the same records requests can be re-submitted and the Legislature would have to comply. Only one lawmaker initially chose to ignore the AP's request, but later decided to comply.

PENNSYLVANIA

Requests to all four legislative leaders for emails and calendars were denied. Legislative records are narrowly defined under the state's Right-to-Know Law and include financial records, bills, co-sponsorship memos, chamber rules and other documents, but notably, not emails or daily schedules. The Senate letter denying access to those documents noted that making the request of the senators directly rather than

through the clerk's office could have delayed the process. The Senate also noted the AP had made very similar requests for correspondence in 2009, with the same negative result. Those two 2009 requests were the first appeals handled under a revamped public-records law that took full effect that year. The governor's office has exercised its right to take up to 35 days to comply with the pending request, and its full response is due by March 17. Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat in his second year, has posted his public schedule online, a break from past practice that was apparently a response to an open-records court case.

RHODE ISLAND

Three of Rhode Island's four top lawmakers and its governor denied requests to release their emails, citing a provision in the state's open records law that exempts elected officials. The same law allows them to voluntarily disclose those emails. But the three lawmakers — two Democrats and one Republican — sent a joint response saying they were "conscious of the chilling effect that voluntary disclosure" would have on constituents if they knew emails were not held in confidence. Only one, Republican Senate Minority Leader Dennis Algiere, provided printouts of his correspondence with residents and local officials, most of it routine commentary on pending bills. Algiere said he did not include confidential emails, such as those disclosing medical conditions. House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello, Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed and Gov. Gina Raimondo, all Democrats, disclosed their calendars. The official schedules showed meetings with lobbyists and fellow officials and fundraising events. Republican House Minority Leader Brian Newberry said he does not keep an official calendar, noting that he is a "part-time legislator with a busy law practice."

SOUTH CAROLINA

Legislative attorneys declined to release personal calendars or emails of South Carolina's top legislators, including the Senate president pro tem, House speaker, and the chambers' majority and minority leaders. The House attorney's response noted that a schedule of the Legislature's public meetings and their agendas are available online. The responses cited a section of the state's public records law that excludes "memoranda, correspondence, and working papers in the possession of individual members of the General Assembly or their immediate staffs." Efforts to strengthen the state's Freedom of Information Act in the past several years have been repeatedly stymied over an amendment proposing to remove that exemption. Legislators have argued they lack the time and staff to comply with a potential barrage of requests and would not want to release constituents' personal information. The governor, however, is not exempt. Gov. Nikki Haley's office released 28 pages of her public schedule, as well as 142 pages of emails from an address her office says is used for inter-office communication. The vast majority of those emails contained summaries of that day's news articles. Much of the rest contained weather forecasts and warnings. Her office also allowed review of several hundred emails that constituents sent to her public email address. The wide array included requests for meetings, help with agencies, support for legislation and recommendations of who to endorse in the GOP primary.

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota law says public records include all records and documents, regardless of physical form, belonging to government entities — unless a different law, ordinance or rule bars particular information from public disclosure. Records exempted from disclosure include correspondence, memoranda, calendars or logs of appointments of public officials or employees. Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office and the state Legislative Research Council cited the law exempting the disclosure of correspondence and calendars in denying the AP's requests for emails and calendars.

TENNESSEE

The state's top lawmakers agreed to release personal calendars and copies of incoming emails, although some of the writers' contact information was redacted. While Tennessee lawmakers are exempt from the state's open records laws, the Legislature's general practice is to make a good faith effort to be responsive to requests. Lawmakers provided the records they considered to be responsive, rather than having the email server searched by an independent party. Senate Minority Leader Lee Harris disagreed with that practice, arguing it shouldn't be up to the subject of the request to decide which records are relevant. The Memphis Democrat provided the log-on information to his legislative email system for a reporter to inspect

his records in their entirety. Republican Gov. Bill Haslam's office released emails, but has long refused to release his personal calendar on the basis of "deliberative process privilege" under common law.

TEXAS

Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who heads the Senate, released 48 pages of emails consisting mostly of invitations to policy conferences and a daily newsletter produced by a legal news service. Patrick's office also stated that it was withholding other information, including that related to state audits, and seeking an opinion from the Texas attorney general that doing so met appropriate exceptions to open-records rules. Patrick's weeklong public schedule contained just three listings: attending a play; holding a news conference; and giving a speech. All were in the lieutenant governor's native Houston. Sen. John Whitmire, the chamber's longest-serving Democrat, didn't reply to the AP's request, despite open-records requirements that a response or explanation of why one isn't yet ready be provided within 10 working days. Rep. Garnet Coleman, a leading Democratic voice in the state House, released 700-plus pages of emails and a detailed schedule that included his meetings and other official and non-official business. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's schedule consisted of seven blank pages, each labeled "no scheduled events." His office did not release any emails, instead saying the requested items were exempt from disclosure.

UTAH

Utah's House and Senate provided emails for the top Republican and Democrat in each chamber. But both chambers denied a request for calendars, citing part of Utah's open records law that says a daily calendar is not considered a public record. The Senate released about 500 each from the accounts of Senate President Niederhause and Minority Leader Gene Davis. Well more than 100 emails each were released from the accounts of House Speaker Greg Hughes and Minority Leader Brian King. The Utah governor's office denied a request for the governor's calendar, citing the same part of Utah law as the House and Senate did. The governor's office instead provided a copy of the governor's weekly schedule, which contains a selection of public appearances and meetings. The governor's office also denied the request for a week's worth of Gov. Gary Herbert's emails. Herbert's general counsel said Utah's public records law requires that a person requesting a record shall provide a "description of the record requested that identifies the record with reasonable specificity." Herbert's office said the AP request was for a specific time period but not a specific record. The office has in the past released nearly a year's worth of emails on a particular topic.

VERMONT

The state's top lawmakers and governor agreed to release detailed personal schedules for their time at the Statehouse or on state business. But Vermont's is a part-time legislature with many members juggling outside jobs around their legislative work, and they were not willing to release detailed information on how that time was spent. Three of the legislative leaders are lawyers, and simply said they were meeting with clients or, in the case of Senate President Pro Tem John Campbell, working on cases as a deputy state's attorney in Windsor County. The governor and lawmakers also released emails, with one exception. Senate Minority Leader Joe Bennington noted that he has no staff and that checking through his email to redact constituents' personal informant would take hours of his own personal time, or time away from his law practice. House Speaker Shap Smith's aide, Dylan Giambatista, noted that the release was provisional. "After consulting with the Legislature's legal staff, "we have decided to provide you these records even though we were advised that we could assert arguments to withhold them. We reserve the right to assert such arguments in the event of a future Public Records Act request," Giambatista wrote.

VIRGINIA

Virginia's public records law grants elected officials broad discretion in what they can withhold, including any correspondence or records related to "personal or deliberative use." Gov. Terry McAuliffe and the top Democrats and Republicans in both the House and the Senate all declined to provide emails The Associated Press requested. The governor and Democratic legislative leaders provided their calendars. Republican Senate Majority Leader Tommy Norment also provided calendars, but it showed only floor sessions and committee and caucus meetings — not any private meetings or events. Republican House Speaker William J. Howell said the request for a week's worth of his calendar was too vague to qualify as a legitimate public records request.

WASHINGTON

Leadership in Washington's House and Senate all denied requests to release their emails and daily

WEST VIRGINIA

State law says there is a “presumption of public accessibility to all public records,” although there are plenty of exemptions. The House speaker and minority leader released their emails in response to an AP request, but their Senate counterparts did not. All the top lawmakers declined to release detailed personal calendars. The House said that’s because they “are in draft form, contain appointments that may or may not occur, are revised daily, are never corrected, and are not an accurate log” of actual appointments. The Senate said the records requests were “overly broad and lack a reasonable specificity for the information sought.” The state constitution says lawmakers are privileged for “words spoken in debate, or any report, motion or proposition made.” Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin’s office said he does not personally use his official email account. It said the account received more than 600 emails over the timeframe. Tomblin did not release his detailed calendar, echoing the reasoning of the House.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin’s open records law allows requestors to obtain copies of records maintained by government authorities. The reason for the request is irrelevant and records are presumed to be open to inspection and copy. However, government officials don’t have to provide information if a record doesn’t exist and don’t have to create records to fulfil requests. All of Wisconsin’s top lawmakers released copies of their emails in response to the AP’s request. Most also released their daily calendars. But Republican Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald said his office deletes the calendar daily and that the Legislature isn’t subject to retention clauses in open-records laws.

WYOMING

State law exempts the Wyoming Legislature from the open-records law. Under Wyoming law, lawmakers do not have to disclose any communication with constituents or correspondence with legislative staff. The request for emails and calendars to both the Republican and Democratic leaders in the state Senate and House resulted in the same basic reply, noting the exemption. Republican Gov. Matt Mead, who is not exempt from any provisions, released his calendar, minus certain sensitive security details, and emails. However, the state Supreme Court has ruled recently that public officials can refuse public inspection of documents they relied on in reaching final policy decisions. The ruling came in a case against the governor’s office.