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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 Ackman, Maggie Harder, Nikki Hanson, Rick Koehler, Samantha Weber, Tom Mahan

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

Wednesday, March 16

End of the Third Quarter

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

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

Senior Menu: Baked chicken, rice pilaf, cauliflower/pea salad, pudding, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Adam Harder, Lane Tietz, Arlyns

Come meet with local hiring businesses!

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

2016 ABERDEEN AREA JOB FAIR

Thursday, March 17

12:30 – 5 p.m.

Aberdeen Civic Arena
215 S Washington St
Please use West entrance

SD-2076330D

Sponsored By :

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

Let the Department of Labor and Regulation help you prepare

Write your resume • Fill out applications • Practice interviewing skills

There is no
cost to attend!

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USDOL Funded

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

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



Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

© 2015 Groton Daily Independent

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all!"

NOW OPEN

Flarris

Auto Body ABDN

**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**

Extra sales tax to elude Groton Area

It was more than interesting listening to Superintendent Joe Schwan as he presented the outcome of this year's legislative session. What is even more disheartening is that the goal to raise teacher salaries so that South Dakota will not be last in the Union may not come to pass.

Groton Area's teacher salaries across South Dakota ranks 15th highest. In addition, Groton Area is only one of about 15 school districts in South Dakota that does not receive state aid.

The extra half cent sales tax is scheduled to go into effect June 1 thanks to an emergency clause passed by the legislature and that bill is not referable to a vote of the people because of the emergency clause. While the extra tax will be collected throughout the state, Groton Area will receive very little of that revenue.

Schwan said the objective is to raise teacher salaries by \$8,500 throughout the state. Based on the state aid formula, which takes a rocket scientist to figure it out, many districts will not receive the necessary monies to raise the teacher salaries by that much. In Groton Area, teacher salaries will increase by \$2,500. Even at that, Schwan said, Groton will still be in the top 20 percent in the state. "I don't think anyone below can catch us," he said. With all of the legislative effort, Schwan said, "We're still going to be 51st in the nation for teacher pay."

Board member Dorene Nelson said that she had talked with Janice Flihs about the Doney Field sign at the football field. The big question is where to put it. "They are looking for something bigger, bolder and a newer sign," said Superintendent Joe Schwan. Options included on the concession stand, ticket booth, new scoreboard, crows nest and using the posts from the old scoreboard. Board member Merle Harder said he has talked to a couple of people who would be interested in donating to the Doney Field sign. The board was looking at putting it on the new scoreboard and prices will be sought for the proposed project. Business Manager Mike Weber said that the area by the ticket booth is really dark at night after the game and something should be done about lighting the area.

Next year's sixth graders will need to have meningococcal immunization before they start school next fall.

A bill passed in the legislature would allow insurance companies to pay for tuition for a student to attend a private school and be able to deduct 80 percent of it. The governor is asking the courts if this is constitutional under state law.

There was an emergency management table top exercise that involved 20 participants from various agencies (Brown County Sheriff's office, Groton Police Department, Groton Fire & Rescue, Brown County Emergency Management, South Dakota Highway Patrol, South Dakota Office of Homeland Security and Groton Area School District) that discussed a hypothetical active shooter scenario and what each agency's response would be.

To date, the district has missed two full days of school and there have been five late starts. Superintendent Joe Schwan said if there are no more snow days, the students would get one extra day of class at the end of the school year (going on Friday) and to change one of the two staff inservice days for the purpose of completing Crisis Prevention Institute training.

National Honor Society Induction will be held Monday, March 21, 7 p.m.

There is a Family Math Night planned for March 22, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Elementary School.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan said they have decided to have K-5 track and field day all in the afternoon. There will be no more morning track and field. "This should help

The logo for Golden Living, featuring the word "golden" in orange and "living" in blue, with a stylized orange and blue graphic element below.

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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with the chaos that we have had in the past," Schwan said.

Business manager Mike Weber reported that the district will lock in for half at an 11 percent reduction from this year's rate for Natural Gas.

The \$250 rate for summer 2016 driver's education will remain the same as last year. Shaun Wanner will be the instructor. Wanner will receive a \$1 an hour raise for driving time and \$50 for classroom time.

The board accepted the resignation of Joel Guthmiller as assistant girls basketball coach contingent on suitable replacement; approved an open enrollment for a seventh grader from the Northwestern School District; approved for two season event passes and two 10-punch passes to be donated to the Groton Fire Department silent auction with funds to be given for the elementary playground equipment; and approved membership to the South Dakota High School Activities Association for the 2016-17 school year.

Save the cats!

Letter to the editor:

The city of Groton has complaints about stray cats and are planning an ordinance about stray cats - they want to license, trap and euthanize them. When you people and the city council stop and think about it, these cats were not asking to be put into this stray condition. And remember, they are helping to stop the rodent population even if some people feed them some food. I think it is terrible for a few people if this gets passed. And it will probably take the life of some one's family pet.

Cats at least are clean, more than I can say for dogs or dog owners who don't carry something to clean up behind them when they are walked.

Licensing won't help. I know from when I worked for the city. Some dogs never get licensed and the council never pushed it or the keeping them with them at all times.

Yes, I feed a few stray cats, too, but we tame them, play with them and then take them to the Aberdeen Humane Society to go to a new home and they are always glad to get our kittens.

We have had trouble with some individuals (you know who you are and so do I), putting poison out in our yard on our cat food. The local police were called and they too, said the cats help keep down the rodents.

I'm home bound right now so I can't protest in person, but I think you all need to stop and think and have some concern for these cats and cat lovers that want to care for them.

Licensing will not help - some people won't buy them, or put them on, and pets will be killed.

A couple of months ago the city was so hard up for cash they could not pay their bills. Now they are going to hire a cat catcher and pay to euthanize cats.

Please all of the cat friends against this ordinance should contact your city council members.

Save the cats.

Deanna Hendrickson

Service Notice: Meta Pray

Services for Meta Pray, 96, of Groton will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 17 at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Thomas Carlson and Rev. Terry Kenny will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Thursday beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Meta died Sunday, March 13, 2016 at Golden Living Center, Groton.

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Superintendent's Report to the Groton Area School District 06-6 Board of Education

March 14, 2016

Legislative Session.

- SB5. Revises the procedure to initiate a boundary change of a school district (Signed).
- SB13. Establish a new retirement benefit structures for certain public employees (Signed).
- SB28. Require meningococcal immunization for entry into grade 6 (Signed).
- SB73. Clarify certain provisions regarding open meetings (Signed).
- SB90. Ensure that members of the public are able to access and record public meetings (Passed).
- SB129. Establish certain suicide awareness and prevention training requirements for certain school employees (Passed).
- SB131. Establish target teacher salary and target teacher ratio... (Signed)
- SB133. Revise certain provisions regarding shared services provided by the state to school districts (Signed).
- SB159. Provide a tax credit to insurance companies that contribute to an organization providing educational scholarships to certain students (Passed)

- HB1013. Removes the requirement to test home-schooled students in 2nd grade (Signed)
- HB1056. Revise certain provisions relating to the veteran's preference in employment (Signed).
- HB1061. Provides a tuition benefit to certain teachers who enroll in courses under the management and control of the BOR (Passed).
- HB1090. Requires any pool arrangement established by one or more public agencies to have an annual audit of its financial statements (Signed).
- HB1118. Limit the amount of instructional time that may be spend administering statewide academic assessments. (Passed).
- HB1145. Requires any accredited school to accept transfer credits earned by a student for coursework taken from nother SD accredited school outside of the regular school term (Passed).
- HB1182. Increase the state sales tax (Signed).
- HB1189. All state-mandated achievement tests to be returned to student in certain situations (Signed).

Equalization. The city equalization board is meeting at 7:30 PM on March 21 and at 7:00 PM on March 22. A member of the school board is encouraged to attend and participate in this process. Let me know if anyone is interested and able to attend.

Long-Range Facilities Planning Sessions. FJJ has prepared part of their work for review with the school faculty, board and administration, and the public. This is scheduled for March 29. They will meet with the staff after school, followed by the board and administration, and closing with the public at an evening meeting.

All Teachers & Staff: 3:45 PM (HS Band Room)

Board & Administration: 5:00 PM (Library Conference Room)

Community: 7:00 PM (HS Computer Lab)

Emergency Management Table Top Exercise. We had about 20 participants from various agencies (e.g. Brown County Sheriff's Office, Groton Police Department, Groton Fire and Rescue, Brown County Emergency Management, South Dakota Highway Patrol, South Dakota Office of Homeland Security, and Groton School District) attend a meeting on March 7. The discussion centered on a hypothetical active shooter scenario and what each agency's response would be.

NCSEC Structure. During our Superintendent's coop meeting on March 7, the organizational structure of the NCSEC was discussed further. It was agreed that following the expiration of the 2015-16 school agreements, a new agreement could be entered into involving the creation of a new "governing" board of the NCSEC. This board will be made up of one appointed school board member from each member school district. Initially, the new agreement will still delegate fiscal control of the NCSEC to the Groton Area School District – essentially allowing us to continue functioning as we currently are.

Spring 2016 School Calendar Make-Up Days. To date, we've missed two full days of school along with five late starts. We will have to determine the adjusted schedule for the end of the year. We may be recommending changing one of the two days to a staff inservice day for the purpose of completing CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) training.

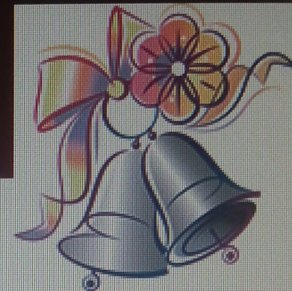
Collective Bargaining Seminars. ASBSD is hosting three Collective Bargaining Seminars at the following dates and times to update school board members and administrators on applying the new funding formula, the accountability requirements introduced by the new legislation and negotiating teacher salary and benefits. Each event runs from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Advanced registration is required. If this is of interest, let me know.

Friday, April 1 – Cedar Shores, Chamberlain

Monday, March 21 – Rapid City

Wednesday, March 23 – Sioux Falls

Bridal Shower

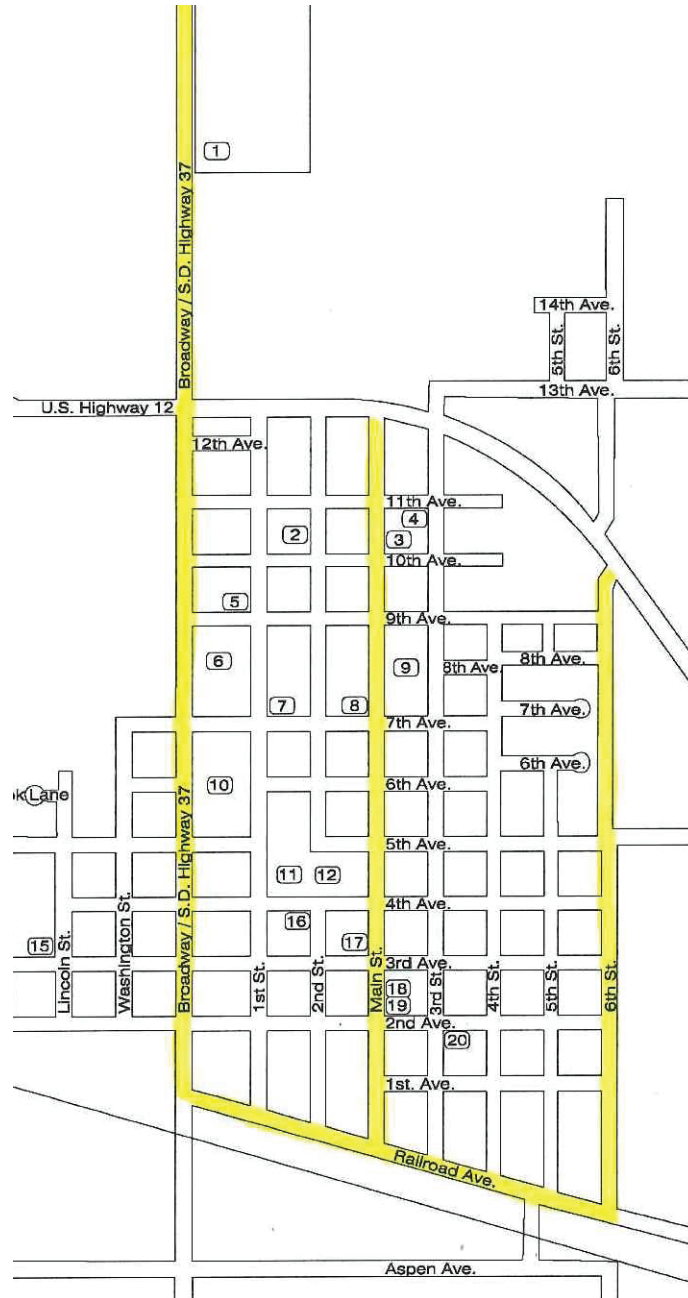


Come & Go Bridal Shower
For
Sarah Geary
Bride-to-be of Sam Thorson
Saturday, April 23
10:00 a.m.
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Catholic Church
Groton

The couple is registered at Bed Bath and Beyond and Target

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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

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Today in Weather History

March 15, 1941: Beware the Ides of March. The most severe blizzard in modern history strikes North Dakota and Minnesota. The blizzard began on a Saturday night while many are traveling, and thus claims 71 lives. Winds gust to 75 mph at Duluth, Minnesota, and reach 85 mph at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Snow drifts twelve feet high are reported in north central Minnesota. A cold front traveling 30 mph crosses Minnesota in just seven hours.

March 15, 2010: Snowmelt runoff from an expansive snow cover flooded many creeks, roads, along with thousands of acres of pasture and cropland throughout northeast South Dakota. There were numerous road closures. The flooding lasted through the end of the month and for many locations into April. The counties mainly affected were Brown, Marshall, Day, Spink, and Roberts. Numerous communities were affected including Aberdeen, Claremont, Waubay, Amherst, Kidder, and the Richmond Lake area. The Claremont, Amherst, and Britton areas were the hardest hit with flooded land and roads. Several farms were surrounded by water with some people stranded. Between Aberdeen and Britton, sixty percent of the land was under water. Thousands of acres of cropland will not be planted due to too much water with estimates that 20 to 25 percent of Brown county cropland would not be planted. Many people in northeast South Dakota have had too much water for many years. The road damage was extensive and repairs will be in the millions of dollars. Many roads across the area will also have to be raised. Many people had extra-long commutes due to flooded roads with some people having to move out of their homes. Across Day and Marshall Counties, rising lakes threatened many homes and cabins with sandbagging taking place. Most lakes and rivers across northeast South Dakota were at or near record levels.








1938: A tornado hit McPaul, Iowa while moving from southeast to northwest. Another tornado raced through Batesville, Illinois at 60 to 65 mph. Another tornado causing F4 damage killed 10 and injured 12 in St. Clair County, Missouri. This tornado was part of an outbreak that produced four different tornadoes and was responsible for 11 deaths and 42 injuries.

1952: On Reunion Island, some 400 miles east of Madagascar 127.56 inches of rain fell in a three-day period in the spring of 1952. This set a world record for the most rain in a 72 hour period. Also from the 15th to the 16th 73.62 inches of rain fell in this 24 hours period at Cilaos, La Reunion Island in the South Indian Ocean to set a world record.

2004: Brownsville, Texas breaks a century-old record for the greatest daily rainfall accumulation for March with 3.23 inches.

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Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Breezy. Slight Chance Showers then Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Blustery then Slight Chance Rain/Snow	Chance Rain/Snow	Slight Chance Rain/Snow then Slight Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow then Slight Chance Rain/Snow
High: 59 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 49 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 40 °F



Breezy and Cooler Today

Follow us on Social Media

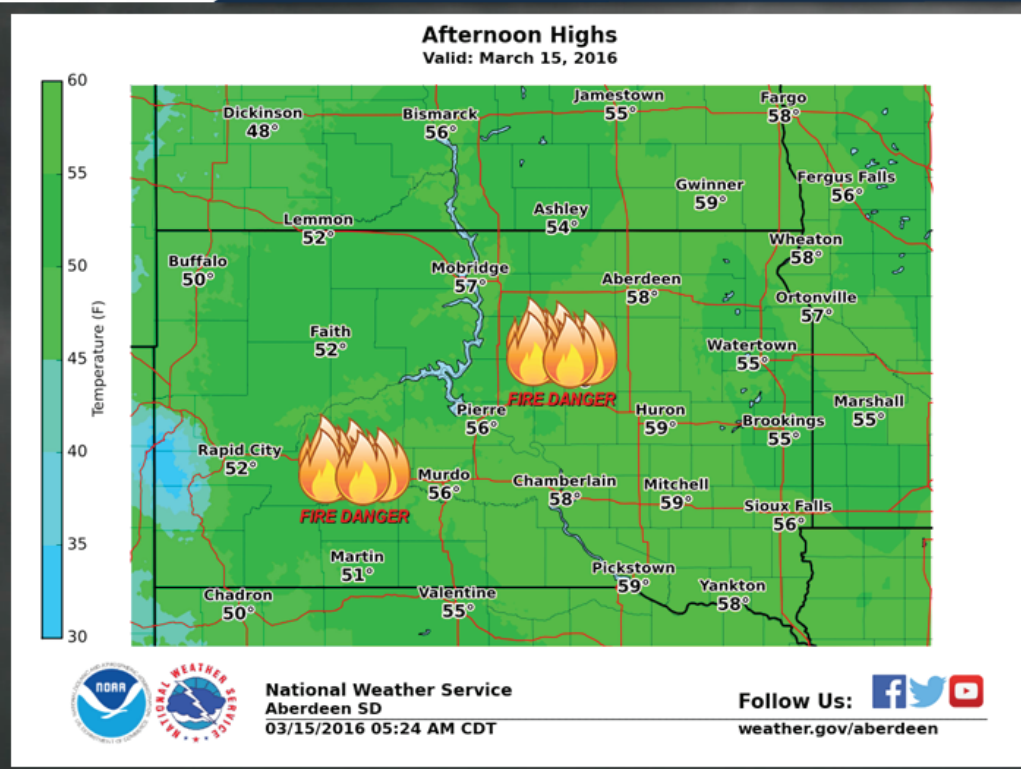
weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen



Wednesday

Windy
and
Cooler

Thursday

Colder
Showers with
Light Snow
Possible

Follow Us:   
weather.gov/aberdeen

Published on: 03/15/2016 at 5:41AM

A cold front crossing the region will bring breezy conditions along with cooler temperatures today. The northwest winds and low relative humidity will cause very high fire danger this afternoon, especially for areas west of the James River Valley. Highs today will range in the 50s for most locations.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 67.5 at 3:28 PM

Low: 36.9 at 8:48 AM

High Gust: 25 at 9:52 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 79° in 2015

Record Low: -29 in 1897

Average High: 39°F

Average Low: 20°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.47

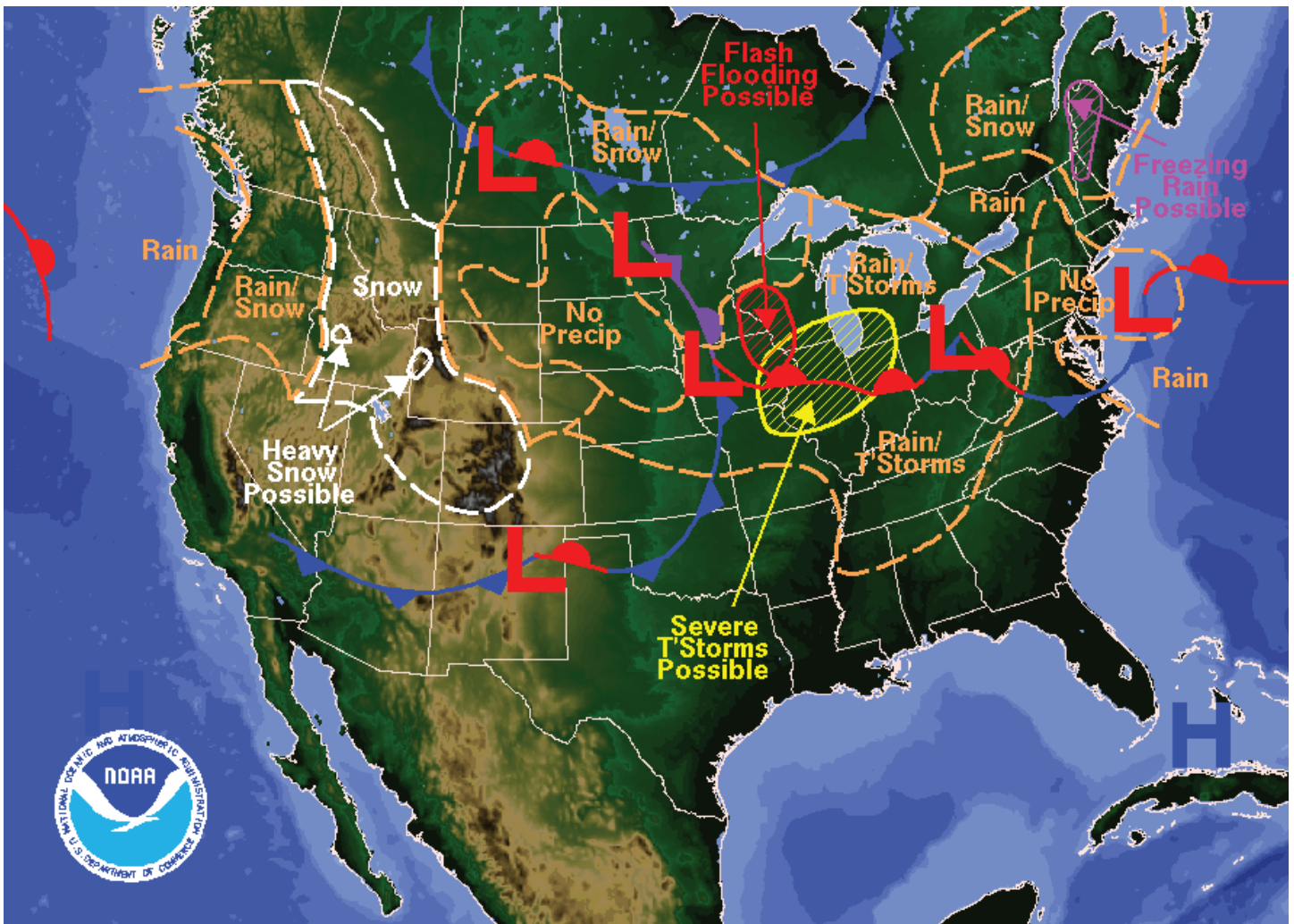
Precip to date in March.: 0.35

Average Precip to date: 1.49

Precip Year to Date: 0.95

Sunset Tonight: 7:40 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Mar 15, 2016, issued 4:03 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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PROOF THAT PRAYER WORKS

A stranger walked into our recording studio and was impressed with all of the equipment that we use. In fact, he had difficulty in believing that it took so much "stuff" to produce a one minute program. Turning to me he asked, "Where did you get the loot to buy all this?"

"From God," I answered. "We ask Him for what we need and He always provides it to us when we need it!"

We walked to my office and paused in front of our "prayer board" which contained pictures of the items we were praying for. Looking at a folding machine he asked, "Think you'll get it?" I replied, "I know we will. God answers prayer!"

With an unbelieving smile he sat down across from me. The phone rang and a voice said, "I just heard your broadcast and it blessed my heart. I want to do something for you. What do you need?"

"A folding machine," I answered. "Order it," he said, "I'm sending the check right now."

"Wow! I've just seen a live answer to prayer!"

Jesus said, "Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Prayer: Lord, we believe in Your power to answer our prayers. May we learn to pray with faith, believing that you will hear and answer our prayers: in Your Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Matthew 21:22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

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News from the  Associated Press

Mount Marty women lose in semifinals of NAIA tournament

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The season for the Mount Marty women's basketball team has come to an end, one game from a national title shot.

The Yankton school lost 84-55 to Marian University of Indiana on Monday night in the semifinals of the NAIA Division II national tournament in Sioux City, Iowa.

The Lancers finished the season 25-11, including three wins in the national tournament.

Mount Marty was the last of seven teams from the Dakotas that made the field for either the women's or men's tournament. Knocked out in earlier rounds were the men's teams from Valley City State, Dakota Wesleyan and Dakota State, and the women's teams from Dakota Wesleyan, Jamestown and Dickinson State.

Man pleads not guilty to murder in reservation killing

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man initially accused of being an accessory in the killing of a woman on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation now has been charged with first-degree murder.

Twenty-nine-year-old Fred Quiver pleaded not guilty to the upgraded charge in federal court in Rapid City on Monday. Quiver also goes by the name Fred Brings Plenty,

Quiver is charged in the death of 24-year-old Emily Blue Bird, whose body was found Jan. 21 in a creek near Pine Ridge. Authorities believe she was strangled in early January. She had been missing for nearly three weeks when her body was discovered.

Twenty-three-year-old Elizabeth LeBeau also is charged with first-degree murder in the case. She pleaded not guilty earlier.

South Carolina top seed in Sioux Falls region, ASU No. 2

PETE IACOBELLI, AP Sports Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina's run to a second straight Final Four will go through Sioux Falls, South Dakota — and most likely against several familiar foes.

The Gamecocks (31-1) are a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament for a third consecutive season and have been placed in a region with No. 2 seed Arizona State (25-6), No. 3 seed Ohio State (24-7), both losers to Dawn Staley's club in November.

The fourth seed in the region, Syracuse (25-7), lost to South Carolina in a second-round NCAA matchup in Columbia last year. Also lurking are two Southeastern Conference opponents in No. 5 seed Florida (22-8) and No. 7 seed Tennessee (19-13).

The Gamecocks open play Friday night against Jacksonville (22-10), which is making its first NCAA Tournament appearance. Should South Carolina advance, it would take on either No. 8 seed George Washington (26-6) or No. 9 Kansas State (18-12) on Sunday.

The other seeds in the region are No. 6 West Virginia (24-9), No. 10 Green Bay (28-4); No. 11 Princeton (23-5); No. 12 Albany (27-4); No. 13 Army (29-2); No. 14 Buffalo (20-13); and No. 15 New Mexico State (26-4).

For Staley and the Gamecocks, the path through the region is filled with past success. South Carolina finished 4-0 against opponents in Sioux Falls it has previously played this season, including an 88-80 victory against Ohio State in the season opener and a 60-58 win over Arizona State in a Hawaii tournament on Thanksgiving weekend.

Staley's said knowing her opponents down the line can be an advantage.

"It means we're not starting from scratch and that they're familiar to us," she said.

Less familiar are the South Dakota surroundings. The Gamecocks and their fans had sought a spot in

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Lexington, Kentucky, a much closer venue to the large throngs that have followed South Carolina during its three-year run as SEC champions.

Staley was surprised at landing in Sioux Falls. That, however, doesn't change her team's mission.

"We've got to do our job," she said. "Open up on Friday night and take care of business."

Some things to watch in the Sioux Falls Region:

RISING BUCKEYES: This is Ohio State's highest seeding since the 2010 tournament when it was seeded No. 2 and fell to an SEC opponent, Mississippi State, in the second round. The Buckeyes might have the region's most exciting player in Kelsey Mitchell, who scored 36 points in the opener against South Carolina — the most points the Gamecocks gave up to any player all season.

SEC PLAYERS OF THE YEAR: The Gamecocks will rely on former SEC player of the year Tiffany Mitchell, who won the honor in 2014 and 2015, and A'ja Wilson, who took the award this season. Mitchell has played her best basketball in the past month and was named the SEC Tournament MVP earlier this month. Wilson, a 6-foot-5 sophomore, is the team's leader in points and blocked shots.

TENNESSEE'S FATE: The Lady Vols struggled through the indignities — at least by Tennessee standards — of 13 losses and falling out of the Top 25 for the first time in decades. Much of it will be forgotten with a deep run in the tourney. However, that could be difficult with a possible matchup against Arizona State on its home floor looming in the second round.

SYRACUSE'S RUN: When Syracuse played at South Carolina in the NCAA Tournament last season, head coach Quentin Hillsman said he was on the way to building a program that would not have to go on the road to start postseason play. A year later, the Orange have reached that goal and are hosting the first two rounds of the NAAs.

SEC STRENGTH: Three of the record-tying nine SEC teams are in the Sioux Falls region: South Carolina, Florida and the Lady Vols. Gamecocks coach Dawn Staley's team swept through the league — a 16-0 regular season followed by a 3-0 run through the league tournament — and believes all those tough, physical games helped propel so many SEC schools into the NAAs. "A lot of SEC teams means that after beating each other up all season long, we got rewarded," Staley said.

Education board sets tuition at state's technical schools

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Education has frozen tuition at the state's four technical schools with some help from the Legislature.

The board approved 2016-17 tuition and fees on Monday.

The overall cost per credit is set to be \$150, and students will keep paying \$109 per credit for in-state tuition thanks to funding for the freeze approved by lawmakers during the 2016 session.

The per-credit fees are \$35 for facilities; \$5 for maintenance and repair; and \$1 for technology.

Lawmakers in the 2016 session also supported a tuition freeze for South Dakota residents who attend one of the state's public universities.

Rainbow trout release scheduled below Fort Randall Dam

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota wildlife officials plan to release thousands of catchable-sized rainbow trout below Fort Randall Dam this week.

The state's Game, Fish and Parks Department says 5,000 hatchery-raised rainbow trout that are between 9 and 12 inches long will be released Thursday in the boat basin below Fort Randall Dam.

Crews will be releasing Shasta strain rainbow trout because officials say research has shown that that strain returns to the angler creel at a higher rate than others.

State fisheries biologist Jason Sorensen says the research has allowed the department to modify its stocking strategy in order to use the products of the state hatcheries more efficiently.

Sorensen says the research findings have allowed the department "to stock fewer trout while having anglers catch equal or greater numbers of trout."

ATF investigating fire at Arlington mink-processing business

ARLINGTON, S.D. (AP) — Federal authorities are investigating the cause of a fire that destroyed a mink-processing business in Arlington.

A team from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives on Saturday started investigating the scene at Top Lot Processors. The ATF says the loss at the 65,000-square-foot facility is estimated at \$5 million.

No one was injured when the fire occurred around 2:20 a.m. Thursday.

Special Agent in Charge James Modzelewski says the ATF and state and local officials will work together to determine the cause of the fire.

The ATF is the federal agency with jurisdiction over fires and crimes of arson. ATF agents assist state and local authorities on large-scale incidents. The agency last year assisted in the investigation of the fire at the popular Full Throttle Saloon in Sturgis.

Authorities identify woman whose body was found in freezer

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement authorities have identified the elderly woman whose body was found in a freezer in western South Dakota and say she may have died of natural causes.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office on Monday identified the woman as Adele Zebrowski, who is believed to be from Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Zebrowski's body was found Thursday in a freezer at a Rapid City home. Deputies discovered it while responding to a call about a possible missing person case related to an ongoing fraud investigation.

The sheriff's office says preliminary autopsy results indicate Zebrowski died of natural causes. A final cause of death will be determined after toxicology and other tests are completed.

Authorities say they believe Zebrowski lived in Arkansas with her son Stewart Zebrosky. He moved to Rapid City in 2013 and has since died.

Regents to set policy governing beer, wine sales on campus

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Board of Regents will create rules for the sale of beer and wine at special events hosted at public universities by July 1, when the new law takes effect, a board official said Monday.

The law limits such sales to sporting events and artistic performances, among other occasions. The new rules will allow schools not to take part in the sales, said the board's executive director and CEO, Mike Rush.

Supporters say the changes are narrow and will make the school facilities more attractive venues for outside groups to book for conferences or other events.

"You can't be serving it in the student union at lunchtime," said Rep. Spencer Hawley, a Democrat from Brookings. "It's very controlled."

State law didn't ban serving alcohol, but on-campus sales were prohibited. The intent of the new law is to have sales managed by a private vendor. They would also have to be approved by local municipalities.

Brookings, which is home to South Dakota State University, was a key supporter of the plan. City Manager Jeff Weldon said Brookings has had a long relationship working with SDSU, including providing funding for campus facilities such as a performing arts center.

Weldon said SDSU offers community events, which university officials may decide the sale of alcohol would improve.

"We see that as a community-wide benefit as well," he said.

South Dakota State University President David Chicoine said the sale of alcohol could help campus venues as well as the school's fundraising abilities. The plan could also allow the university to better promote premium seating at the new \$65 million Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

But Chicoine said allowing beer and wine sales in general seating areas is "not at the top of (his) list"

of things to do.

"I think there's going to be opportunities for the all the campuses to work with their local cities and figure out how they might take advantage of the opportunity," Chicoine said.

Opponents have argued that alcohol can have harmful consequences and that lawmakers shouldn't make it more available to college students.

Daugaard requests guidance from Supreme Court on 2 bills

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard wants guidance from the state Supreme Court on the constitutionality of two bills at his desk, his office said Monday.

One deals with buffer strips of vegetation between farm fields and waterways and the other involves tax credits for private school scholarship donations.

Advisory opinions from the high court would resolve questions about the constitutionality of the measures that arose during legislative debates, Daugaard said in a statement. Daugaard has asked the Supreme Court for such an opinion one other time since he became governor, a spokeswoman said in an email.

The school choice bill would give insurance companies tax credits for contributions to help lower-income students attend private schools. 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.

Some lawmakers thought that the bill would violate constitutional provisions blocking public funds from going toward religious societies or institutions. Sandra Waltman, a spokeswoman for the South Dakota Education Association, said the union believes there are "serious constitutional issues with the bill."

House Majority Leader Brian Gosch, a main sponsor of the measure, said he is "100 percent" sure it is constitutional. The Institute for Justice, a Virginia-based libertarian group that defends school choice measures, said in a memo to state lawmakers earlier this month that the bill is constitutional and offered to defend the plan in court at no cost to the state if it is signed into law and later challenged.

The other bill would allow farmland that has been turned into a buffer strip of vegetation to be classified as non-cropland for property tax purposes, which would mean a lower tax burden for landowners.

Daugaard must make decisions by March 26 about whether to veto the bills or let them become law.

'Big Brother' casting team to host auditions in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Camera-loving South Dakota residents will get a chance to air their lives on national television when the CBS reality show "Big Brother" hosts auditions next week in Sioux Falls.

The show's casting team will host auditions for season 18 on March 22 at Badlands Pawn, Gold and Jewelry.

People selected to participate in the show will live in a house located in Los Angeles that is outfitted with cameras and microphones that will broadcast their actions 24/7. Those selected to live in the house will compete to be the last evicted.

Potential contestants must be 21 years old and U.S. citizens.

Patrol honors Summit woman for actions at crash scene

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has honored a Summit woman for her efforts to help the victim of a vehicle crash late last year in rural Grant County.

Authorities say Kathleen Neyssen came across the crash and tended to the injured driver until emergency crews arrived, then stayed at the scene to help first-responders despite bitter cold and windy conditions.

Col. Craig Price recently presented Neyssen with the Superintendent's Performance Award, one of the most prestigious given by the Highway Patrol.

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10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. WHOSE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS FACE A MOMENT OF RECKONING

Republicans Marco Rubio and John Kasich are fighting for their political futures in their home states of Florida and Ohio, while Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton is hoping to keep rival Bernie Sanders from building new momentum in Tuesday's primaries.

2. WHERE A NEW DEMOCRACY HAS ELECTED A PRESIDENT

Myanmar's parliament has elected Htin Kyaw as Myanmar's new president, a watershed moment that ushers the longtime opposition party of Aung San Suu Kyi, who is expected to be de facto leader, into government.

3. NORTH KOREA ISSUES MORE WARNINGS OF WEAPONS TESTS

Kim Jong Un warns of impending tests of a nuclear warhead explosion and ballistic missiles capable of carrying atomic warheads, state media report, in an escalation of threats against Seoul and Washington.

4. RUSSIAN AIR FORCES BEGIN DEPARTING SYRIA

Moscow says its first group of warplanes has left a Russian air base in Syria.

5. ART IMITATES LIFE LEFT BEHIND FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Syrian artists have painted brightly colored murals of beaches, forests and faraway cities on the outer walls of trailer homes in this desert refugee camp, hoping to boost morale among fellow exiles, though it also painfully underscores whether they will ever return.

6. MARYLAND COP IS KILLED BY FRIENDLY FIRE

An undercover police officer was killed by his own colleagues' fire as he responded to an attack on his police station by a gunman with a death wish, the police chief says.

7. IS DISORDER AT TRUMP RALLIES AS AMERICAN AS APPLE PIE?

The recent dark turn of the 2016 presidential campaign — the scuffles and confrontations at Donald Trump's rallies — has brought back memories of the turmoil of the 1960s, and fueled fears that America was careering into a similarly angry and violent era.

8. MASS KILLER BREVIK MAKES NAZI SALUTE

Anders Behring Breivik, the right-wing extremist who killed 77 people in bomb and gun attacks in 2011, gives the infamous salute as he arrives at his human rights case against the Norwegian government.

9. DON'T TAKE ANYTHING, INSTEAD TRY THIS IN THE MORNING

Doctors treating chronic health problems increasingly are prescribing exercise instead of medicines for their patients.

10. IS IT STILL VIVA LAS VEGAS FOR ELVIS?

For decades, Elvis Presley has been a hunka burning love in Vegas, but the King's presence in modern day Sin City has lately been diminishing, one impersonator at a time.

Brothers accused in recording attack that left officer dead

JESICA GRESKO, Associated Press

CHEVERLY, Md. (AP) — Police may never be able to satisfactorily explain why a man with a death wish shot at drivers and police officers outside a police station in suburban Maryland while his brothers filmed the firefight on their cellphones, the county's police chief said.

An undercover narcotics officer was killed in Sunday's gunfight outside the police station in Prince George's County, wounded by a bullet fired by one of his colleagues.

At a news conference Monday evening, Prince George's County Police Chief Hank Stawinski said he couldn't explain the "frightening" actions of the shooter or his two brothers, who Stawinski said believed they would be filming their brother's death.

"It doesn't make any sense," Stawinski said.

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Stawinski said he wasn't sure police would ever be able to explain "why people would do something like this," but he said police are "working diligently to try to answer those questions."

The gunman, 22-year-old Michael Ford, dictated a "last will and testament" just minutes before his two brothers drove him to the station, where he began spraying bullets at passing cars and even an ambulance to draw officers outside, police said.

The undercover officer who died, Jacai Colson, arrived at the station after the shooting began. He was wearing civilian clothes without body armor and leapt out of an unmarked car to respond.

"Police officers run to disorder. They run to the sound of shots," the chief said. "It's my sad duty to have to share with you that, circumstantially, we believe the fired round that led to Detective Colson's death was fired by one of his fellow Prince George's County officers reacting to this."

In the confusion, despite their restraint, one of the other officers' bullets hit Colson, the chief said. Four other officers fired their weapons, and it is not yet known who fired the fatal bullet, said the chief, who praised their restraint as well as the "extreme heroism" of Colson, who "drew fire to himself and in doing so was mortally wounded."

Colson was declared dead later in a hospital. Michael Ford was hospitalized but expected to survive. He was arrested along with his brothers Malik, 21, and Elijah, 18. They will face dozens of charges between them, the chief said.

The police union leader, John Teletchea, was livid that the suspects would coldly watch and record what he said their own cellphone evidence shows was an unprovoked and premeditated attack.

Colson, he said, "reacted to protect his fellow police officers and his community. And while doing so we had individuals videotaping, as if it's a game, as if it's something we're going to put on YouTube and glorify."

The chief said there were no outstanding warrants against the gunman, but that information conflicts with a sheriff's report from Greenville, South Carolina, which said Michael Ford was being sought for allegedly assaulting his wife there the day before.

Colson, who would have turned 29 this week, was a four-year department veteran who worked as an undercover narcotics officer. His football coach at Randolph-Macon College, where Colson played for one year, said he was "a great young man who was well liked and well respected."

"He was just a great human being," coach Pedro Arruza said. "He was a very positive, positive person and an upbeat guy, a good person to be around. He had a lot of friends on campus; everybody liked him. He was just a really high-character guy."

Sheriff's Deputy Dominick Chambers, a friend from the police academy, said they celebrated their four-year anniversary as officers March 12, the day before Colson was killed.

"He always wanted to be a police officer," Chambers said. "Everyone is taking it real bad, real bad. I'm talking to my classmates, checking in on them. We're not doing well."

Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis, former deputy chief at the Prince George's County Police Department, said he understands people are searching for answers.

"I think while we're trying to find a reason, and we're always compelled to find a reason why something like this happens, you always think there must be a reason and we want to point to that reason because we want to fix it. We never want it to happen again. That's human nature. To want to find a reason for the inexplicable," he said.

Still 'Viva Las Vegas' for Elvis Presley? Less so lately

SALLY HO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — For decades, Las Vegas has loved Elvis Presley tender — and loved him true — but the King's presence in modern day Sin City has lately been diminishing, one impersonator at a time.

"Vegas really is, ironically, a challenging market for Elvis," said Jack Soden, CEO of Elvis Presley Enterprises, which runs the Graceland attraction in Memphis, Tennessee, and manages many of the official business deals on behalf of the estate.

The group had loaned hundreds of artifacts to a much-hyped, months-old Elvis attraction at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino. "Graceland Presents Elvis" closed in February after failing to draw in many

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visitors to the museum exhibit, wedding chapel and theater.

The off-Strip property is now holding the valuables against the will of the estate, as Westgate battles with the attraction's third-party operator over a leasing dispute. The estate has since filed a lawsuit to get those items back.

The fallout at Westgate is not the first Elvis-related spectacle in Las Vegas to leave the building too soon. Low attendance numbers were also to blame when the Viva Elvis Cirque du Soleil show at the Aria casino-hotel was cancelled in 2012 after a two-year run. That's a much shorter shelf life than most of its sister shows. The longest-running one, *Mystère*, started on the Strip more than two decades ago.

It's left the Strip's largest casino operator, MGM Resorts International, without any Elvis-themed shows, attractions or weddings. Rival Caesars Entertainment Corporation still hosts tribute acts and weddings, but a spokeswoman said few of those getting hitched ever choose the official Elvis packages.

It's a stark turn for a city that has for so long thrived in its association with "The King." The rise of Elvis coincided with the rise of Las Vegas as an entertainment capital, said Cory Cooper, an Elvis historian.

Elvis played here more than anywhere else, selling out hundreds of shows, year after year. Cementing his ties to Sin City were his hits, the "Viva Las Vegas" song that gave the town its anthem, and the movie by the same name that showcased its glitzy persona.

There was a time when Elvis fans across the country made the pilgrimage to Las Vegas to see his concerts, and following his death in 1977, to indulge in the many tribute shows, impersonators and nostalgic memories from his heyday.

It also became a staple of Las Vegas kitsch to see Elvis impersonators — though they prefer to be known as "tribute artists" — on the many tourist-friendly corners of town and at the quickie wedding ceremonies Vegas was known for.

Elvis impersonator Ted Payne, 54 said business has slowed dramatically since he started taking photos with tourists for tips just six years ago.

"When I first started out, I wouldn't get out of a bed unless I (could) make at least \$150," he said. "Now, these days, \$50 is a great day."

These days, Elvis registers only briefly in the consciousness of Melanie Casas, 22, of Phoenix. On her first trip to Las Vegas recently, she identified him as the singer of "Hound Dog" who was also featured as a character in the "Forrest Gump" movie.

"I know of him but I don't know anything about him," Casas said, shrugging.

This generational divide could be blamed for the apparent lull in interest in the iconic performer. Others say the market was oversaturated by Elvis impersonators for so long that the appeal burned itself out here, even as Elvis' reach grows internationally.

The Elvis brand is one of the most active and successful entertainment estates. *Forbes* magazine, in its annual list of earnings by dead entertainers, said Presley's estate earned \$55 million for the year ending October 2014 — second to Michael Jackson.

Soden said Graceland mansion, where Elvis lived, sees a growing number of visitors and is expanding with a new Elvis-themed hotel nearby.

Elvis fans are not aging out, he said, because nearly 40 percent of Graceland visitors were born after Elvis' death. Soden also said the estate has been successful in many of its business deals, particularly in the Middle East, U.K., Asia and Australia.

He in large part blamed the Westgate closure on Vegas' lack of interest in exhibits overall. "Vegas hasn't seen the last of Elvis. Giving it a rest is not all that bad," Soden said of a future comeback.

Meanwhile, Vegas tourism only continues to reinvent itself. Once focused as an entertainment capital, it veered momentarily in an attempt to be a family-friendly destination before settling on its latest persona: the overindulgent playground of the young and wealthy.

"I think the problem with Vegas is Las Vegas is trying to escape from itself, either rewrite history or make new history," Cooper, the historian, said. "All these properties that started Las Vegas, nothing's there anymore."

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Rubio, Kasich fighting to keep White House hopes alive

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — Republicans Marco Rubio and John Kasich are fighting for their political futures Tuesday, desperate for wins in their home states of Florida and Ohio to keep their White House hopes alive and complicate Donald Trump's path to the nomination. Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton is hoping to keep rival Bernie Sanders from building new momentum in the Midwest.

With more delegates up for grabs than almost any other day in the primary calendar, Tuesday's contests afford Trump and Clinton the chance to put their parties' nominations out of sight for their competitors. While Florida and Ohio are the biggest prizes, Missouri, Illinois and North Carolina are also awarding a cache of delegates.

Trump enters Tuesday's primaries embroiled in one of the biggest controversies of his contentious campaign. The GOP front-runner has encouraged supporters to physically confront protesters at his events and is now facing criticism for encouraging violence after skirmishes broke out at a rally last week in Chicago.

During an event Monday in Tampa, Trump was interrupted intermittently by protesters, some of whom were forcibly removed. Trump said he didn't want to "ruin somebody's life, but do we prosecute somebody like that?"

The vibe at Trump's events has deepened the angst over his candidacy in some Republican circles. Rubio and Kasich have suggested they might not be able to support Trump if he's the nominee, an extraordinary stance for intraparty rivals. House Speaker Paul Ryan has also taken lightly veiled shots at the businessman, who has denied playing any role in encouraging violence against protesters.

"I think the candidates need to take responsibility for the environment at their events," Ryan said during an interview Monday with WRJN, a radio station in Racine, Wisconsin. "There is never an excuse for condoning violence, or even a culture that presupposes it."

Heading into Tuesday, Kasich appeared to have the best chance of defeating Trump. The governor spent Monday campaigning in his home state alongside Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee and a fierce critic of Trump.

"This is the guy Ohio has to vote for, and America's counting on you," Romney told the crowd at a Kasich event in North Canton. While Romney has not endorsed Kasich, he's said he'll do whatever is needed to help all of Trump's rivals.

Rubio, despite having the backing of numerous GOP elected officials, appears to have slipped in recent public polls in Florida. The senator tried to stay upbeat Monday, perhaps his final full day of campaigning in the 2016 race.

"Tomorrow's the day where we are going to shock the country," Rubio said during a stop in Jacksonville.

If Trump sweeps Tuesday's contests, he'd still have to keep winning in order to clinch the nomination. But he would cross an important threshold by collecting more than 50 percent of the delegates awarded so far.

Trump's closest competition has come from Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who has defeated the businessman in seven states. He's also the only remaining GOP candidate who still says unequivocally that he would support Trump if he becomes the nominee.

Among Democrats, Clinton has been itching to look ahead to the general election but continues to face persistent competition from Bernie Sanders. While Clinton maintains a commanding lead in the delegate count, Sanders breathed new life into his campaign with a surprising victory last week in Michigan.

Reprising a theme that helped propel that Michigan win, Sanders on Monday pounded Clinton's past support for trade deals such as the North American Free Trade Agreement. He's escalated his criticism in recent days, hoping to undercut her edge among minorities and expand his advantage with white working-class voters.

"When it came down whether you stand with corporate America, the people who wrote these agreements, or whether you stand with the working people of this country, I proudly stood with the workers," Sanders said in Youngstown, Ohio. "Secretary Clinton stood with the big money interests."

Clinton's team is attempting to tamp down expectations for Tuesday night, stressing that the race remains close in the Midwest, despite public polling showing her with a sizable lead. Still, she's eyeing the general

election and escalating her attacks on Trump, saying he's "inciting mob violence."

"I do hold him responsible," she said in an interview with MSNBC. "He's been building this incitement, he's been leading crowds in jeering protesters"

"We have the way forward to be able to start talking about not only unifying the Democratic Party but unifying our country," she said during a stop in Chicago.

The campaign next shifts to the West, where Sanders' advisers have suggested he could rattle off a win streak and begin cutting into Clinton's delegate lead.

More doctors are prescribing exercise instead of medication

RODRIQUE NGOWI, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — When Dr. Michelle Johnson scribbles out prescriptions, the next stop for many of her patients is the gym, not the pharmacy.

Doctors treating chronic health problems increasingly are prescribing exercise for their patients — and encouraging them to think of physical activity as their new medication.

In one such program run by a health center in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood, primary care physicians, internists and psychologists prescribe access to a gym for \$10 a month, including free child care, classes and kids programs. Providing affordable gym access for patients ensures compliance, said Gibbs Saunders of Healthworks Community Fitness, a nonprofit gym in Dorchester that has partnered with several health care providers to help low-income residents fill their exercise prescriptions.

Executives at the Whittier Street Health Center say low-cost access to a gym is important, since many residents' income is low and 70 percent of those they treat suffer from chronic problems such as obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and depression.

Life expectancy in Roxbury is 59 years — well below the national average of 78.8 years.

"Exercise is not a new medicine. It's really an old medicine," said Johnson, who prescribes exercise to patients at the Roxbury-based health center. "But you know, I think we're now coming to the point of understanding how important it is."

Monisha Long, who is morbidly obese and suffers from hypertension, got a doctor's prescription for exercise and says she's gotten visible and dramatic results after more than two years of regular workouts.

"I lost well over 150 pounds, and I've been keeping it off for the past couple of years," she said after working out on an elliptical machine at Healthworks.

And Long cites other, less-visible benefits.

"I'm more energized," she said. "As far as my energy, I feel like I'm stronger. I feel like I'm less tired. I feel like I can do almost anything now."

People who are physically active tend to live longer and are at lower risk of heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes, depression and some cancers, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention. Yet fewer than one in four American adults exercises enough to reap those benefits, the agency says.

Dr. Edward Phillips, a Boston physician, is so sold on exercise he pedals on a stationary bike that's integrated into his office desk. Phillips said exercise is "like taking a little bit of Prozac — an antidepressant — and a little bit of Ritalin, which is a stimulant."

"Our bodies are meant to move," he said. "Integrating movement into our day allows the system to work optimally. Part of the system that needs to work is our brain, and includes sleep, mood, cognition, ability to concentrate."

A prescription for exercise is a bargain, said Stephanie Dennis, who works out on a treadmill to stay fit.

"\$10 a month is what? \$2 a week, \$2-\$2.50 a week," she said. "A lot of people pay that every day for coffee. It's not a big sacrifice for something that you get big rewards from."

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 15, the 75th day of 2016. There are 291 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On March 15, 1916, a U.S. expeditionary force led by Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing entered Mexico on an ultimately futile mission to capture Pancho Villa, whose raiders had attacked Columbus, New Mexico, killing 18 U.S. citizens. Trumpet player and bandleader Harry James was born in Albany, Georgia.

On this date:

In 44 B.C., Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of nobles that included Brutus and Cassius.

In 1767, the seventh president of the United States, Andrew Jackson, was born in Waxhaw, South Carolina.

In 1820, Maine became the 23rd state.

In 1922, Sultan Fuad I proclaimed himself the first king of modern Egypt.

In 1935, the Busby Berkeley movie musical "Gold Diggers of 1935" was released by Warner Bros.

In 1941, Richard C. Hottelet, a correspondent for the United Press, was arrested in Berlin by the German secret police on suspicion of espionage. (Hottelet was released four months later in a prisoner exchange.)

In 1956, the Lerner and Loewe musical play "My Fair Lady," based on Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion," opened on Broadway.

In 1966, at the 8th Annual Grammy Awards, "A Taste of Honey," performed by Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass, was named Record of the Year, while Frank Sinatra's "September of My Years" won Album of the Year.

In 1977, the U.S. House of Representatives began a 90-day closed-circuit test to determine the feasibility of showing its sessions on television.

In 1985, the first Internet domain name, symbolics.com, was registered by the Symbolics Computer Corp. of Massachusetts.

In 1996, the Liggett Group agreed to repay more than \$10 million in Medicaid bills for treatment of smokers, settling lawsuits with five states.

In 2001, federal authorities confirmed that remains found on a Texas ranch were those of missing atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair and two of her relatives, who had disappeared 5 1/2 years earlier. (David Waters, the key suspect in the slayings, was sentenced to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty in federal court to extortion conspiracy.)

Ten years ago: Saddam Hussein, testifying for the first time in his trial, called on Iraqis to stop killing each other and instead fight U.S. troops; the judge reprimanded him for making a rambling, political speech and ordered the TV cameras switched off. A gunman opened fire inside a Denny's restaurant in Pismo Beach, California, leaving two dead and two injured before taking his own life. Jeff King won his fourth Iditarod, finishing several hours ahead of runner-up Doug Swingley.

Five years ago: The Syrian civil war had its beginnings with Arab Spring protests across the region that turned into an armed insurgency and eventually became a full-blown conflict. William Melchert-Dinkel (MEL'-kurt DINK'-ehl), a former nurse accused of seeking out depressed people online and encouraging two to kill themselves, was found guilty by a judge in Faribault, Minnesota, of aiding the suicides of an English man and a Canadian woman. (The Minnesota Supreme Court later reversed the convictions; Melchert-Dinkel was later found guilty of one count of assisting a suicide and one count of attempting to assist a suicide.) John Baker became the first Alaska Native musher to win the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race since Jerry Riley in 1976.

One year ago: The United States and Iran plunged back into negotiations in Lausanne, Switzerland, hoping to end a decades-long standoff on Iran's nuclear program. A pair of suicide bombers attacked two churches in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore, killing at least 15 people. Mike Porcaro, 59, who'd carved out a long, successful career as the bass player for the award-winning pop group Toto, died in Los Angeles. Actress-dancer Sally Forrest, 86, died in Beverly Hills, California.

Today's Birthdays: Musician DJ Fontana is 85. Former astronaut Alan L. Bean is 84. Supreme Court Justice

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Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 83. Actor Judd Hirsch is 81. Jazz musician Charles Lloyd is 78. Rock musician Phil Lesh is 76. Singer Mike Love (The Beach Boys) is 75. Rock singer-musician Sly Stone is 73. Rock singer-musician Howard Scott (War; Lowrider Band) is 70. Rock singer Ry Cooder is 69. Actor Craig Wasson is 62. Rock singer Dee Snider (Twisted Sister) is 61. Actor Joaquim de Almeida is 59. Actress Park Overall is 59. Movie director Renny Harlin is 57. Model Fabio is 55. Singer Terence Trent D'Arby (AKA Sananda Maitreya) is 54. Rock singer Bret Michaels (Poison) is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rockwell is 52. Actor Chris Bruno is 50. Rock singer Mark McGrath (Sugar Ray) is 48. Actress Kim Raver is 47. Rock musician Mark Hoppus is 44. Country singer-musician Matt Thomas (Parmalee) is 42. Actress Eva Longoria is 41. Rapper-musician will.i.am (Black Eyed Peas) is 41. Rock DJ Joseph Hahn (Linkin Park) is 39. Rapper Young Buck is 35. Actor Sean Biggerstaff is 33. Rock musician Ethan Mentzer is 33. Actor Kellan Lutz is 31. Actress Caitlin Wachs is 27.

Thought for Today: "There are no hopeless situations; there are only men who have grown helpless about them." — Clare Boothe Luce, American author, diplomat, member of Congress (1903-1987).

Water ebbing in north Louisiana, rising at Mississippi line

BILL FULLER, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — As floodwaters began receding Monday in northwest Louisiana, emergency officials along Louisiana's southeastern border with Mississippi were watching the rise of the Pearl River amid widespread flooding that has damaged thousands of homes.

The water has started to ebb from flooded subdivisions in south Bossier City on the Red River in northern Louisiana.

National Weather Service forecaster C.S. Ross in Shreveport says it will take at least a week before homeowners can get back to their homes and assess the damage. A 6-mile section of U.S. Highway 71 from Bossier Parish into Red River Parish was covered by water.

Ross said Red Chute Bayou on the east side of Bossier City did not top the levee as feared. He said there was some seepage, but not enough to reach 3,500 homes.

In Arkansas, a fast-moving weekend storm system brought rain, hail and reports of several tornadoes.

National Weather Service Meteorologist Michael Brown says as many as four possible tornadoes may have touched down amid Sunday evening's severe weather. Weather Service crews will survey the areas Monday.

Meanwhile, the National Weather Service pushed back its timeline of flooding from the Pearl River at the southern end of the Louisiana-Mississippi line.

Meteorologist Robert Ricks said the river crested Monday afternoon at the Town of Pearl River at 20.3 feet but it had dropped to about 19.9 feet by 6 p.m. He said it would be another 24 hours before the river possibly encroaches on Interstate 10 or other highways.

"It remains to be seen if it will go across the interstate or not," Ricks said.

That's short of what forecaster Phil Grigsby earlier predicted the river could reach — 21 feet by late Tuesday or early Wednesday — the height of a 1983 flood. But Ricks noted the water was still rising downstream, near the cities of Slidell, Louisiana, and Pearlinton, Mississippi, and could crest higher along those points.

Hancock County Emergency Management Agency Director Brian Adam said he's been told to expect 5 to 7 feet of water. Adam said some 100 to 200 homes around Pearlinton could take on water.

At least four deaths have been reported in Louisiana amid the flooding that began last week and the search continued for two fishermen missing since Wednesday in Mississippi.

In southeastern Louisiana, St. Tammany Parish officials said the town of Pearl River already was seeing flooding in one neighborhood.

Farther to the south, officials were warning residents in eastern Slidell to be vigilant about rising water.

Flood warnings were in effect for most of north Louisiana and scattered sections in the southern part of the state. In Mississippi, flooding warnings are in effect for areas along streams and bayous.

Louisiana emergency officials said nearly 5,000 homes were damaged. That number is expected to rise

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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.

The flood waters have caused several roads in a south Mississippi county to collapse.

Lt. Bill Davis with the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office said anyone with flood damage should report it to their parishes' homeland security office.

"Once the water goes down, cleanup kits will be made available" Davis said. "By the weekend, we should have a plan for distribution."

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.

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 1,200 soldiers and air crews at work in flooded areas throughout Louisiana, deploying in high-water vehicles, boats and three helicopters. National Guard crews had evacuated more than 4,255 people and 354 pets as part of its round-the-clock operations by Monday morning.

The Guard had also issued more than 71,570 bottles of water to Richland, Natchitoches, Vernon and Winn parishes, 576 MREs to Winn Parish and over 1 million sandbags to affected parishes.

Amtrak train derails in Kansas, injuring at least 32

ROXANA HEGEMAN, Associated Press

MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

CIMARRON, Kan. (AP) — An Amtrak train carrying more than 140 people derailed in rural Kansas early Monday, moments after an engineer noticed a significant bend in a rail and applied the emergency brakes, authorities said.

At least 32 people were hurt, two of them critically, authorities said.

A federal transportation official said the investigation would focus on the condition of the rails. Local authorities said they were checking whether a vehicle crash may have damaged the track before the accident.

The engineer of the train known as the Southwest Chief noticed the deformity in the rail and pulled the brakes, said Earl Weener of the National Transportation Safety Board. He put the train's speed at the normal limit of 60 mph.

Weener said there was some initial indication of a "misalignment" on the rail. But it was unclear what that was or what caused it. He said the engineer was vigilant and noticed the variation on the track, causing him to brake.

Federal officials also planned to review recorded data from the train.

The train, which had 131 passengers and 14 crew members, was making a 43-hour journey from Los Angeles to Chicago when it derailed shortly after midnight along a straight stretch of tracks in flat farmland near Cimarron, a small community about 160 miles west of Wichita. Eight cars derailed, and four of them ended up on their sides.

Thirty-two people were taken to hospitals for treatment. Four of them remained hospitalized Monday evening, including two people who were airlifted to Amarillo, Texas. The rest had been released.

The tracks run along Highway 50, which has no barrier that would prevent a vehicle from leaving the roadway and driving near or onto the tracks. The road and tracks are separated by a shallow depression.

Authorities were examining tire tracks leading to the rails. The damage did not appear to be intentional, Gray County sheriff's Deputy J.G. Sharp said.

The track was inspected last week, Weener said.

Daniel Aiken, of Lenexa, Kansas, said he heard screaming as he climbed out of an overturned car. He stopped to smell a fluid that was flowing through the car, fearful that it was fuel, but was reassured when he realized it was water.

"Once people realized the train wasn't going to blow up, they calmed down," he said.

Timothy Davidson, from Nashville, Tennessee, said he and several other passengers heard what he

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called “a lot of clacking for about 20 minutes” before the accident.

“The train didn’t sound right,” he said.

Derek Kemp, who is moving back to Kansas City, Missouri, from California, said he was in a bathroom when he felt the train suddenly tilt, sending him face-first into the bathroom door and across a hallway into a baggage area.

Kemp, who has fire and rescue training, quickly scrambled to help women and children off the train.

Dave Gibbs, a Colorado man who was headed to Lawrence, Kansas, for a possible chef’s job, said that the train “started rattling back and forth, and you could tell it was off the tracks.”

That shaking lasted five to seven seconds, he said, before the train began tipping, then coming to an abrupt stop that sent a woman tumbling onto him.

“I was waiting for the worst. I was afraid I was going to die,” recalled David Tisdale, who was New York-bound from his Arizona home.

Amtrak did not immediately respond to calls seeking details. Visibility at the accident site was relatively clear at the time of the derailment.

Andy Williams, a spokesman for BNSF Railway, which owns the track, said the derailment was not caused by poorly maintained track. He said the track is inspected twice a week and meets Federal Railroad Administration guidelines.

Uninjured passengers were taken to the Cimarron community center to wait for Amtrak to make arrangements to transport them to their destinations.

Kelsey Wilson said she woke up when she felt the ride “getting really bumpy” and the train started to shake. Wilson, who was returning to Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, after spending spring break at home in Pueblo, Colorado, said her car disconnected from the one in front and that she hit her head as it overturned.

Wilson said she escaped through the top of the flipped car then slid down the side before she “passed out.” She was taken to a hospital and released with a neck brace.

The future of the Southwest Chief service — the only Amtrak route through Kansas, with stops at six cities — had been uncertain in recent years.

Amtrak had warned it might stop or reroute the line because of disputes over who would pay to install safety technology, but officials reached a deal last year.

Taxpayers have thrown in tens of millions of dollars to improving parts of the rail line in Colorado and Kansas.

Disorder at Trump rallies: As American as cherry pie?

JERRY SCHWARTZ, Associated Press

Even before the presidential candidate arrived at the rally, the arena seethed. Fistfights broke out as the national anthem played. Supporters tore up demonstrators’ signs, beat them with sticks, pummeled them with folding chairs.

The year was 1968; the candidate was Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

If you’re struggling with feelings of *deja vu*, you’re not alone. The recent dark turn of the 2016 presidential campaign — the ugly scuffles and confrontations at Donald Trump’s rallies — has brought back memories of the turmoil of the 1960s, and fueled fears that America is careering into a similarly angry and violent era.

Will it happen? There’s no way of knowing. Some note this is a different time: When Wallace climbed the stage of Detroit’s Cobo arena, on Oct. 29, 1968, college campuses were exploding, American cities were in rubble, and Wallace’s incendiary words were just some of many, many angry words of that era.

As contentious as our times may seem, they’re not that bad — yet. But protesters, drawn by Trump’s positions against immigrants and Muslims, have been ejected from his rallies; one North Carolina man was charged with assault after he was caught on video hitting a man being led out by deputies at the event in Fayetteville. Trump says he does not encourage violence; the fault, he says, lies with the demonstrators.

In fact, if you take the long view, what’s happening is not all that unusual. Politics and violence have

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been mated since the republic's earliest days. It was black power activist H. Rap Brown — now serving a life sentence in the 2000 murder of a sheriff's deputy — who said "violence is as American as cherry pie." Other, more reputable observers agree.

The colonies' victory over the British, believes Glenn W. LaFantasie, professor of civil war history at Western Kentucky University, taught Americans "that violence can be justified so long as it can be done for a good cause." And in the decades that followed, they often used violence in support of — or opposition to — various causes:

— When Irish and German Catholics arrived in the 1840s, the Know Nothing party arose to oppose them, rioting in Louisville (more than 20 killed, many more injured) and turning a series of elections in Baltimore into a series of bloodbaths.

— In the run-up to the Civil War, Kansas had its own war between pro-slave and abolitionist forces. In that same year, 1856, abolitionist Sen. Charles Sumner gave a speech in which he demanded Kansas' admission as a free state, and ridiculed Sen. Andrew Butler for his efforts against it; two days later, Butler's cousin Rep. Preston Brooks accosted Sumner in the Senate chamber and nearly caned him to death.

— For four days in July of 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, there was fighting in New York City — working-class men, angry because the rich could buy their way out of fighting for the Union, rioted. They turned their wrath on their black neighbors, and thousands of them fled.

There followed lynchings and other attacks on blacks and race riots in the North and South that left untold numbers of blacks dead. A series of anarchist bombings spread fear after World War I. Mobs preyed on purported communists — most prominently, at two concerts by singer Paul Robeson at Peekskill, N.Y., in 1949.

"This is a dark streak that runs through American history," said sociologist Todd Gitlin, who was president of the Students for a Democratic Society in 1963-64 and an organizer of the demonstration that brought thousands of protesters to Washington in 1965.

By experience and by scholarship, he is an expert on that decade, and the many ways in which violence became its hallmark, from the "police riot" that was the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago to the attacks on the Freedom Riders who bused to the South to fight for civil rights.

"The mobs were there to fight against the invading Yankees, the legions of communism and John F. Kennedy; their way of life was at stake," Gitlin said.

Wallace gave voice to those same people. "When he's on 'Meet the Press,' they can look to George and think, 'That's what I would say if I were up there,'" his wife, Lurleen, once said.

Michael A. Cohen, author of the forthcoming book "American Maelstrom: The 1968 Election and the Politics of Division," said that aside from Detroit — where the violence was so great that Wallace cut his speech short after a few moments — the candidate held similarly contentious rallies in Minneapolis, San Diego and elsewhere.

His speech at New York's Madison Square Garden drew more than 15,000 spectators, among them an unknown number of demonstrators who heckled him while others were guarded by a huge show of police force outside the arena.

Like Trump, Wallace was openly disdainful of his protesters. Cohen believes Wallace courted mayhem, thinking it helped his cause. He taunted hecklers from the stage:

"After Nov. 5, you anarchists are through in this country. I can tell you that," he said. And, regarding a long-haired heckler: "If he'll go to the barbershop, I think they can cure him."

"There is menace in the blood shout of the crowds," wrote the New Republic columnist Richard Strout, who covered the event. "You feel you have known this somewhere; never again will you read about Berlin in the '30s without remembering this wild confrontation here of two irrational forces."

In November, Wallace won 13 percent of the vote and five Southern states.

Cohen said the context of Trump's rallies is far different than Wallace's, because our times are placid compared to the chaos of the '60s. He fears the months to come: "This is only March. If Trump's the nominee, I can't even imagine what will happen in September or October."

LaFantasie, the civil war historian, also feels foreboding. "This is not good and it's going to get worse,"

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he said. "The divisions will widen. I think the violence is going to get worse."

Miles Rapaport, the president of the civic organization Common Cause, is not so sure.

He started his career as a community organizer; he recalled attending a Wallace rally in Boston in 1968, and said he sees some parallels. "I think the kind of rhetoric that Donald Trump has engaged in and the kind of anger that he has encouraged takes us down a path we do not want to go," he said.

Rapaport likes to think that if all Americans are encouraged to participate in the electoral process, democracy can overcome violent impulses. He likes to think that this will happen.

He wishes, he said, that he could be sure.

2016 race barrels toward potentially decisive primary day

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

HANOVERTON, Ohio (AP) — The tumultuous presidential primary season barreled toward a potentially decisive day for both Republicans and Democrats, with enough delegates up for grabs Tuesday to turn Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton from front-runners to likely nominees.

The biggest prizes are Florida and Ohio, states with a long history of making or breaking White House aspirations. Missouri, Illinois, and North Carolina also offer a crucial cache of delegates that could help Trump and Clinton pull further away from their rivals.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio hoped the two big states would give them a boost instead. Kasich seemed to have a better chance at that than Rubio.

The contests come at a remarkable moment in the presidential race for Republicans. Animosity toward Trump has risen to the point where he can rarely get through an event without being interrupted by protesters. The front-runner is also under scrutiny for appearing to encourage his supporters to physically confront those protesters, deepening divisions within the Republican Party.

In a lightly veiled jab at Trump, Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin said candidates "need to take responsibility for the environment at their events."

"There is never an excuse for condoning violence, or even a culture that presupposes it," Ryan told WRJN, a radio station in Racine, Wisconsin.

Even with the new controversy, Trump holds a comfortable lead in the GOP delegate count and could put himself well on his way to the nomination if he sweeps Tuesday's contests. During a campaign stop Monday in Tampa, where he appeared alongside former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, Trump was already eyeing the general election.

"If we win Florida and we win Ohio, we can go and attack Hillary," he said.

Heading into Tuesday, the billionaire businessman is locked in a tight contest in Ohio with Kasich, the state's governor. Seeking a final boost in his home state, Kasich spent Monday campaigning alongside Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee and a fierce critic of Trump.

"This is the guy Ohio has to vote for, and America's counting on you," Romney told the crowd at a Kasich event in North Canton. While Romney has not endorsed Kasich, he's said he'll do whatever is needed to help all of Trump's rivals.

Florida Sen. Rubio also hopes to block Trump in a do-or-die primary in his home state, though polling suggests he's slipping further behind. The senator tried to stay upbeat Monday, perhaps his final full day of campaigning in the 2016 race.

"Tomorrow's the day where we are going to shock the country," Rubio said during a stop in Jacksonville.

If Trump sweeps Tuesday's contests, he'd still have to keep winning in order to clinch the nomination. But he would cross an important threshold by collecting more than 50 percent of the delegates awarded so far.

Trump's closest competition has come from Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who has defeated the businessman in seven states. He's also the only remaining GOP candidate who still says unequivocally that he would support Trump if he becomes the nominee.

Asked what could cause him to change his mind, Cruz said, "If, for example, he would go out on 5th

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Avenue and shoot somebody, I would not support him.”

His comment was a reference to a previous statement by Trump that he could shoot someone on the famous Manhattan street and not lose support.

Among Democrats, Clinton has been itching to look ahead to the general election but continues to face persistent competition from Bernie Sanders. While Clinton maintains a commanding lead in the delegate count, Sanders breathed new life into his campaign with a surprising victory last week in Michigan.

Reprising a theme that helped propel that Michigan win, Sanders on Monday pounded Clinton's past support for trade deals such as the North American Free Trade Agreement. He's escalated his criticism in recent days, hoping to undercut her edge among minorities and expand his advantage with white working-class voters.

“When it came down whether you stand with corporate America, the people who wrote these agreements, or whether you stand with the working people of this country, I proudly stood with the workers,” Sanders said in Youngstown, Ohio. “Secretary Clinton stood with the big money interests.”

Clinton's team is attempting to tamp down expectations for Tuesday night, stressing that the race remains close in the Midwest, despite public polling showing her with a sizable lead. Still, she's eyeing the general election and escalating her attacks on Trump, saying he's “inciting mob violence” at his rallies.

“I do hold him responsible,” she said in an interview with MSNBC. “He's been building this incitement, he's been leading crowds in jeering protesters”

The campaign next shifts to the West, where Sanders' advisers have suggested he could rattle off a win streak and enter April with the chance to put a dent in Clinton's delegate lead.

US stocks end nearly unchanged ahead of Fed meeting

MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks barely budged Monday, finishing mixed as lower oil prices pulled energy companies down while hotels and travel-related companies rose.

Trading was quiet Monday ahead of the Federal Reserve's meeting later this week, which is expected to shed some light on the possibility of a future increase in benchmark interest rates.

“Lately (the market) seems to quiet down ahead of the Fed,” said BlackRock portfolio manager Peter Stournaras.

U.S. stocks missed out on a global rally that lifted stocks in Europe and Asia. The Standard & Poor's 500 fell for just the second time this month.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 15.82 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,229.13. The S&P 500 lost 2.55 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,019.64. The Nasdaq composite index gained 1.81 points to 4,750.28.

Starwood Hotels jumped after a consortium led by China's Anbang Insurance Group offered to buy the hotel chain for \$14 billion. Last year Marriott International agreed to buy Starwood for \$12.2 billion. Starwood said it will examine the new offer and its stock gained \$5.51, or 7.8 percent, to \$75.93.

Marriott stock rose \$2.04, or 3 percent, to \$70.93. It will get a \$400 million payment if Starwood backs out of their agreement.

The news lifted other travel-related companies. TripAdvisor gained \$2.84, or 4.5 percent, to \$66.54 and Expedia rose \$1.46, or 1.3 percent, to \$116.39.

C. Patrick Scholes, analyst for SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, said investors in Expedia and TripAdvisor are hoping Starwood will be sold to Anbang instead of competitor Marriott. He said if Marriott and Starwood were to combine, they would have more power to negotiate lower commissions with the online travel agencies. “If there's no deal, that strength and bargaining power is taken away,” he said.

Host Hotels also outperformed the market and picked up 24 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$16.87. Scholes said Anbang's offer suggests that foreign buyers are still interested in U.S. hotel companies.

Energy and materials stocks fell with the prices of oil, gas, and precious metals.

The price of oil tumbled after Iran's oil minister dismissed the idea of a freeze in production over the weekend. U.S. benchmark crude fell \$1.32, or 3.4 percent, to close at \$37.18 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the global benchmark, lost 86 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$39.53 a barrel in London. Southwestern

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Energy lost 54 cents, or 6.7 percent, to \$7.46 and Chesapeake Energy gave up 32 cents, or 6.8 percent, to \$4.38.

The Federal Reserve will meet Tuesday and Wednesday. Investors don't expect the Fed to raise interest rates, but they will look closely at its comments on the state of the U.S. and global economies to get clues about possible moves in the future. In December the Fed raised interest rates for the first time in almost a decade, but it left them unchanged in January.

Stocks have rallied over the last four weeks, and BlackRock's Stournaras noted that some of the most beaten-down parts of the market, including energy and mining companies, have made major contributions to that rally as economic indicators, especially in the U.S. have begun to improve. That means those stocks could tumble again if investors don't like what the Fed has to say about the economy or global growth this week, he said.

Big gainers Monday included The Fresh Market, which jumped \$5.41, or 23.5 percent, to \$28.39 after private equity firm Apollo Global said it will buy the grocery store chain for \$1.3 billion, or \$28.50 per share.

Drug developer GW Pharmaceuticals more than doubled after it reported positive results from a late-stage study of its drug Epidiolex, an experimental seizure disorder treatment derived from a marijuana extract. The stock surged \$46.25, or 120 percent, to \$84.71. Zynerba Pharmaceuticals, which is studying drug based on synthetic compounds derived from cannabis, climbed \$12.59, or 149 percent, to \$21.03.

Stocks in Europe rose after the eurozone had its biggest monthly increase in industrial production since 2009. Germany's DAX rose 1.6 percent. France's CAC 40 added 0.3 percent while Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.6 percent.

Chinese stocks rose after the chief of the China Securities Regulatory Commission told a press conference over the weekend that it's too early to talk about winding back official support measures for the markets, according to the official Xinhua news agency. That suggests the government will continue to support Chinese equities.

Japan reported a jump in private sector machinery orders, a sign that capital spending could improve this year. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose 1.7 percent and South Korea's Kospi was little changed. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1.2 percent and the Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China gained 1.8 percent.

In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline fell 2 cents to \$1.42 a gallon and heating oil lost 2 cents to \$1.20 a gallon. Natural gas fell less than a penny to close at \$1.82 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In metals trading, the price of gold fell \$14.30, or 1.1 percent, to \$1,245.10 an ounce. Silver fell 8.4 cents to \$15.52 an ounce. Copper was little changed at \$2.24 a pound.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note slipped to 1.96 percent from 1.98 percent. The euro declined to \$1.1097 from \$1.1157 late Friday. The dollar edged up to 113.80 yen from 113.70 yen.