

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, April 3

Birthdays: Adlyn Larsen, Haley Unzen, Marc Johnson, Randy Jaeschke, Sue Stanley

Monday, April 4

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

School Lunch: Pizza cruncher, baked beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, lemon buttered broccoli, fruit dessert, French bread.

Birthdays: David Krueger, Desiree Morehouse, Mitchell Madsen, Sandy Strom

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

7:00 pm: City Council meeting at Groton Community Center

Tuesday, April 5

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

School Lunch: Submarines, potato chips, fruit.

Senior Menu: Roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, squash, apple sauce, Molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Toby Carda

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

Wednesday, April 6

School Lunch: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Cheese sticks, mixed vegetable, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken, rosemary red potatoes, old fashioned slaw, Strawberry Jell-O dessert, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Cheryl Tullis, Walker Cutler, Josh Heupel, Courtney Kurtz

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

1:30pm: St. John's Lutheran Ladies Aid (LWML)

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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**Groton Chiropractic
Clinic**

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

DI Teams end season at state tournament

Four Groton Area Destination Imagination teams placed at the state tournament held Saturday in Mitchell. The middle school division Disfunctional Broad Squad and the senior level Out of Boxers placed second. The Wonderful Nonsense and the elementary Pheasant Dumpling Pizza Guys placed third. Only the first place team at the state tournament advances to the Global Finals in Knoxville, Tenn. Groton will not be sending anyone to Globals this year.

There was a fifth team, the elementary 6Lets, that participated at the state tournament. They ended just short of getting awards with a fourth place finish.

Lily Cutler was the recipient of the Watertown Optimist Club \$250 scholarship. This is the second straight year that a Groton senior has been awarded with that scholarship. Last year, Katie Groeblichhoff won the award.



Groton's Disfunctional Broad Squad team helped Cinda Jones (right), with the regional plaques. They put the plates on the trophies for those teams that had ordered extra trophies at the regions. Pictured going clockwise are Julianna Kosel, Alyssa Fordham, Sage Mortinson, Haley Monson and Samantha Pappas. Jones is one of the DI state directors. She is from Custer.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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The 6Lets team participated in the state tournament and placed fourth. Team members Ian Kyar, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Carter Barse, Jackson Dinger, Danny Feist and Bryson Wamback. Their team manager is Joni Goreblinghoff. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Blood Drive set for April 12

Blood drive April 12th from 11:30am to 6pm at the Groton Legion. Call for an appointment Carol Osterman at 397-8498 or June Ackman at 397-8369

Come and go bridal shower for Sarah Geary, bride-to-be of Sam Thorson, Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. The couple is registered at Bed Bath and Beyond and at Target.

Handiman looking for work

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Disfunctional Broad Squad place 2nd at state: Team members are Haley Monson, Samantha Pappas, Sage Mortinson, Julianna Kosel and Alyssa Fordham. Their team managers are Yvonne Lorenz and Tina Fordham. (Photo by Kim Yaraborough)



(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Pheasant Dumpling Pizza Guys placed third at state: Pictured are Winston Clark, Nicholas Morris, Korbin Weismantel, Axel Warrington and Nicholas Groeblichhoff. Their team manager is Joni Groeblichhoff. (Photo by Kim Yaraborough)



(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Out of the Boxers place 2nd at state: Team members are Nathan Wright, Nathan Fjelstad and Haylee Yaraborough in back; in front are Emma Donley, Jenifer Fjelstad, Lily Cutler and Anne Marie Smith. Their team managers are Clint and Tara Fjelstad. (Photo by Kim Yaraborough)



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Joni, Nicholas and Katie Groebelinghoff were busy filling out slips of papers for the jar raffles. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Lily Cutler is Groton only senior in the Groton Area Destination Imagination program this year. She won the Water-town Optimist Club \$250 Scholarship at the state tournament held Saturday in Mitchell. (Photo by Kim Yaraborough)



Erin Smith, Breanna Marzahn and Luke Smith were some of the Groton volunteers helping out at the State Destination Imagination tournament held Saturday in Mitchell. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



4th Grade Boys Basketball

In back, left to right, are Coach Mike Imrie, Logan Ringgenberg, Colby Dunker, Jacob Frohling, Holden Sippel, Coach Tom Tietz; in front, left to right, are Dillon Abeln, Braxton Imrie, Austin Aberle, Lane Tietz. (Photo by Dawn Imrie)

They took 2nd place in the Sioux Falls Y tourney today and finished the season with 29 wins and 3 losses. They scored a total of 1,060 points and gave up a mere 604. They won 5 of their 7 tournaments and placed 2nd in the other 2. They play their hearts out every game and have a ton of fun! Looking forward to watching you all play next year but for now, onto baseball and soccer!!

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Today in Weather History

April 3, 1968: Heavy snowfall, up to ten inches, was accompanied by winds of over 60 mph in parts of South Dakota. Snowdrifts of up to 4 feet were reported and many roads were closed. Aberdeen was one of the hardest hit areas with 10.5 inches of snow and wind gusts of 62 mph. The strong winds and localized areas of icing caused considerable damage to utility lines.

April 3, 2003: Dry vegetation, along with windy conditions, caused a grassland burn northeast of Bath, near the James River in South Dakota, to get out of control during the early afternoon hours. Strong north to northeast winds of 20 to 35 mph caused the fire to spread quickly south along the James River. The fire became one and a half miles wide and burned six miles to the south before it was brought under control. A total of 4,000 acres were burned. The smoke from the fire could be seen from miles around and lowered visibilities enough to close State Highway 12 two different times. At one point, traffic had to be diverted on Highway 12 for six hours due to the low visibility in smoke. Also, the Burlington Northern/Santa Fe Railroad was delayed in Bristol and Andover on April 3rd because of the smoke. Twenty-one fire departments with around 250 people worked to bring the fire under control.

April 3, 2007: A sharp frontal boundary along with an upper-level disturbance brought an unusual band of heavy snow across northern South Dakota. Snowfall amounts of 6 to 12 inches occurred from Eureka to Summit. Roads became snow covered or slushy making travel difficult. Due to the poor road conditions, several vehicles ended up in the ditch. Several schools and events were either postponed or canceled. Snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Eureka and Milbank, 7 inches at Conde, 8 inches at Hosmer, Columbia, Summit and Britton, 10 inches at Webster, and 12 inches at Waubay.

April 3, 2009: A strong area of low pressure moved across the Central Plains producing widespread snow over central and north central South Dakota. Along with the snow came strong north winds of 15 to 30 mph causing areas of blowing snow and poor visibilities. The snow and poor visibility caused some travel problems. Snowfall amounts ranged from a few inches to almost a foot of snow. Some of the snowfall amounts included; 6 inches near Presho and Okaton, Fort Thompson, and Timber Lake; 7 inches in Murdo and 16 S Ree Heights; 8 inches 14 NNE Isabel and 11 inches 3 NW Parade and 6 E Hayes.

1898: An avalanche near Chilkoot Pass, Alaska in the Yukon during the Gold Rush buried 142 people and killed 43 others.




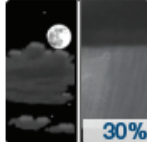



1964: KAUZ in Wichita Falls, Texas broadcast the first live television pictures of an F5 tornado moving through the city. Seven people were killed, 111 injured and 225 homes were destroyed during the twisters 5 to a 6-mile path. Extensive damage was done at Sheppard Air Force Base where three tanker planes, a hanger, the power plant, and the chapel were all destroyed. Damage estimates exceeded \$15 million dollars.

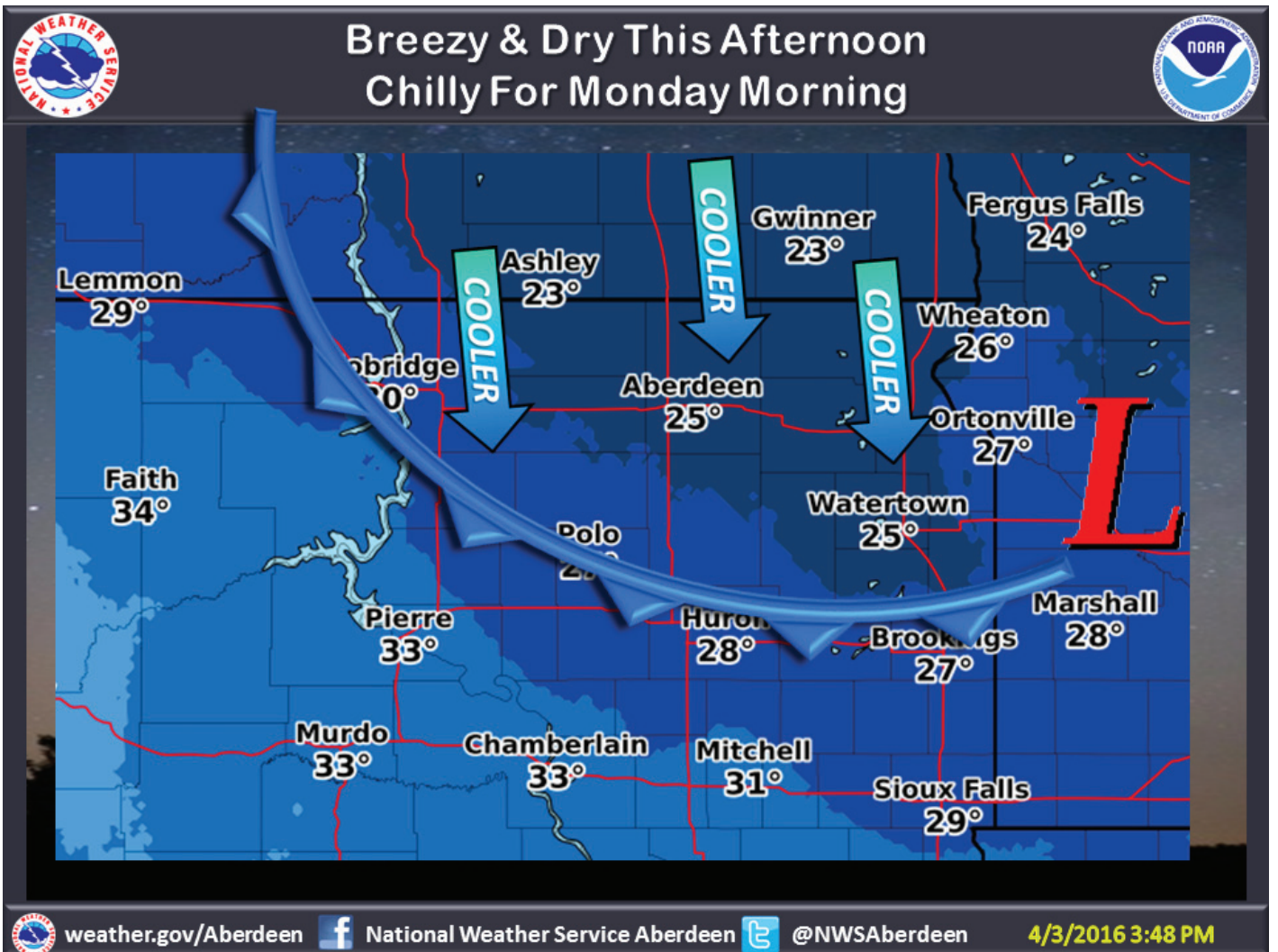
1974: A "Super-Outbreak" of tornadoes ravaged the Midwest and the eastern U.S. Severe weather erupted early in the afternoon and continued through the next day. Severe thunderstorms spawned 148 tornadoes from Alabama to Michigan, most of which occurred between 1 PM (CST) on the 3rd and 1 AM on the 4th. The tornadoes killed 315 persons, injured 5300 others, and caused 600 million dollars damage. Alabama, Kentucky, and Ohio were especially hard hit in the tornado outbreak. One tornado destroyed half of the town of Xenia, Ohio killing 34 persons. Another tornado, near the town of Stamping Ground, Kentucky produced a path of destruction a record five miles in width. A tornado raced through Guin, Alabama at a speed of 75 mph. Two powerful tornadoes roared across northern Alabama during the early evening hours, killing fifty persons and injuring 500 others. Some rescue vehicles responding to the first tornado were struck by the second.

1987: A large, slow moving low-pressure system produced very heavy snows over the Appalachian Region lasting through April 5th. 60 inches fell at Newfound Gap in western North Carolina, the largest single storm snowfall in the state's history. Up to 36 inches was reported in southeastern Kentucky. The total of 25 inches at Charleston, WV easily surpassed its previous record for the entire month of April of 5.9 inches. The 20.6 inch total at Akron, OH established an all-time record for that location. Interstate 40 was closed by snow for the first time since it was opened in 1967. Lightning and thunder accompanied the snow in some areas while a trace fell as far south as Mobile. This was the first snow ever reported in the month of April in Mobile since records began in 1872. The storm became known unofficially as the "Dogwood Snowstorm" as many trees had fully bloomed.

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This Afternoon	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
 30%	 10%		 30%	 30%	 30%	 30% 20%
Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms and Blustery then Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Chance Rain	Chance Rain/Snow and Breezy then Slight Chance Rain
High: 60 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 49 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 63 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 52 °F



Cool air has begun to filter in behind a clipper low - which will also cause the winds to slacken this evening. Monday will be cooler with highs between mid 40s in western Minnesota to low 60s west river. The next opportunity for moisture comes Tuesday morning.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 50.9 at 7:08 PM

Low: 24.4 at 7:42 AM

High Gust: 34 at 12:54 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 83° in 1921

Record Low: -2 in 1975

Average High: 50°F

Average Low: 27°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.13

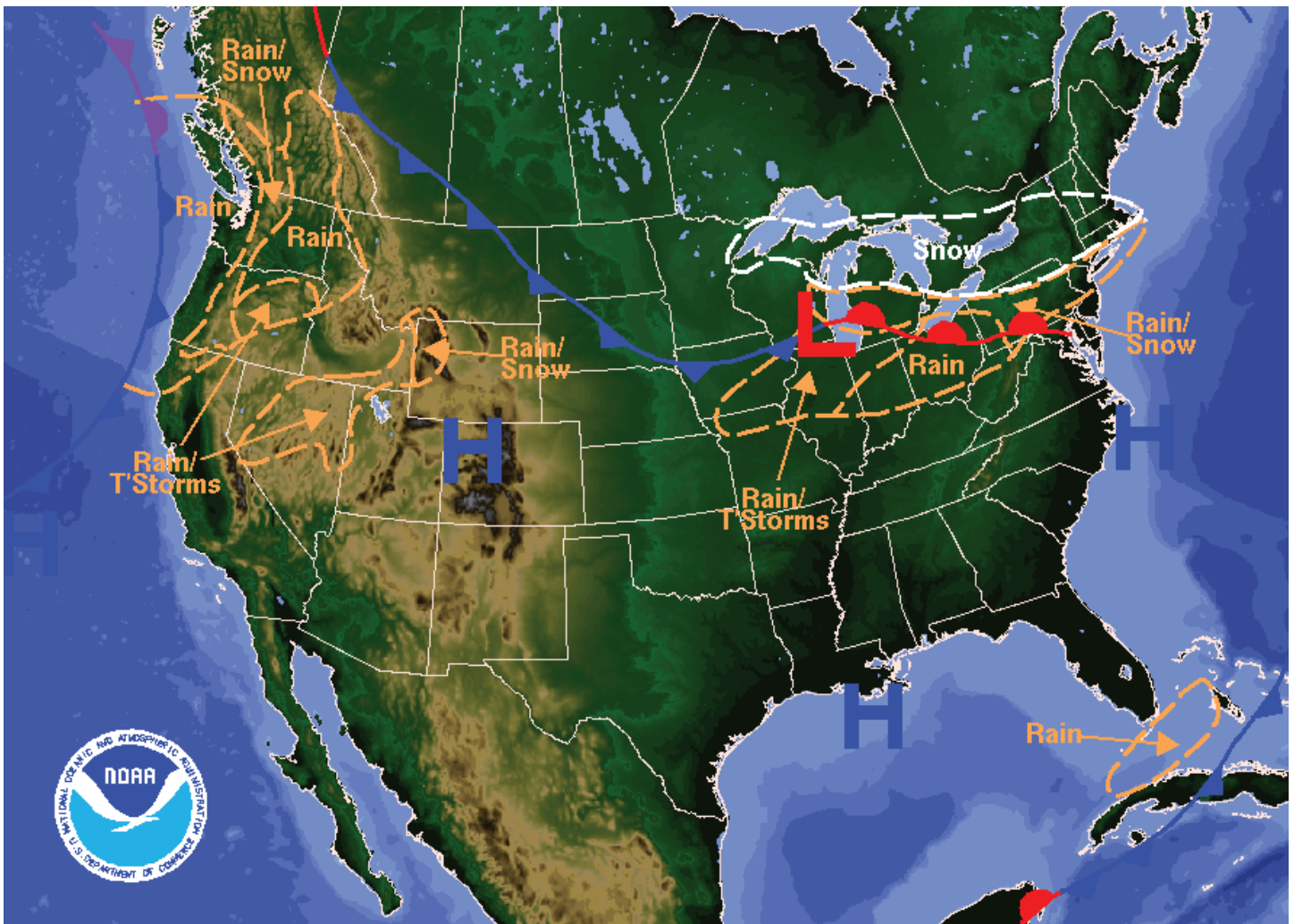
Precip to date in April.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 2.31

Precip Year to Date: 0.95

Sunset Tonight: 8:05 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:07 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Apr 03, 2016, issued 4:28 PM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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WANTED: HAPPINESS MAKERS!

The Charlie Brown comic strip created as many questions as it did smiles. On one occasion Lucy and Charlie Brown were having a serious conversation about the meaning of life.

With a furrow on her brow Lucy asked Charlie, "Why were we put on earth?"

In his own simple way, Charlie responded, "To make others happy!"

"I don't think I'm making anyone very happy," confessed Lucy, "and nobody is making me very happy, either!"

After a moment she shouted, "Somebody's not doing their job!"

Making others happy is not a primary responsibility of the Christian. But Peter does give us some good advice about our responsibilities as Christians and what we are to do to help others.

First we are to show sympathy – by being attentive to and meeting their needs. Secondly, we are to show love – treating others with the same kindness that we would show a brother or sister. Thirdly, we are to show tenderheartedness – to be sensitive and caring. Finally – we are to be humble – to put others first and always be a source of encouragement to others.

Prayer: We pray, Lord, that we will willingly accept our responsibilities to others and do our very best to minister to their needs. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Peter 3:8-9 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

News from the Associated Press

State agency: April serves as child abuse prevention month

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Social Services is encouraging all state residents to work together to help keep children safe and to offer the support necessary for families to stay together. The agency says April is designated Child Abuse Prevention Month nationwide.

Department of Social Services Secretary Lynne Valenti says children have the right to feel safe and secure in their homes. Valenti says the agency is committed to the families of South Dakota.

The department's Division of Child Protection Services has 20 offices across the state. On top of assessing reports of child abuse or neglect, the division also helps parents connect with resources to make sure that children stay safe.

DOT to reconstruct Highway 115 south of Dell Rapids

DELL RAPIDS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Transportation on Monday will begin an \$8.3 million project to reconstruct Highway 115 and replace a bridge over the Big Sioux River south of Dell Rapids.

Once the bridge is removed, traffic on Highway 115 from Centennial Place to Quarry Road will be detoured to Third Street-Garfield Avenue-Centennial Place. Signs will be in-place to direct motorists.

The reconstruction part of the project includes grading, storm sewer, structure work and concrete pavement surfacing of Highway 115 from Quarry Road to 248th Street. Traffic will be maintained through the construction portion of the project, but motorists are encouraged to use the suggested detour via 250th Street to Interstate 29 to Highway 115.

Officials expect the project to be completed by early November.

SDSU Extension hosting sessions to help develop 4-H programs

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State University Extension is encouraging 4-H youth and supporters to participate in a series of listening sessions to help develop 4-H programming.

The sessions will be conducted across the state throughout April. The first gathering is scheduled for Monday at the Ramkota Inn in Pierre.

Karla Trautman is the associate director of the SDSU Extension. She says the sessions will help determine what "stakeholders want for the future of South Dakota 4-H youth development."

The information gathered at the sessions will be used to develop the Extension's 4-H Strategic Futures document, which is updated every five years. The document guides Extension staff in the development of 4-H programming.

Sessions have been scheduled in Winner, Rapid City, Faith, Sioux Falls, Huron and Aberdeen.

Nonprofit leader on Cheyenne River rez gets Bush Fellowship

EAGLE BUTTE, S.D. (AP) — The executive director of a nonprofit that works to improve the lives of youth on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation is among this year's Bush Fellowship recipients.

Julie Garreau is the leader of the Cheyenne River Youth Project. She is expected to use her fellowship to study traditional Lakota teachings and leadership models to foster the next generation of Lakota leaders.

Garreau says she is "committed to expanding and creating opportunities to reach more youth and families" on the reservation.

The Cheyenne River Youth Project provides youth on the reservation access to a wide variety of culturally sensitive programs and facilities.

The Bush Foundation named 24 fellows from North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota this year. Each fellow gets up to \$100,000 over one to two years.

Ag officials hosting training on treating pine beetle trees

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — State agriculture officials are co-hosting two workshops this month on how to identify and treat mountain pine beetles in the Black Hills.

The workshops will focus on the benefits and methods of treating trees to protect them from mountain pine beetles. Presenters will also address how forests can be managed to reduce the impacts of future mountain pine beetle outbreaks.

Workshops will be held April 21 in the Lodge at Deadwood, in Deadwood, and April 23 in the Custer County Annex, in Custer.

Agriculture officials say the preventative spraying portion of the workshops will address techniques and chemicals used to treat trees.

Brian Garbisch with the state's Resource Conservation and Forestry Division says the movement of mountain pine beetles onto private lands has increased the interest in having pines sprayed.

South Dakota board approves funds for environmental projects

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources has approved \$54.8 million in grants and loans for projects involving water and wastewater systems.

The board approved more than \$14.6 million in grants and more than \$40 million in loans for the projects.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard says the grants and loans will result in "better drinking water, improved wastewater treatment and enhanced protection of the environment."

The funding was awarded to cities, water systems and the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The grants and loans awarded by the board are administered through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Funding in part comes from fees and the sale of lotto tickets.

South Dakota women beat Florida Gulf Coast in WNIT final

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Tia Hemiller had 22 points, eight rebounds and six assists and South Dakota beat Florida Gulf Coast 71-65 on Saturday to win the WNIT championship.

South Dakota outscored FGCU 10-2, with five points from Hemiller, to start the third quarter for a 41-29 lead. FGCU got within 53-51 with 5:11 remaining, but the Eagles did not make another field goal until the 1:09 mark. South Dakota made three 3-pointers and 7 of 8 free throws in the final five minutes to seal it.

Kelly Stewart added 12 points and Abigail Fogg 10 for South Dakota (32-6), which tied a Summit League record for most single-season wins. Stewart and Fogg each had three blocks.

Nicole Seekamp, the tournament MVP and South Dakota's leading scorer at 16.1 points per game, was held to seven points on 3-of-15 shooting.

Kaneisha Atwater led Florida Gulf Coast (33-6) with 25 points. Taylor Gradinjan added 12 and Stephanie Haas 10. Whitney Knight tied a career high with nine blocked shots — one short of the WNIT record.

The announced attendance of 7,415 was the most in South Dakota's Division I history.

DOT to begin reconstruction of Highway 17 through Lennox

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Transportation is scheduled to begin a \$3.5 million project to rebuild Highway 17 through Lennox on Monday.

Crews will begin milling the existing road surface from the north city limits to Highway 44. During this work, the road will be open with flaggers controlling traffic around the milling operation.

After the milling process has been completed, the contractor will close Highway 17 from the railroad tracks to Highway 44 and begin reconstructing the south half of the project. The work will close the road for about 12 weeks, but access to business and residences will be maintained.

The project is scheduled for completion by October.

AP Interview: Philanthropist finds joy in helping children

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Retired banking executive T. Denny Sanford has given much of his \$1.4 billion in donations to the health care and research fields, but the 80-year-old philanthropist says he finds the most joy in spearheading programs that help children.

Sanford, who has created programs aimed at teaching teachers how to inspire children and create harmony between boys and girls, is now looking to tackle bullying, particularly social media bullying that disproportionately affects young girls.

"I see the results more quickly," Sanford said of his education- and children-focused initiatives. "I see these kids' lives change in front of my eyes."

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press at his home in Scottsdale, Sanford said the anti-bullying program is in early stages of development. One thing he's sure of, though, is that it will stress prevention in trying to reach children at a young age.

"Bullying programs are essentially ineffective," he said. "They only address correcting bullying as opposed to preventing it."

Sanford grew up in a small apartment in St. Paul, Minnesota, the youngest of 10 children. His mother died of breast cancer when he was just 4 years old. Sanford's father had him working at his clothing distribution company starting at age 8. He made his money in the banking business and owns First Premier Bank/Premier Bankcard, which markets subprime cards to people trying to rebuild their credit. He has given away more than \$1.4 billion of his fortune to groups across the country and was honored in Washington, D.C., last week with a Horatio Alger Award, given to leaders who have succeeded despite adversity and are committed to philanthropy and higher education.

Sanford now spends about 50 percent of his time working with charitable causes from his homes in Scottsdale, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and La Jolla, California, while setting aside time for golf and sailboat racing. Sanford said he has done well, but he has committed to "die broke" after developing a strong desire to change his success into significance. "And I'm well on my way," he said.

His first major gift was a \$2 million donation to the Children's Home Society of South Dakota in 1998. He followed with a \$16 million gift in 2002 to Sioux Valley Health's new children's hospital, which put his name on the building.

In 2005, Sioux Valley executives Kelby Krabbenhoft and Brian Mortensen came out to one of Sanford's homes in Colorado and told him they would like to change the name of their organization and put Sanford's name on it. Sanford Health was born.

Sanford said he's taken good care of his two sons and two grandchildren, so all of his assets at death will turn over to a foundation supporting his charities. He estimates that the amount will be near the \$1.4 billion he's already given away. Sanford Health is due 60 percent of his estate, and several other organizations including National University and the Children's Home Society are set to receive smaller chunks, he said.

Sanford said many of his latest endeavors come from him seeing voids in society. At National University, a California-based nonprofit that offers online and other courses, Sanford has developed a program he's branded Cause Selling to teach nonprofit workers how to present their causes to donors in a professional manner. The Sioux Falls-based Sanford Institute of Philanthropy at Augustana University is administering the course.

"People have good causes, but they don't know how to explain them," he said.

National is also his partner on the anti-bullying program.

The University of South Dakota is distributing his Sanford Harmony Program, which teaches boys and girls in preschool to middle school how to better understand the opposite gender. Sanford said the program, which was borne out of 8 1/2 years of research, has been well received by teachers during its first 18 months in classrooms.

"It creates more harmony in the classroom, but ultimately the idea is to reduce the divorce rate and abuse and so forth," he said.

He also teamed with Teach for America to create Sanford Inspire, which provides teachers with a toolbox to help children think big about their goals.

"There's no school of education that teaches teachers how to inspire," he said. "They're taught how to teach reading, writing and arithmetic, but they're never taught how to get kids believing in themselves."

Sanford said he's enjoying this stage of his life, and he's happy that his wealth will continue to assist the organizations he's partnered with after he's gone.

"That's the whole game," he said. "OK, so you've got it, what are you going to do with it? You can only have so many cars and all of that kind of stuff so put it into something in which you can change people's lives."

Man gets more than 4 years in prison for aggravated incest

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has been sentenced to more than four years in prison for committing incest.

U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange also ordered the 40-year-old Winner man to follow his prison term with three years of supervised release. The man pleaded guilty to aggravated incest in January.

Authorities say the man sexually assaulted the victim in a vehicle when they were checking cattle together and driving around the family ranch in Todd County. The victim was younger than 18 when the incident happened, which authorities say was at one point between September 2013 and June 2015.

The Associated Press is not naming the man so as not to identify the victim.

The Capital Journal reports the incident came to light last summer when the victim mentioned it to a Bible camp counselor.

Office of Highway Safety launches youth driver safety push

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Office of Highway Safety has created a new web-based program designed to encourage safe driving among young people.

The Department of Public Safety said "Lesson Learned" was activated Friday. The videos feature high school students from South Dakota in demonstrations showing what occurs when people don't wear seatbelts and drive distracted or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Lee Axdahl is director of the state Office of Highway Safety. Axdahl says the videos are meant to encourage driver safety through social media.

South Dakota drivers between the ages of 14 and 19 can watch the videos and answer safety questions to be entered into a contest for cash prizes up to \$10,000.

The South Dakota Broadcasters Association is offering the prizes.

The Latest: DNC weighs in on debate over debates

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on the 2016 presidential campaign, with the focus Sunday on Wisconsin, which holds its primaries Tuesday (all times Eastern Daylight Time):

6:15 p.m.

The Democratic National Committee is weighing in on the debate over debates, saying both Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders previously agreed that remaining primary face-offs must be held on weekdays — not holidays or weekends.

That rules out Sunday, April 10, proposed by Sanders and NBC News. The DNC is also requesting five to seven days advance notice to give news sponsors time to advertise and build a set for the event.

The two campaigns agreed in February to add four debates to their primary schedules. Two were held in New Hampshire and Flint, Michigan. The campaigns have agreed on a third debate before the New York primary on April 19. But when to hold it is being debated.

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"The eight debates we've already had have set records on the strength of our candidates and the visions they've shared to keep America moving forward," said DNC spokesman Luis Miranda. "We look forward to seeing them take the stage."

But both sides are playing political games with scheduling, underscoring the rising tensions between the camps before the New York primary. Clinton said she's participating in a forum with ABC's "Good Morning America" on April 15 — a day Sanders says he's unavailable.

Her campaign also says she'd participate on the evening of April 14 in Brooklyn with local TV station NY1 and the New York Daily News as sponsors. Though Sanders proposed that date several months ago, he's now turning it down. His campaign says they're holding a big rally that evening in New York City.

Sanders's campaign has countered by offering April 10, 11, 12 or 13 — all days the Clinton campaign says they're unavailable.

At this point, the only thing certain about the debate is the location: It will be held in New York City, likely in Brooklyn — the location of Clinton's campaign headquarters and Sanders' childhood home.

4:10 p.m.

Hillary Clinton has made a series of stops at churches in Brooklyn, New York, to "earnestly and humbly" ask for support in the state's Democratic presidential primary on April 19.

At Brown Memorial Baptist Church, Clinton said that contest is an important one "to set the direction for the final determination" of who will be the party's nominee.

Clinton then added, "I know we have to have a Democrat succeed Barack Obama."

That was a dig at her opponent, Brooklyn-born Bernie Sanders. The Vermont senator has identified as an independent for most of his political career.

3:50 p.m.

Lots of Green Bay Packers references at Ted Cruz's campaign rally in that Wisconsin town.

Supporters are chanting the Texas senator's name in much the same way that Packers fans at nearby Lambeau Field yell for players.

A former Packer defensive end, Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila (kah-BEER' BAH'-zhah bee-ah-MEE'-lah), is speaking in support of Cruz at the event — two days before Wisconsin's GOP presidential primary.

Cruz is making a football joke at rival Donald Trump's expense.

Cruz is laughing about imagining Trump dropping back as quarterback and then seeing Gbaja-Biamila coming across the line. Cruz says, "I think Donald's hair would stand on end."

2:05 p.m.

Donald Trump is predicting a "great success" in Wisconsin, despite polls showing him trailing rival Ted Cruz ahead of Tuesday's GOP presidential primary.

"It feels to me like New Hampshire," the billionaire businessman told reporters after sitting down for breakfast at a Milwaukee diner.

Trump led polls in New Hampshire for months ahead of a commanding victory, but says, "A lot of people thought I was going to lose New Hampshire. And we won in a landslide."

Trump held three rallies across Wisconsin on Saturday and pointed to his crowds as a sign of his momentum.

In his words: "I think this has the feel of a victory."

1:30 p.m.

Get out.

That's what Donald Trump wants rival John Kasich (KAY'-sikh) to do — quit the Republican presidential race.

Front-runner Trump says the Ohio governor — who's only won his home state among the many nominat-

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ing contests so far — shouldn't be allowed to keep accumulating delegates if he has no chance.

In Trump's words, "Kasich should not be allowed to run. He's one for 29."

Trump spoke to reporters while grabbing breakfast Sunday at Miss Katie's Diner in Milwaukee. Wisconsin holds its primary on Tuesday.

Trump says Kasich has no shot at getting the required number of delegates needed to win the nomination. The billionaire businessman says this about Kasich: "He's taking my votes."

Trump says he relayed his concerns to Republican National Committee officials at a meeting in Washington this past week.

He says that Kasich can ask to be considered at the party's nominating convention this summer without continuing to run.

12:55 p.m.

GOP Chairman Reince Priebus (ryns PREE'-bus) says party rules mean it's possible for someone not now running for president to become the nominee.

Donald Trump's negatives keep rising among women and other voter groups, and Ted Cruz and John Kasich trail in the delegate count. There's speculation the party could turn at the nominating convention to a "white knight" such as House Speaker Paul Ryan.

Priebus tells "Fox News Sunday" the scenario is technically possible.

If no candidate wins on the first ballot, more delegates will become free agents on each successive ballot.

Here's what Priebus says: "Can someone on a later ballot when most of the delegates are unbound, be nominated? I think they can be. But that would be an extreme hypothetical, I think, and highly unlikely."

12:25 p.m.

John Kasich (KAY'-sikh) says the Republican convention could prove to be civics-lesson time for the country.

The Ohio governor wants to be president but is trailing front-runner Donald Trump and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz as the nominating calendar unfolds — with Wisconsin voting Tuesday.

Kasich's hope is that no candidate gets enough delegates before the GOP convention in July in Cleveland — meaning an "open" convention.

To Kasich, "it's going to be so much fun." He thinks it will hold the country's interest so much that kids will spend less time following the Kardashians and Justin Bieber and more time focusing on "on how we elect presidents."

"It will be so cool," he tells ABC's "This Week."

11:05 a.m.

A lot of debating about a Democratic debate before New Yorkers vote in the presidential primary on April 19.

The Democrats last debated in March and have been negotiating two more debates in April and May. But Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders have hectic schedules.

Sanders tells ABC's "This Week" that New Yorkers "deserve to hear us discussing the important issues and that "I suspect it will work out." Clinton says she's confident it will happen and she tells NBC's "Meet the Press" — "I want it."

Sanders says his goal is an option that gives the candidates the largest viewing audience possible.

10:40 a.m.

There'll be nothing "stolen" at the Republican presidential convention this summer.

Amid talk of the Republican establishment trying to block Donald Trump, the party chairman says the nomination process will be clear, open and transparent. Cameras will be there "at every step of the way."

A fight is brewing if no candidate — front-runner Trump or rivals Ted Cruz and John Kasich — has secured the necessary number of delegates during the primary contests.

GOP Chairman Reince Priebus (ryns PREE'-bus) tells ABC's "This Week" that if the race isn't settled, "we're

going to have a multi-ballot convention." In each round of voting, more and more delegates are free to pick a candidate of their choice.

But Priebus is clear: "Nothing can get stolen from anyone."

News group claims huge trove of data on offshore accounts

FRANK JORDANS, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — An international coalition of media outlets on Sunday published what it said was an extensive investigation into the offshore financial dealings of the rich and famous, based on a vast trove of documents provided by an anonymous source.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalism, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, said the cache of 11.5 million records detailed the offshore holdings of a dozen current and former world leaders, as well as businessmen, criminals, celebrities and sports stars.

The Associated Press wasn't immediately able to verify the allegations made in articles that were published by the more than 100 news organizations around the world involved in the investigation.

However, the German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung, which first received the data more than a year ago, said it was confident the material was genuine.

The Munich-based daily was offered the data through an encrypted channel by an anonymous source who requested no monetary compensation and asked only for unspecified security measures, said Bastian Obermayer, a reporter for the paper.

The data concerned internal documents from a Panama-based law firm, Mossack Fonseca. Founded by German-born Juergen Mossack, the firm has offices across the globe and is among the world's biggest creators of shell companies, the newspaper said. Mossack Fonseca did not immediately respond to an AP request for comment.

ICIJ said the law firm's leaked internal files contain information on 214,488 offshore entities connected to people in more than 200 countries and territories. It said it would release the full list of companies and people linked to them early next month.

Obermayer said that over the course of several months Sueddeutsche Zeitung received about 2.6 terabytes of data — more than would fit on 600 DVDs. The newspaper said the amount of data it obtained is several times larger than a previous cache of offshore data published by WikiLeaks in 2013 that exposed the financial dealings of prominent individuals.

"To our knowledge this is the biggest leak that journalists have ever worked on," Obermayer said.

The newspaper and its partners verified the authenticity of the data by comparing it to public registers, witness testimony and court rulings, he told the AP. A previous cache of Mossack Fonseca documents obtained by German authorities was also used to verify the new material, Obermayer added.

Among the countries with past or present political figures named in the reports are Iceland, Ukraine, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Russia.

The Guardian newspaper, which took part in the investigation, published a video on its website late Sunday showing an interview with Iceland's prime minister, Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson. During the interview with Sweden's SVT television, the prime minister is asked about a company called Wintris. He responds by insisting that its affairs are above board and calling the question "completely inappropriate," before breaking off the interview.

In Russia, the Kremlin last week said it was anticipating what it called an upcoming "information attack."

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters that the Kremlin had received "a series of questions in a rude manner" from an organization that he said was trying to smear Putin.

"Journalists and members of other organizations have been actively trying to discredit Putin and this country's leadership," Peskov said.

The ICIJ said the documents included emails, financial spreadsheets, passports and corporate records detailing how powerful figures used banks, law firms and offshore shell companies to hide their assets. The data spanned a time frame of nearly 40 years, from 1977 through the end of 2015, it said.

"It allows a never-before-seen view inside the offshore world — providing a day-to-day, decade-by-decade

look at how dark money flows through the global financial system, breeding crime and stripping national treasuries of tax revenues," the ICIJ said.

Roy Williams could join coaching royalty with another title

JIM O'CONNELL, AP Basketball Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — North Carolina is one win from a sixth national championship. Roy Williams is one win from joining coaching royalty.

Only five men have won more than two national championships. All are in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and immediately recognizable to college basketball fans.

A win Monday night over Villanova would vault Williams, who won titles in 2005 and 2009, into the group that includes John Wooden (10), Mike Krzyzewski (5), Adolph Rupp (4), Bob Knight (3) and Jim Calhoun (3).

"I've never had that thought. I really haven't," Williams said Sunday of moving up the title list. "You know, that's company that is off the charts. But what I'd really, really love is for these guys ... to get their first one. That would mean a heck of a lot more to me than any of that other stuff."

Williams, who will coach in his fifth national championship game — third with the Tar Heels — has always projected humility during a 28-year coaching career at Kansas and North Carolina that landed him in the Hall of Fame in 2007.

Marcus Paige, North Carolina's senior guard who gave a moving speech on senior night that had Williams in tears, knows his coach well.

"He probably spends zero time thinking about his legacy and stuff like that," Paige said Sunday. "That's just the kind of guy he is. He loves coaching his team and he puts all his time and his effort and his thought into how he can help us."

The players have been thinking about it, though.

"By that same token, I think us winning a championship for him kind of vaults him into that next stratosphere of coaches when you look at the big picture, when you look at accolades," Paige said. "You know, comparing Hall of Fame coaches, there's not that many that have three.

"I think it would be very special to kind of get him up on a whole 'nother level. Even though he probably won't even think about it that way."

One thing that has been special to Williams is that his two titles has him tied him with his mentor, former North Carolina coach Dean Smith. Even with a win, he wouldn't consider himself better than his former boss.

"He was a heck of a lot better. I really believe that," said Williams, who passed Smith for NCAA Tournament games coached with 93 with the semifinal win over Syracuse said.

"Sometimes I try to be humble, all this stuff that people think is nice. I don't think I'm in the same league with Coach Smith, and I never will," he said.

The last person to join the exclusive triple title coaching club was Jim Calhoun, who won his third national championship at Connecticut in 2011.

"The whole idea was not to think about it," Calhoun said Sunday of going for No. 3. "Then you realize you're in pretty good company, first there's John Wooden, then Mike and you get to Mr. Rupp and Bob Knight. Those are names you never think you'll be associated with."

But Calhoun said there comes a day when it hits you.

"I remember reading those names and, oh by the way, there's Calhoun. It brought into light there were my contemporaries, Mike and Bob and my all-time hero, John Wooden," Calhoun said. "I met Mr. Rupp once. It all doesn't seem real sometimes. I was never thinking about chasing them.

"My dad used to say you're known by the company you keep. That's not bad company."

Trump calls on Kasich to quit race: 'He's taking my votes'

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Donald Trump on Sunday called for John Kasich to drop out of the Republican presidential race, arguing that the Ohio governor shouldn't be allowed to continue accumulating delegates if he has no chance of becoming the nominee.

Working to recover his edge after a difficult week, Trump said it wasn't fair for Kasich, who has won only his home state, to continue his campaign. He suggested instead that Kasich, who has pledged to make it to the summer convention, follow the example of Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush — candidates who quit after lagging behind.

"He doesn't have to run and take my votes," he said.

Trump said Kasich could ask to be considered at the GOP convention in Cleveland in July even without competing in the remaining nominating contests. He added that he had relayed his concerns to Republican National Committee officials at a meeting in Washington this past week.

"I said, 'Why is a guy allowed to run?' All he's doing is just he goes from place to place and loses," Trump told reporters at Miss Katie's Diner in Milwaukee, where he stopped for breakfast. The state holds its presidential primaries Tuesday.

Kasich's campaign tried to flip the script, contending that neither Trump nor Texas Sen. Ted Cruz would have enough delegates to win the nomination outright going into the Cleveland.

"Since he thinks it's such a good idea, we look forward to Trump dropping out before the convention," said Kasich spokesman Chris Schrimpf.

On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton told NBC's "Meet the Press" that she had yet to receive a request from the FBI for an interview regarding the private email system she used as secretary of state. And during a series of stops at Brooklyn church services, she got in a dig at her Democratic opponent, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who has identified as an independent for most of his career.

"I know we have to have a Democrat succeed Barack Obama," Clinton said.

Clinton and Sanders announced they'd agreed to a debate in New York before the consequential April 19 primary, though the timing remained unclear. Sanders fired up a crowd in Wausau, Wisconsin, hoping to continue his string of recent campaign victories even as Clinton maintains a sizable delegate lead.

Trump's call for Kasich to bow out came as Republican concerns grew about the prospect of convention chaos if Trump fails to lock up his party's nomination — or even if he does.

Behind Cruz in the polls in Wisconsin, Trump faces the prospect that a loss Tuesday will raise further doubts that he can net the needed delegates, making it far easier for his party to oust him in a floor fight at the convention.

Cruz, Trump's closest challenger, has only a small chance to overtake him in the delegate hunt before the convention. He spent his afternoon rallying supporters in Wisconsin in an event heavy with references to the state's beloved Green Bay Packers.

Kasich has acknowledged he cannot catch up in the delegate race, leaving a contested convention his only path to victory. He has faced calls in the past to step aside, but those nudges became less frequent following his decisive victory last month in his home state.

Still, Kasich suggested that a contested convention would not involve the chaos that party leaders fear.

"Kids will spend less time focusing on Bieber and Kardashian and more time focusing on how we elect presidents," Kasich told ABC. "It will be so cool."

Republicans fear an unseemly internal fight would damage the party in November's general election, and Trump isn't ruling out the possibility of running as an independent if he's not the nominee, making it that much harder for the GOP to retake the White House.

Such talk has "consequences," said GOP Chairman Reince Priebus, though he tried to quell the prospect of a convention fight. He told ABC that the process will be clear and open, with cameras there "at every step of the way."

Frustration with the GOP field has stoked calls in some Republican corners for the party to use a contested convention to pick someone not even on the ballot. Priebus acknowledged that was a remote possibility,

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but said he believed his party's candidate would be "someone who's running."

Working to right his campaign after a rough patch, Trump has found himself on the defensive, struggling to explain away controversies over abortion, nuclear weapons and his campaign manager.

"Was this my best week? I guess not," Trump said on "Fox News Sunday."

Yet as he campaigned in Milwaukee, Trump returned to the confident bravado his supporters have come to expect. He said the state of play in Wisconsin "reminds me so much of New Hampshire, where we had this massive victory and it wasn't really anticipated." In reality, Trump had led polls for months in New Hampshire and was widely expected to win.

"I think this has the feel of a victory," he told reporters, as a plate of untouched fried eggs and bacon grew cold.

In Egypt, former Trump rival and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham tried to reassure an Arab world wary of Trump, who has called for banning Muslim immigration to the United States.

"The Congress is going to be around no matter who is president," Graham said after meeting with Egypt's leader.

On the delegate front, North Dakota Republicans at their state convention were set to select 25 of their 28 national delegates on Sunday. North Dakota isn't holding a primary or caucus in the 2016 race. Nevada Democrats held county conventions on Saturday, leading up to a final determination of delegates at a statewide convention in May. Clinton turned backed a challenge from Sanders in the state's caucuses in February.

Double-digit seed Syracuse loses 83-66 to UNC in Final Four

Syracuse was the double-digit seed to get to the Final Four, and ended its season with a 83-66 loss to North Carolina

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Basketball Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — A double-digit loss for Syracuse, the double-digit seed that made it to the Final Four. No big comeback like the No. 10 seed Orange had to get to this far, and the end of coach Jim Boeheim's 40th season with an 83-66 loss to North Carolina on Saturday night.

"I told the players after the game that I'm more proud of this team than any team I've ever coached. I've always been pretty proud of our teams," Boeheim said. "I'm more satisfied than I've ever been in any year that I've ever coached, with the possible of exception the year we won it all."

Brice Johnson and Justin Jackson each had 16 points as the Tar Heels beat their ACC rival for the third time this season, this time to get into their 10th national championship game. North Carolina, the only No. 1 seed to get to Houston, plays Monday night against Villanova after the Wildcats' 95-51 romp over Oklahoma in the first national semifinal game.

Syracuse (23-14) had already beaten a No. 1 seed, overcoming a 16-point deficit right after halftime in a 68-62 win over Virginia six days earlier.

But the Orange could never get on a run against North Carolina (33-6) like the 25-4 deciding spurt they had against the Cavaliers.

Trevor Cooney had 22 points for Syracuse, and three times in the final 9 minutes made shots that got the Orange within 10 points or less. North Carolina responded each time.

"Obviously it's tough right now. But I'm still proud of these guys. I mean, coming into the tournament, we weren't even supposed to be in there," Cooney said. "We just kept battling, fighting. We were down in so many games throughout this tournament."

Malachi Richardson's 3-pointer that had capped a 10-0 run to get the Orange within 57-50 before Marcus Paige finally hit a 3 for North Carolina, which had missed its first 11 from long range.

The fourth double-digit seed to make it to the Final Four, Syracuse also failed to get to the championship.

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The 1986 LSU Tigers, 2006 George Mason Patriots and the 2011 VCU Rams all lost their semifinal games. North Carolina has won all of its tournament games by at least 14 points, and was up 57-40 with 12:28 left before an announced crowd of 75,505 at NGR Stadium.

"When you get down 16 against them, usually it goes to 25," Boeheim said. "We got it back, cut it to seven. We just couldn't quite ever get to where we could get it in range."

Cooney hit a 3-pointer with 8:44 left that made it 62-53, but Theo Pinson then hit a 3-pointer for the Tar Heels.

Malachi Richardson, the freshman who had 21 second-half points against Virginia, had a layup that cut the gap to 10 again, only for Marcus Paige to make a 3-pointer.

After 3 by Cooney with 3:48 made it a 10-point game again, Justin Jackson had a dunk for North Carolina. Cooney made another layup, and it was 74-64 — the closest Syracuse would get. Paige, who finished with 13 points, then made another 3.

Cooney finished 9-of-18 shooting with four 3-pointers. Richardson had 17 points and Michael Gbinije had 12 on 5-of-18 shooting before fouling out with 1:25 to go.

"I'm a little crushed right now," Gbinije said. "I think we left it all on the floor tonight. ... I'm just happy we were able to get this far."

TIP-INS

North Carolina: Kennedy Meeks had 15 points, missing only two shots — and tipping both of them back to himself. His line for the last two games: 11 for 13 from the field with 11 rebounds. ... Overall, Carolina outrebounded Syracuse 43-31.

Syracuse: Boeheim on whether he's considering retirement: "Why do you guys always ask me that? Make sure you ask Roy."

UP NEXT

North Carolina: Monday vs. Villanova for the program's sixth title.

Syracuse: Season over.

Bypass boosts survival in heart failure, 10-year study says

LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Heart failure patients with clogged arteries have a better chance of surviving 10 years if they get bypass surgery plus medicine rather than just drugs alone, according to an international study.

Earlier results from the same research raised questions about the benefits of bypass versus medicine alone, but researchers say the long-term evidence clearly favors the surgery.

The lead author of the study, Duke University cardiologist Dr. Eric Velazquez, said the results "are so definitive and so robust" that they would likely to lead to stronger recommendations favoring bypass surgery for these patients.

Nearly 6 million Americans and 23 million people worldwide have heart failure, and many of them also have artery disease similar to those studied. In recent years, bypass surgery has increasingly been recommended for such patients, along with medicines to ease heart failure symptoms.

Concerns were raised when results after nearly five years of research showed about equal number of deaths in bypass patients and in those who got only medicine, despite fewer heart-related deaths in the bypass group. Those findings were published in 2011.

The 10-year results were published online Sunday in the New England Journal of Medicine and presented at an American College of Cardiology meeting in Chicago.

The study involved 1,200 heart failure patients in 22 countries, including the United States. Most were men around age 60 when the study began. All were taking heart medicines, and about half were assigned to also get bypass surgery.

More than half the patients in each group lived beyond the study's first phase. The 10-year results are a look back at all patients studied.

A total of 359 bypass patients died from any cause, or about 59 percent, compared with 398 medicine-only patients who died, or 66 percent.

Deaths from heart disease-related causes totaled 247 in the bypass group, or 41 percent, versus 297 medicine-only patients, or 49 percent.

A journal editorial published with the study says the latest results "solidly support" strengthening treatment guidelines to say that bypass surgery is "probably beneficial" for these patients.

The long-term results "are very encouraging" and confirm what many doctors believed about potential benefits of bypass for these patients, said Dr. Ted Feldman, a cardiologist at NorthShore University HealthSystem in Evanston, Illinois. Feldman was not involved in the study.

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute paid for the study.

Senator: 2 dead in train-backhoe crash were Amtrak workers

CHESTER, Pa. (AP) — An Amtrak train struck a piece of construction equipment just south of Philadelphia on Sunday causing a derailment, killing two Amtrak workers and sending more than 30 passengers to hospitals, authorities said.

Train 89 was heading from New York to Savannah, Georgia, at about 8 a.m. when it hit a backhoe that was on the track in Chester, about 15 miles outside of Philadelphia, officials said. The impact derailed the lead engine of the train that was carrying more than 300 passengers and seven crew members.

Chester fire commissioner Travis Thomas said two people were killed.

U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., told reporters at a New York news conference on another subject Sunday that he was told by Amtrak board chairman Anthony Coscia that the workers killed were the backhoe operator and a supervisor, both Amtrak employees. He said debris from the crash flew into the first two cars, causing the injuries to passengers.

Schumer said it's unclear whether the backhoe was performing regular maintenance, which is usually scheduled on Sunday mornings because there are fewer trains on the tracks, or whether it was clearing debris from high winds in the area overnight. But he said Amtrak has "a 20-step protocol" for having backhoes on the track, and no trains are supposed to go on a track where such equipment is present.

"Clearly this seems very likely to be human error," Schumer said, calling for Amtrak to review its processes. "There is virtually no excuse for a backhoe to be on an active track."

A message left with Amtrak officials has yet to be returned.

Thomas and Amtrak officials said more than 30 people were taken to hospitals with injuries that weren't considered life-threatening.

The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating. Officials with the Federal Railroad Administration were also sent to the scene, said Matthew Lehner, a spokesman for the agency.

Service on the Northeast Corridor between New York and Philadelphia is operating after an earlier suspension. Service between Wilmington, Delaware, and Philadelphia remained suspended.

Ari Ne'eman, a disability rights activist heading to Washington after speaking at an event in New York, said he was in the second car at the time of the crash.

"The car started shaking wildly, there was a smell of smoke, it looked like there was a small fire and then the window across from us blew out," said Ne'eman, 28, of Silver Spring, Maryland.

Some of the passengers started to get off after the train stopped, but the conductor quickly stopped them. Officials started evacuateing people to the rear of the train and then off and to a local church.

"It was a very frightening experience. I'm frankly very glad that I was not on the first car," where there were injuries, he said. "The moment that the car stopped, I said Shema, a Jewish prayer ... I was just so thankful that the train had come to a stop and we were OK."

This derailment comes almost a year after an Amtrak train originating from Washington D.C. bound for New York City derailed in Philadelphia. Eight people were killed and more than 200 were injured in the May 12 crash. The exact cause of that crash is still under investigation, but authorities have said the train had been traveling twice the speed limit.

Mormon leader announces plans for 4 new temples

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has announced plans for four new temples as he kicked off the final day of a church conference in Salt Lake City.

The Salt Lake Tribune reports (<http://bit.ly/1RSYuu6>) that Thomas S. Monson said Sunday that LDS temples will be built in Zimbabwe, Ecuador, Brazil and Peru.

Monson, who gave a short speech the night before, also said that the choices Mormons make will determine whether they reach their goal of "celestial glory."

The 88-year-old, considered a prophet, has offered fewer sermons at the bi-annual General Conferences in the last year.

More than 100,000 Mormons are estimated to be attending the two-day conference.

Millions more are expected to watch live broadcasts from their homes.

Deportation of migrants from Greece to Turkey starts Monday

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — An agreement between the European Union and Turkey to deport migrants currently on Greek islands back to the Turkish mainland is to take effect Monday morning.

Giorgos Kyritsis, a spokesman for the Greek government's refugee crisis committee, has told The Associated Press that Frontex, the EU's border management agency, is solely responsible for the implementation, adding that only a fraction of its promised personnel of over 2,000 is in place.

Frontex has secured three vessels that will make the short trip from the island of Lesbos to the Turkish coast starting Monday morning. It aims to deport about 750 migrants, mostly from Pakistan and Afghanistan, who either did not apply for asylum or whose applications were rejected, in the first three days.

'Batman v Superman' falls 68 percent in second weekend

LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Word of mouth might be kryptonite for "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," which fell a steep 68 percent in its second weekend in theaters according to comScore estimates Sunday. The superhero pic earned an estimated \$52.4 million over the weekend, easily besting the modest new openers like "God's Not Dead 2" and "Meet the Blacks."

The Zack Snyder movie cost a reported \$250 million to produce and around \$150 million to market, and has earned an estimated \$261.5 million to date.

It's a critical launching point for a series of interconnected movies in the DC Comics Universe from Warner Bros. that will include this year's "Suicide Squad" and next year's "Wonder Woman" and two "Justice League" movies, which is why its early performance — and hold — are being so intensely scrutinized.

Superhero movies tend to be frontloaded with fans, and a near 60 percent fall is not uncommon for major blockbusters in weekend two.

"Sometimes the bigger they are the harder they fall," said Paul Dergarabedian, comScore's senior media analyst. "This is often what happens when you have films that rank in the top 10 debuts of all time."

Snyder's "Man of Steel," for instance, fell 64.6 percent in its second weekend, and even "The Dark Knight Rises" dropped a hefty 61.4 percent. Things aren't terribly different in the Marvel universe either. Disney's "Avengers: Age of Ultron" tumbled 59.4 percent and Fox's "X-Men: Days of Future Past" plunged 64.2 percent.

Also, the first week "Batman v Superman" haul included the \$27.7 million from Thursday night preview showings, whereas the second weekend sum does not account for those. The Friday of Easter weekend is also a holiday for many, making a straight comparison not entirely equitable.

Still, 68 percent is on the steeper side for a second week fall. Last year's much derided "Fantastic Four" reboot fell 68.2 percent and the divisive "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" dropped 69 percent in 2009.

In weekend one many wondered whether the poor reviews would kill the film out of the gates, but it ended up earning \$166 million regardless.

"This has been a poster child in illustrating the disconnect between critics and audience," Dergarabedian

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said.

The second weekend, however, is where word of mouth starts to come into play, and on the fence audiences must decide whether or not it's worth their time and money.

But, the near future still looks promising for "Batman v Superman," which has the skies to itself for the next week until Disney's "The Jungle Book" opens on April 15.

The weekend overall is down significantly from last year, which saw the massive opening of "Furious 7." Disney's "Zootopia" held on to second place with a robust \$20 million, bringing its domestic total to \$275.9 million. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" took third in its second week with \$11.1 million.

Rounding out the top five were two faith-based films, Pure Flix's "God's Not Dead 2," which opened in fourth with \$8.1 million, and "Miracles From Heaven," which took in \$7.6 million in its third weekend, bringing its total to \$46.8 million. "God's Not Dead 2" did not do as well as the first movie, which opened to \$9.2 million on about half as many screens, but, Dergarabedian notes that it is "still a winner as these films cost very little to make."

Freestyle Releasing's "The Purge" parody, "Meet the Blacks," meanwhile earned only \$4.1 million for an eighth place debut.

Limited release openings like Richard Linklater's college baseball comedy "Everybody Wants Some!!" did well bringing in \$323,000 from 19 theaters, while Don Cheadle's Miles Davis biopic "Miles Ahead" launched in four theaters to \$122,751.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1."Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," \$52.4 million.

2."Zootopia," \$20 million.

3."My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2," \$11.1 million.

4."God's Not Dead 2," \$8.1 million.

5."Miracles From Heaven," \$7.6 million.

6."The Divergent Series: Allegiant," \$5.7 million.

7."10 Cloverfield Lane," \$4.8 million.

8."Meet the Blacks," \$4.1 million.

9."Eye in the Sky," \$4.1 million.

10."Deadpool," \$3.5 million.

Rylance, Cumberbatch up for trophies at Olivier stage awards

JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Academy Award-winner Mark Rylance is a best-actor favorite at Sunday's Olivier Awards, a celebration of the London stage whose nominees include Benedict Cumberbatch, Judi Dench and Nicole Kidman.

Rylance, who won a supporting-actor Oscar this year for "Bridge of Spies," is best-actor nominated for playing an 18th-century Spanish monarch in "Farinelli and the King."

He's up against Cumberbatch for a heralded "Hamlet," Adrian Lester for the historical drama "Red Velvet," Kenneth Branagh for Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" and Kenneth Cranham for a powerful family saga "The Father."

Kidman is a best-actress nominee for "Photograph 51," a drama about the discovery of DNA that brought her back to the West End after a 17-year absence. The other contenders are Gemma Arterton for the Restoration romp "Nell Gwynn," Denise Gough for the rehab drama "People, Places And Things," Janet McTeer for the battle-of-the-sexes showdown "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" and Lia Williams for the Greek tragedy "Oresteia."

Dench — a seven-time Olivier winner — has a supporting-actress nod for "The Winter's Tale."

A revival of the musical "Gypsy" has the most Olivier nominations overall — eight — while the high-stepping Broadway hit "Kinky Boots" has seven.

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"Kinky Boots" lyricist Cyndi Lauper is scheduled to sing at Sunday's Royal Opera House ceremony, which will feature performances from nominated musicals including "Guys And Dolls," "Bend It Like Beckham" and "In The Heights."

The awards, Britain's equivalent of Broadway's Tonys, are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. It's also the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, and the ceremony is due to celebrate the Bard with a special performance of one of his sonnets.

The awards honor achievements in London theater, dance and opera, and winners in most categories are chosen by a panel of stage professionals and theatergoers.

Rent control spreads from pricey San Francisco to suburbs

JANIE HAR, Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — Charles Edwards is a merry self-described hillbilly from Tennessee who knows much about Victorian-era railroads and not so much about political campaigning.

But this year, the 77-year-old retired city gardener will be knocking on doors in Alameda to persuade voters of this maritime city on San Francisco Bay to support a citizen initiative to cap rent increases. Last June, the rent on his one-bedroom flat increased 24 percent to \$1,300, leaving him \$289 a month for utilities, food and other expenses.

"Like I say, I don't like doing it, but I'm pushed in a corner, I feel like," Edwards said.

Once upon a time, the concept of rent control was largely limited to costly, coveted cities such as San Francisco or New York where there were too many people and not enough apartments.

But tenant demand for protections is shifting to San Francisco Bay Area suburbs as priced-out workers flee to sleepy bedroom communities in search of cheaper dwellings. The region known for a sizzling tech-fueled economy has added 440,000 jobs but only 50,000 new housing units, according to the business-sponsored Bay Area Council.

State legislation approved last week to raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2022 is expected to help tenants afford increasing rents, but can only do so much in a region where the median rent is \$3,350, according to real estate data firm Zillow.

Zillow calculates that a single earner would need an hourly wage of \$67, or \$33.50 each for two, in order to reasonably afford the rent.

"At least you're taking a step in the right direction to address income inequality," said Zillow's chief economist Svenja Gudell, but added that, "\$15 doesn't move the needle all that much."

Last year, a raucous city council meeting over rent control in Alameda, population 75,000, resulted in two arrests. Farther north, city leaders of Sonoma County's Healdsburg, population 11,000, approved voluntary guidelines to keep rent increases to 10 percent or less.

Tenant activists in Alameda and Richmond — a waterfront industrial town of nearly 110,000 — are fighting to place rent control on municipal ballots this fall. So are residents of Burlingame, a pricey, leafy city of 30,000 on the San Francisco Peninsula.

The burst of Bay Area suburban squabbles doesn't surprise analysts. The median rental price in the five-county San Francisco metropolitan area for February was \$3,350, up 10.5 percent from a year ago, according to Zillow. Wages, while high for Silicon Valley professionals, have not kept pace for many other people.

Economists, landlords and developers say rent control makes the situation worse by restricting supply, resulting in run-down apartments and driving market prices higher. Tenant advocates, however, argue that caps on increases and other renter protections are critical in a housing market that's ousting seniors and families.

Runaway rents are an issue nationally as the gap between wages and housing prices widen amid greater demand. Rent control is outlawed in 35 states, including Washington where Seattle proponents have asked state lawmakers to overturn the ban. West Hollywood in Southern California is the most recent city to pass a rent control ordinance that stuck — and that was in June 1985.

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Advocacy group Tenants Together says a dozen cities have some form of rent control in California, including San Francisco and Los Angeles. Activists in Oakland and San Jose are also pushing beefed-up rent protections. A state law limits any rent restrictions on housing built after 1995 and exempts all single-family homes.

The three Bay Area ballot proposals would limit annual increases to the consumer price index or less, which would result in hikes in the low single digits rather than the double-digit ones that have renters clamoring for help. The measures also limit evictions to "just cause" so landlords can't simply toss someone out for another tenant who can pay more.

In August, the Richmond City Council narrowly approved a rent control measure. But after a lobbying group for landlords collected enough signatures to put the issue to voters, the council repealed the ordinance. Activists are trying again.

On an overcast Saturday in Richmond last month, several dozen people packed a community center to learn how to collect signatures for the new initiative. They munched on burritos and chips before fanning out with clipboards.

"Something has to change," said Gayle McLaughlin, a Richmond city council member and former mayor, "because we're going to be a nation of internal refugees, people without places to live."

The California Apartment Association is trying to qualify a competing measure for the November ballot that would prohibit restrictions on rental prices in Richmond. Landlords, such as Edwards', say they need to recover costs to pay higher property taxes or for property improvements.

Thomas Bannon, the association's chief executive, said he understands tenant concerns, but it's not fair to ask landlords to shoulder the burden for a housing shortage.

"Rent control has never addressed that issue," he said. "At best, it's been a temporary fix for a very small number of units."

Activists try to calm fears over transgender bathroom access

DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stung by setbacks related to their access to public restrooms, transgender Americans are taking steps to play a more prominent and vocal role in a nationwide campaign to curtail discrimination against them.

Two such initiatives are being launched this week — evidence of how transgender rights has supplanted same-sex marriage as the most volatile, high-profile issue for the broader movement of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists.

One initiative is a public education campaign called the Transgender Freedom Project that will share the personal stories of transgender people. The other, the Trans United Fund, is a political advocacy group that will engage in election campaigns at the federal and state level, pressing candidates to take stands on transgender rights.

"We welcome the support of our allies," said Hayden Mora, a veteran transgender activist who's director of Trans United. "But it's crucial that trans people build our own political power and speak with our own voices."

From a long-term perspective, there have been notable gains for transgender Americans in recent years — more support from major employers, better options for health care and sex-reassignment surgery, a growing number of municipalities which bar anti-transgender discrimination.

But there were two setbacks in the past five months that hammered home to transgender people the challenges that they still face.

Last November, by a decisive margin, voters in Houston repealed a municipal nondiscrimination ordinance that provided protections for LGBT people. On March 23, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory signed a hastily drafted law that barred Charlotte and other cities in the state from implementing similar ordinances.

In both cases, conservatives opposed to the ordinances focused their arguments on bathroom access — contending that allowing transgender people to use public bathrooms based on their gender identity would expose women and girls to discomfort and possible molestation.

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Those arguments helped carry the day among Houston voters and North Carolina lawmakers despite the fact that such problems have not materialized in any significant way in the 17 states already banning anti-transgender discrimination in public accommodations.

"All the people who lost the marriage equality fight, they've now decided that trans people are fair game," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "They're going to claim trans people are sexual predators, but the public is quickly going to learn that's just nonsense."

The outcome in Houston prompted many post-mortems among LGBT activists — What went wrong? How should the bathroom-access argument be countered in the future?

"It's been an alarming wake-up call since November," said Dru Lavasseur, Transgender Rights Project director for the LGBT-rights group Lambda Legal. "We need to prioritize bringing transgender people into the movement in leadership positions, with transgender voices leading the way."

There has been widespread agreement that a key plank of future strategy should be enlisting more transgender people to share their personal experience — a tactic that was successful for gays and lesbians during the campaign to legalize same-sex marriage.

"In most parts of this country, people don't know a trans person," said Kasey Suffredini, a transgender attorney who's director of the new Transgender Freedom Project. "The work in front of us is to put a face on who the trans community is. That's the way that we win."

The project, undertaken by an advocacy group called Freedom for All Americans, has a first-year budget of about \$1 million, with plans to expand thereafter.

Nationwide success "will not happen overnight," said Suffredini, suggesting a 10-year timeframe was plausible.

"What happened in North Carolina, as terrible as it was, has really galvanized people," he added.

In the aftermath of the North Carolina legislature's action, several LGBT leaders headed to the state to join in protests and plot strategy for trying to overturn the new law.

Among them was Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBT group that has been under pressure from some grass-roots activists to block any recurrences of the Houston and North Carolina setbacks. On Thursday, as Griffin sought to personally deliver a letter of protest to McCrory, he insisted on being accompanied into the governor's office by a local transgender activist.

The Human Rights Campaign's director of research and public education, Jay Brown, said he's already seen an impact as more transgender people step into the political spotlight. He cited recent developments in South Dakota, where Gov. Dennis Daugaard met with several transgender people and later vetoed a bill that would have restricted transgender students' bathroom access at public schools.

Brown also cited a new survey released by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation — it found that 35 percent of likely voters know or work with a transgender person, twice as many as two years ago.

Asked about the impatience among some LGBT activists in regard to transgender rights, Brown replied, "Public education isn't something that happens overnight."

"We've had some incredible victories in the past few years as a movement, so it's hard to take a loss," he said. "But that's part of the movement — we take steps forward and some steps back."

Israel eases Gaza restrictions with expanded fishing zone

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Fishermen in Gaza can now sail farther from the coastal territory after Israel expanded the fishing zone on Sunday.

COGAT, the Israeli defense body that handles civilian issues with the Palestinians, announced the new easing of restrictions on its Arabic Facebook page. About 60 boats raced to the new zone after police blew a whistle Sunday afternoon.

To prevent squabbling over fishing rights, Hamas — the Islamic militant group that rules Gaza — ordered that whoever reaches a new spot first can claim fishing rights in the area.

Israel set a limit in 2007 after Hamas seized Gaza from forces loyal to Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in bloody street battles.

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The new maritime perimeter expands the fishing zone off parts of Gaza by three more nautical miles to nine.

A lone palm and a lot of trouble on the 4th hole at Augusta

DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

In the 79 years the Masters has been played, only one player has made a hole-in-one on the long and deceptively difficult par-3 fourth hole.

The golf ball remains in a special place.

"I gave the ball to my mother," Jeff Sluman said. "She still has it in her grave."

The first par 3 at Augusta National doesn't get nearly as much attention as the last two par 3s, mainly because it is so early in the round and because it has neither water (Nos. 12 and 16) or steep elevation (No. 6). It is simply as stern a test as there is on the golf course.

Sluman was surprised that no one had ever made a hole-in-one until he came through in the first round of 1992. He birdied the opening two holes, made a par on No. 3, and then faced what was then a 212-yard shot to a back left pin on wide green with a deep bunker in front, another bunker to the left and trouble over the back.

"Sometimes you can make a hole-in-one on a crappy shot," Sluman said. "This was the prettiest shot you'd ever want to see. I hit a soft, cut 4-iron that hit the bottom of the slope and looked like a 1-footer going in."

That no one has made a hole-in-one since then? Not so surprising.

"I think that might be as difficult a hole as Augusta has," Sluman said.

The fourth hole is called "Flowering Crab Apple," even though it is the only hole on the course that has a palm tree. No. 4 has gone through only one significant change since the Masters began in 1934. That was in 2006, when the championship tee was moved back 35 yards to make it play at 240 yards. This was to restore Bobby Jones' belief that a long iron or even a fairway metal should be used off the tee.

The fourth hole has given Adam Scott fits to the point he has contemplated whether he should purposely play short of the green and take his chances getting up-and-down.

"It's not the worst idea," he said. "It's a bit out there. But that's how difficult it is. If you go over the back, things get tricky."

So why hasn't he tried it before?

"The fact I've played with a lot of confidence the last few years, and I'm a good long iron player," Scott said. "And I haven't had any real disasters. In the big scheme of 72 holes, if you took two 3s and two 4s, that's not going to lose you the tournament. But a couple of 5s could."

Maybe he was thinking about Phil Mickelson.

Mickelson was in the final group on Sunday in 2012 when his tee shot on the fourth caromed off the grandstands and into the woods. Instead of taking a penalty shot and playing his third from the tee, Lefty tried two right-handed shots to punch it out, eventually got into a bunker and made a triple-bogey 6. He finished two shots out of a playoff.

"You'd have to put it as the hardest par 3," Scott said.

Over the years, it ranks as the fourth-hardest hole at Augusta, and it probably would be the hardest par 3 except that No. 12 (ranked third in difficulty) has Rae's Creek in front of the green and wind that no one has been able to figure out.

Even so, No. 4 has ranked the second most difficult at the last two Masters, and in 2013 it played as the hardest hole on the course.

"A bear of a par 3," two-time U.S. Open champion Andy North said. "Everybody talks about the wind swirling back at the 12th hole. It does the same thing at 4, and a player can look really silly hitting what they think is a pretty good tee shot. The wind will affect the tee shots 15 or 20 yards."

Six-time champion Jack Nicklaus said he used to hit anything from a 5-iron to a 1-iron, which speaks how deceptive the wind can be on that far corner of the golf course. Even so, he was perplexed by Scott

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contemplating whether to lay up on a par 3.

"Tell me where you lay up," Nicklaus said. "You put it right over the left corner of the bunker in the middle of the green. I don't care where the pin is. If you've got the pin that sits front and left, don't flirt with it. Put it over the hole. For the other pins, somewhere in the middle of the green and you'll have an uphill putt.

"The problem," he said with a smile, "is to get it in the middle of the green."

Sluman can attest to that. When asked about his ace in 1992, he said, "The last time I hit that green in regulation."

He didn't say if he was joking.

"It's pretty telling that No. 12 and No. 4 are the hardest," Sluman said. "You'll see a lot more bogeys on 4, and potential disasters on 12."

One day in April, it was nothing but bliss for Sluman, the only player with a 1.

"I've got a one-of-a-kind trophy that nobody has," Sluman said. "My mother was there and saw it, and she got all excited. She passed away in '94. The ball went in her casket."

Strong earthquake strikes off Vanuatu; tsunami unlikely

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A strong earthquake hit off of the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu on Sunday, but authorities said any threat of a tsunami had mostly passed, and there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The magnitude-6.9 quake struck 81 kilometers (50 miles) north of the town of Port Olry and 407 kilometers (253 miles) north of Vanuatu's capital, Port Vila, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It had a depth of 35 kilometers (22 miles).

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center initially said that "hazardous tsunami waves are possible" for coasts located within 300 kilometers (186 miles) of the quake's epicenter. But it said around 40 minutes later that the tsunami threat "has now mostly passed."

Vanuatu sits on the Ring of Fire, the arc of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean where earthquakes are common. The nation is also prone to volcanoes and cyclones, and has been ranked by the United Nations University as the world's most at-risk nation for natural disasters.

Educational divide in GOP White House race; what's behind it

JENNIFER C. KERR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was in Nevada, just about month ago, when Donald Trump proclaimed his affection for the uneducated.

"We won with young. We won with old. We won with highly educated. We won with poorly educated. I love the poorly educated," the Republican presidential front-runner boasted after coasting to a decisive victory in the state's caucuses.

He should love them.

Trump overwhelmingly leads his rivals for support among the less educated, and draws more modest backing from college graduates and those with postgraduate study, according to exit polls conducted for the Associated Press and television networks by Edison Research.

In an analysis of voters by education in states where exit or entrance polling is available, nearly half of those with high school diplomas or less schooling said they supported the billionaire. Just over 40 percent of those with some college study favored him. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz captured the next best showing among the two groups, with 27 and 28 percent, respectively.

What is it about Trump that he attracts such a strong showing among those who haven't graduated from college?

"I think it is incorrect to look at the data and conclude that those voters are more ignorant," Katherine Cramer, a political science professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said in an interview. "Instead, there's a strong correlation between having a college degree or not, and your economic situation in life."

Cramer explains, "These are folks who have been feeling a real struggle to make ends meet for decades

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now and they see a candidate coming along who says to them, "You're right. You're not getting your fair share. It sucks. And I'm going to stand up for you."

"That's really appealing to people," Cramer said before Tuesday's primary in Wisconsin, where Cruz is leading Trump in polls.

Exit polls from most of the primaries and caucuses held to date show Trump has trailed among voters having a high school degree or less in only one state where data is available so far. Cruz led in his home state of Texas. The high school graduate sample size wasn't large enough in Massachusetts and Vermont for a solid measure.

Trump's state-by-state performance wasn't nearly as strong among those with some college or an associate's degree.

So far, Trump's populist pitch to ordinary folks facing economic uncertainty is resonating, says Michael McDonald, associate professor of political science at the University of Florida.

"A lot of people have underestimated Trump because they expect a candidate to do things in a certain way. And because he breaks the mold on that in some respects, they miss when he's making these appeals that speak directly to the voters," he said.

Case in point, says McDonald, was the Republican debate in Manchester, New Hampshire, in February.

Trump and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush got into a testy exchange over their positions on eminent domain, the process by which the government takes private property for public use.

Trump drew boos from the audience when he dismissed Bush saying, "Let me talk, quiet," and he then told the crowd that the booing was coming from "donors and special interests" in the audience — pressing his populist, anti-establishment message.

Cramer calls it the "politics of resentment," when a candidate taps into the economic stress and gives people something concrete to blame. "Trump is able to direct people's profound uneasiness with their situation in life at a target" — the government, trade policies, or a group of people.

Exit polling shows Trump didn't track nearly as well with college-educated voters.

Across all the states with data available, Trump was supported by 35 percent of college graduates, sharply off his 47 percent of those with a high school education or less. Still, in many states Trump has led even among the college-educated.

By comparison, support for Cruz hasn't varied much by education, while those with postgraduate studies have been more likely than those with less education to support Ohio Gov. John Kasich. Kasich has led the postgraduate vote in three states — Michigan, Ohio and Vermont.

GOP Congress' incomplete: Stalled bills, no court nominee

MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress increasingly is being defined by what it's not doing this election year.

The Senate returns this week with a strong majority of Republicans saying no to any consideration of President Barack Obama's nominee to the Supreme Court. No hearings, no vote and, for some lawmakers, not even a meeting with federal appeals court Judge Merrick Garland.

Republicans, led by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., insist that the decision on filling the court vacancy rests with the next president after voters have their say in November's election.

A bipartisan bill to aid Flint, Michigan, where the city's 100,000 residents are struggling with lead-contaminated water is being blocked by Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, who wants to ensure that the money is paid for without adding to the deficit. The dispute over Flint has snagged a far-reaching measure on energy.

In the House, where lawmakers return from their break April 12, conservative opposition probably will make it impossible to pass a budget, in what would be a major embarrassment for Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. A GOP proposal to aid debt-stricken Puerto Rico has drawn criticism from House Democrats and conservatives, raising doubts about Congress' ability to resolve the issue.

The latest Gallup Poll shows public approval of Congress at an abysmal 13 percent. Yet, through a half-dozen state primaries, no incumbent lawmaker has lost.

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A look at the issues in limbo in Congress:

THE FIGHT OVER GARLAND

Garland plans to meet with 11 senators in the week ahead, including two Republicans. Democrats are maintaining election-year pressure on the GOP for blocking the usual Senate committee hearings and vote on a high court nominee.

Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and John Boozman, R-Ark., are set to sit down with Garland on Tuesday. Collins is one of just two Republicans out of 54 who are open to hearings and a vote on Garland; Boozman is up for re-election this year. Eager to keep the fight in the news, Democrats say there might be 50 more Garland meetings with senators in the coming weeks, and they plan repeated Senate floor speeches on the issue.

Over the Senate's two-week recess, both sides pushed their messages back home, but Democrats were particularly aggressive as senators held news conferences and wrote newspaper columns. Swing-state Republicans facing re-election were top targets, including Sens. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, Rob Portman of Ohio and Iowa's Chuck Grassley, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, responsible for holding hearings on judicial nominees.

Garland has met with just one Republican: Illinois Sen. Mark Kirk. He is embroiled in a difficult re-election fight and has said the Senate should provide "rational, adult, open-minded consideration" of Garland, an Illinois native.

At least 15 GOP senators have said they are willing to meet Garland, though most oppose letting the confirmation process progress. Only Collins and Kirk are open to hearings and a vote. Under intense conservative pressure, Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas backtracked late last week, saying no to hearings and a vote after signaling support days earlier.

SPENDING

It's been years since Congress approved each of the annual appropriations bills — the 12 measures that fund the budgets of agencies and departments. The new normal is an all-encompassing bill at the end of the year. Republicans leaders such as McConnell want to get process back on track, and the Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to start the week of April 11.

It'll be a test for the Senate, and pitfalls await, including potential fights over immigration, environmental regulations, gun rights and display of the Confederate flag.

In the House, GOP leaders are still trying to win approval of a broader budget plan that's usually a precursor to action on the spending bills. Chances are iffy at best. It's not clear what the path forward on the appropriations bills will be.

PUERTO RICO

House Republicans unveiled a plan to help Puerto Rico with its \$70 billion debt, but a draft bill by the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, GOP Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah, was rejected by Democrats, GOP conservatives and Puerto Rican officials.

The proposal would create a five-person board designed to audit the territory's government and create fiscal plans and budget measures — steps Republicans say are necessary for Puerto Rico to get its economy back on track. The board would have the authority to enact the plan if the territory's governor and legislature failed to do so.

The draft would not give Puerto Rico the broad bankruptcy authority it has asked for, but would allow the oversight board to decide whether debt restructuring is necessary

The House Republican Study Committee, a group of around 170 conservatives, expressed concerns about the debt restructuring provisions. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and other Democrats said the oversight board would be too controlling.

Puerto Rico's government has defaulted on \$37 million in interest on bonds issued by Puerto Rico's Infrastructure Financing Authority, as well as nearly \$60 million in Public Finance Corporation bonds. The

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bonds are not protected by the U.S. territory's government. Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla has warned there is no money for future payments, including \$400 million due in May in bonds issued by the Government Development Bank.

Bishop said he will continue to work on the bill to gain consensus.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Advocates for a criminal justice overhaul are hoping Congress will move legislation in both chambers before the summer, though the effort has run into roadblocks in the Senate.

The GOP caucus is split over a bipartisan bill that would give judges the discretion to impose lesser sentences than federal mandatory minimums and eliminate mandatory life sentences for three-time, nonviolent drug offenders.

Some conservatives, including Arkansas' Tom Cotton and GOP presidential candidate Ted Cruz of Texas, say the bill could release violent offenders from prison. It's a charge that their GOP colleagues backing the bill strongly deny.

Senators are now rewriting parts of the bill, but even with the expected changes, it's unclear whether McConnell will choose to move forward.