

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 1 of 35

- 1- Harr Motors Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Gas prices begin April at cheapest level since 2009
- 3- Burn ban on in Brown County
- 4- April Climate Outlook
- 5- Golden Living Center ad
- 5- Geary Bridal Shower
- 5- Blood Drive set for April 12
- 5- Handyman looking for work
- 6- South Dakota Wetland Exchange
- 7 - Today in Weather History
- 8- Local Weather Forecast
- 9- National Weather Map
- 9- Local Weather
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11 - News from the Associated Press

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)

3:45pm: St. John's Confirmation

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle

6:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

Thursday, April 7

School Breakfast: French toast, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken patty, tater tots, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Scott & Mary Fordham

Birthdays: Reilly Ell, Shelly Lerew, Steve Gibbs, Cody Becker

9:00am: Robotics competition at Council Bluffs, IA

1:30pm: St. John's Nursery Circle

2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

Friday, April 8

State Student Congress in Pierre

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

School Lunch: Pizza, green peas, romaine lettuce, fruit.

Senior Menu: Spanish rice with hamburger,

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**

© 2015 Groton Daily Independent



www.harrmotors.com

605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 2 of 35

Gas Prices Begin April at Cheapest Levels Since 2009

April 4, 2016 - Despite increasing for 36 of the past 41 days, the national average is at its lowest price point for this same date since 2009. Today's average price of \$2.06 per gallon represents an increase of two cents on the week and 24 cents on the month. Pump prices continue to reflect year-over-year discounts, and drivers are saving 34 cents per gallon versus this same date last year.

"The overall trend for gas prices in South Dakota is still moving upward," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "According to FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com, pump prices are currently at \$2.025. South Dakota's state average rose seventeen cents over the last month."

	Today	Last Week	Change	Feb. 29	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$1.991	\$2.025	-\$0.034	\$1.813	\$0.178	\$2.446
Brookings	\$2.120	\$2.022	\$0.098	\$1.826	\$0.294	\$2.421
Huron	\$2.049	\$1.998	\$0.051	\$1.894	\$0.155	\$2.469
Mitchell	\$2.048	\$1.945	\$0.103	\$1.812	\$0.236	\$2.218
Pierre	\$2.140	\$2.069	\$0.071	\$1.942	\$0.198	\$2.490
Rapid City	\$1.962	\$1.881	\$0.081	\$1.822	\$0.140	\$2.286
Sioux Falls	\$1.988	\$1.956	\$0.032	\$1.784	\$0.204	\$2.290
Vermillion	\$2.053	\$1.849	\$0.204	\$1.713	\$0.340	\$2.299
Watertown	\$2.072	\$2.105	-\$0.033	\$1.886	\$0.186	\$2.411
Yankton	\$1.982	\$2.055	-\$0.073	\$1.827	\$0.155	\$2.439
South Dakota	\$2.025	\$1.986	\$0.039	\$1.806	\$0.219	\$2.369

The switchover to summer-blend gasoline at refineries has already taken place, and this special blend of fuel has begun to make its way to fuel terminals in many parts of the country, though it can take a few weeks because fuel travels through pipelines at four miles per hour.

Drivers in California (\$2.79) are paying the nation's highest averages at the pump. Gas prices in the Golden State have moved higher due to regional supply challenges, though these issues reportedly have begun to ease, and prices in the region may soon recover as a result. Regional neighbors Hawaii (\$2.60), Nevada (\$2.45), Washington (\$2.30) and Alaska (\$2.27) join in the rankings as the nation's top five most expensive markets for gas. Averages in nearly half (23) of the states are below the \$2 per gallon threshold, and motorists in Oklahoma (\$1.82) and South Carolina (\$1.85) are paying the lowest prices at the pump.



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 3 of 35

Prices are up by more than a nickel per gallon for the month in the vast majority of states (48), and consumers in 45 states and Washington, D.C. are paying double-digit premiums month-over-month. Averages are up by a quarter or more per gallon on the month in 21 states, with the biggest jumps in price occurring in states west of the Rockies: Arizona (+57 cents), Nevada (+42 cents) and California (+35 cents).

Oversupply continues to characterize the global oil market, and prospects for an agreement between OPEC and non-OPEC countries to freeze output seem increasingly unlikely as both Iran and Russia significantly increased production last month. Iranian oil is returning to market following the removal of sanctions and the country has said it will not freeze production until it regains market share. Supply and demand fundamentals continue to point to a bearish market for crude oil, and both Brent and West Texas Intermediate closed out the week at lows unseen since mid- and early-March.

Market watchers continue to monitor news of U.S. production, which according to the latest data from the EIA, fell for the fourth consecutive week. Additionally, the number of oil rigs operating in the U.S. declined by 10. Neither factor has yet to translate to movements in the price of crude oil, likely due to the markets extreme oversupply.

WTI closed out Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX down \$1.55 and settled at \$36.79 per barrel.

Brown County is under a Burn Ban

On Tuesday April 5, 2016 the Brown County Commission approved a Burn Ban for Brown County effective until noon April 12, 2016.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 4 of 35

April 2016 Climate Outlook & March Climate Review

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center March 31, 2016 report calls for warm and dry conditions throughout South Dakota in the month ahead.

"There has been good consistency among the climate computer models in predicting warmer than average temperatures," says Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist. "That trend is continuing in April and projected to hold on through the growing season."

Edwards added that seasonal climate trends and a strong El Niño also impact this climate forecast. "Over the winter and early spring season, the climate outlooks have been pretty accurate, particularly when it comes to the temperature projections," she said.

A review of the past month shows that the warmer than average forecast from previous months has held true.

"Despite cooler conditions during the latter half of March, the month overall was much warmer than average," said Dennis Todey, South Dakota State Climatologist & SDSU Extension Climate Specialist.

He added that statewide conditions were 4 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit above average ranging from around 4 degrees Fahrenheit above average in the southwest to 8-10 degrees above average Fahrenheit in the far northeast. "The cooler conditions during the latter half of the month were beneficial in slowing early green-up and dormancy break of various perennials," Edwards explained.

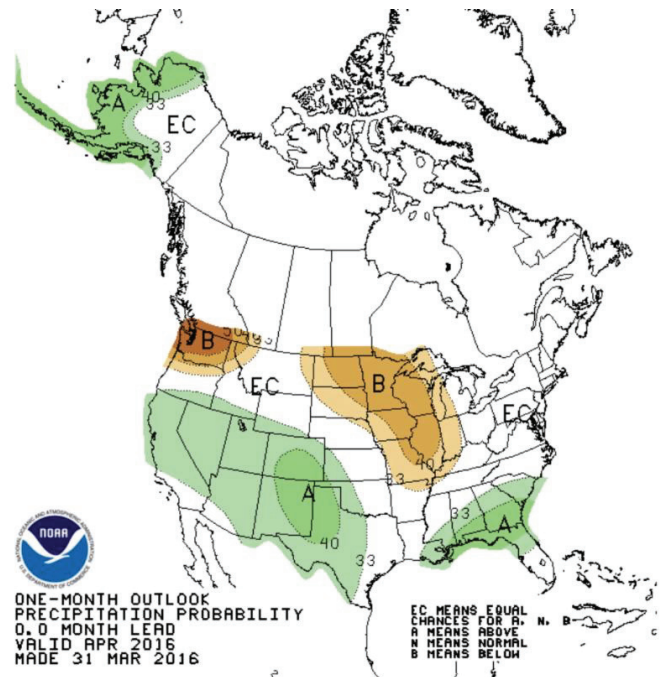
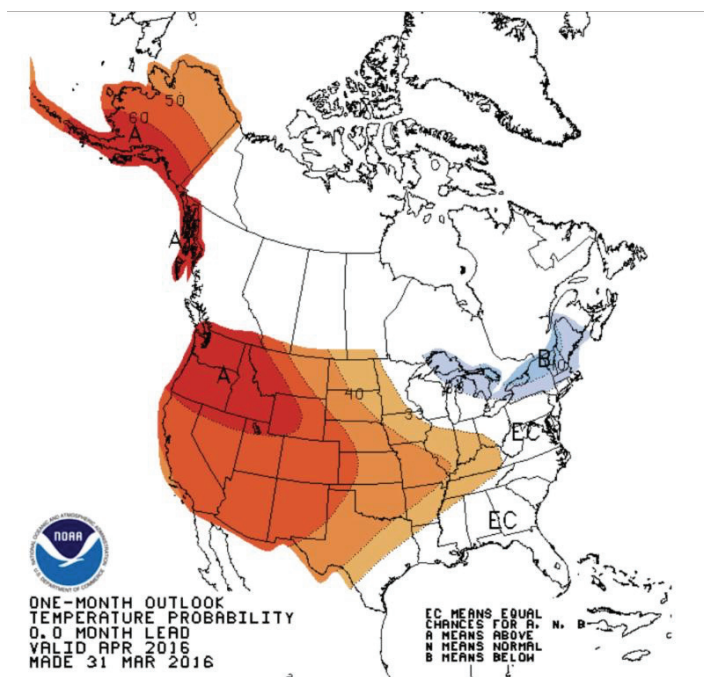
Had we experienced very warm weather throughout the month, Edwards said it could have put wheat and horticultural crops at some frost risk because the state is still ahead of average for its historical latest freeze dates.

Precipitation outlook

For April, the precipitation outlook across the region has shifted from equal chances of wetter or drier conditions, to leaning towards drier than average. All but the southwest corner of South Dakota is projected to have drier than average conditions.

"The impacts of this could be mixed, as fieldwork, spring planting, as well as recreational activities, are typically in full swing in April," Edwards said. "Warm and dry conditions could bode well for those who desire to work and play outdoors."

Edwards added that during the month of April, we usually depend on our climatological rainfall to ramp up and bring moisture to yards, gardens and crops.



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 5 of 35

Over the last couple of months, the U.S. Drought Monitor has gradually increased the area of Abnormally Dry (D0) in South Dakota based on that dryness.

"A dry April could bring more awareness and concern for drought development, particularly in the northern and northeastern counties," Edwards said.

Looking back on the month of March, precipitation was variable. "The southeast and southwest were generally above average with the rest of the state below average. A few locations in the far northeast ranked in the top 10 driest for March," Edwards said. "A number of weather stations throughout the state were in the top 20 wettest on record."

Edwards said the wet conditions in the southeast are likely to slow planting somewhat, as preparations for the start of corn planting approaches. Areas across the north have noted somewhat dry soils. "The dryness will be helpful initially in getting planted, but additional precipitation will be needed soon to help crop progress," Edwards said.

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.

golden
living

We now accept

Avera Health Plans

for out patient therapy.

**1106 N 2nd St., Groton
605/397-2365**

Handiman looking for work

I can do almost anything from building whatever you need, repairing machinery, welding, flooring, installing windows and doors. If you're looking for work to be done around the home or farm, I'm your guy. Call me at 605/228-4172.

The South Dakota Wetland Exchange

BROOKINGS, S.D. - South Dakota's first agricultural wetland mitigation bank may soon be open for business through the support of a number of South Dakota farm groups.

The wetland mitigation bank program is designed to provide agricultural producers with an affordable option to meet their conservation compliance responsibilities by providing a platform where wetland credits can be bought and sold with the assistance of a dedicated third party.

Designed by S.D. Farm Bureau through the use of a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG), the framework for the banking program is currently under review by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"The NRCS Wetland Mitigation Banking Program was authorized under the 2014 Agriculture Act (Farm Bill)," explained David Kringen, SDSU Extension Water Resources Field Specialist.

Kringen went on to explain that this Wetland Mitigation Banking Program is intended for the express use of agricultural producers needing to comply with wetland conservation compliance provisions that were originally established under the 1985 Farm Bill. In 1985, in order to remain eligible for most USDA programs, producers had to certify that: 1) they had not planted or produced an ag commodity on a converted wetland, and 2) they had not manipulated a wetland to make ag production possible (i.e. removing trees and stumps).

Options for wetland conservation compliance included: 1) avoid the wetland, 2) minimize any potential impact to the wetland, or 3) mitigate the wetland through on or offsite restoration, enhancement, or creation.

If a producer wanted to mitigate, it was often left up to them to locate and restore/create a wetland of similar "function and value", or made to compete for prohibitively expensive wetland credits with developers, the Department of Transportation, etc.

With the help of the Wetland Mitigation Banking Program, funds will be made available to offset the costs incurred by third parties in establishing a wetland mitigation bank, or modifying an existing bank to meet NRCS requirements.



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 7 of 35

These funds - up to \$1 million per award - are made available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to states or regions with a high wetland conservation compliance workload.

In South Dakota, the third party responsible for the first grant application of its kind will be the S.D. Farm Bureau in partnership with Dakota Wetland Partners (DWP).

"This last entity, a private LLC, will provide the technical expertise for the day-to-day operations of the mitigation bank," Kringen said. "Other supporting organizations include the SD Soybean Association and the SD Corn Growers Association."

The Mitigation Process

The key tenet of the NRCS Wetland Mitigation Banking Program is to target agricultural wetlands by focusing on temporary and seasonal, isolated, degraded, cropped wetlands that typically get driven over, tilled, and sprayed each year.

Providing that the bank framework is approved and the grant is awarded, the first step for producers interested in mitigation would be to contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to request a certified wetland determination.

NRCS personnel will provide a wetland determination which identifies the location of the wetlands on the producer's land and the scope of the required protection in order to maintain USDA program eligibility.

Once a determination has been made, and at the producer's invitation, DWP personnel will then visit with the producer to determine the number of credits to be mitigated (1 credit = 1 acre). It will also provide a list of wetland units for sale within the same regional geographic area, or sub-basin (Figure 1). Mitigation outside of a sub-basin where the wetland is located is not allowed.

Selling Wetland Credits

Landowners interested in selling wetland credits should contact DWP to determine: 1) the number of converted wetlands that the landowner is willing to reestablish, or 2) locations to create a new wetland.

Prior converted wetland areas need to exhibit some moderate to serious need for habitat improvement. Payment will be given in exchange for: 1) allowing restoration of the wetlands, and 2) long-term protection of those wetlands. All restoration costs are to be paid by the Exchange, and long-term management costs are to be covered by the grant managed by the Farm Bureau. A minimum 50 foot average buffer may also be required to protect the integrity of the restored/created wetland.

Determining the value of wetland credits takes place between buyer and seller. The price will be determined by supply and demand in an open market system. A seller may set a price, but if too high, buyers have the opportunity to look elsewhere. A percentage of the selling price will go towards both DWP and the SD Farm Bureau for restoration and administration. A deed restriction will stay in effect on the restored/created wetland as long as the mitigated wetland remains mitigated.

For more information, contact the South Dakota Wetland Exchange at sdwetlandprogram@gmail.com or (605) 359-5108.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 8 of 35

Today in Weather History

April 6, 1959: Dust storms impacted much of the state of South Dakota beginning on the 6th and on into the 7th. The preceding drought period had left a little moisture in the soil, so the fall-plowed fields in exposed locations eroded seriously. Strong winds on the 6th and 7th lifted the loose soil, creating areas of blowing dust. In the localities, visibility was less than a quarter mile for short periods. Some observers stated that it was the worst dust event since the 1930s.

April 6, 2006: Severe thunderstorms the morning of the 6th produced large hail up to 1.75 inches in diameter near Miller in Hand County. Later on, heavy rains of 3 to 6 inches fell from around midday through the afternoon hours causing flash flooding across parts of Spink, Clark, and Day counties. Many county and township roads were flooded with several of the roads damaged or completely washed out. Areas around Frankfort, Doland, Turton, Conde, Crandall, Raymond, Butler and Bristol were most affected. Many roads were closed. Also, several basements were flooded and sewers were backed up.








April 6, 2008: An area of low pressure moving across South Dakota spread heavy snow of 6 to 15 inches across much of central, north central, and northeast South Dakota. Also, strong winds gusting to 25 to 40 mph caused some blowing and drifting snow. Many activities were cancelled and roads became treacherous. Many vehicles went into the ditch and several accidents also occurred. Snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Mission Ridge, Isabel, Mellette, and Britton, 7 inches at Faulkton, Andover, Columbia, Timber Lake, and Eureka, 8 inches at Bath, Selby, Mobridge, and Leola, 9 inches at Hosmer, 10 inches at Ipswich, 11 inches at Mound City, and 6 miles east of Hayes. Locations with a foot or more of snow included 12 inches at Roscoe and Elm Lake, 13 inches at Eagle Butte, Onaka, and 23 miles north of Highmore, and 15 inches at Bowdle.

1973: On this date through the 8th, a major spring snowstorm dumped 11.6 inches of snow across Denver, Colorado. Most of the heavy wet snow of 10.1 inches fell on the 7th when temperatures remained in the 20s. The low temperature of 5 degrees on the 8th was a new record low for the date and the lowest for so late in the season.

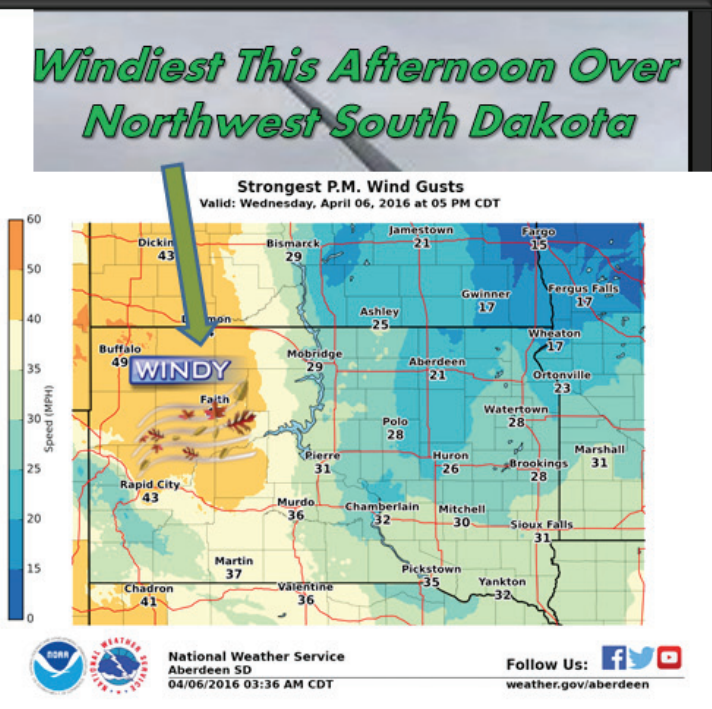
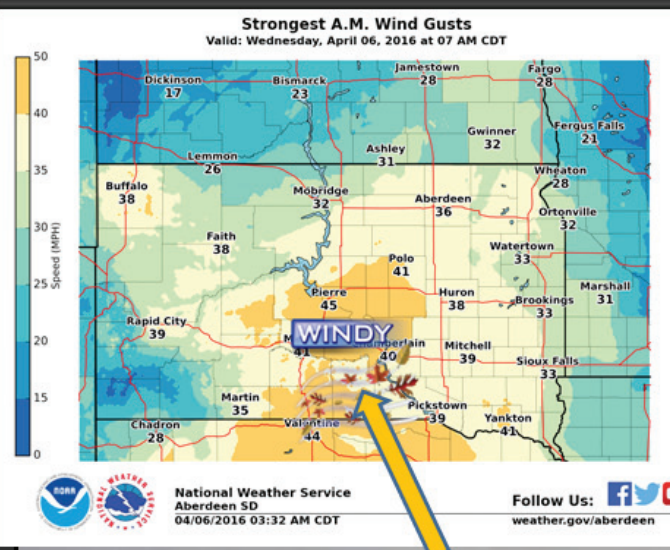
2007: In Cleveland, Ohio on the 6th to the 9th: The opening-season series between the Indians and Minnesota Twins is wiped out by a snowstorm and a cold snap. The Indians lead 4-0 when their home opener Friday on the 6th was called off by umpires because of heavy snow. The grounds crew who tried to make the field playable with backpack blowers and brooms spent more time on the field than the players during nearly three hours of stoppages. About a foot of snow remained on the field Monday afternoon the 9th.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 9 of 35

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Slight Chance Rain and Breezy then Partly Sunny	Chance Rain and Breezy	Decreasing Clouds and Breezy	Chance Rain	Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Blustery then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 65 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 53 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 44 °F

When Will The Wind Ever Subside?



Winiest This Morning Over South Central South Dakota

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen | National Weather Service Aberdeen | @NWSAberdeen | Updated: 4/6/2016 3:46 AM Central

Published on: 04/06/2016 at 4:00AM

The most the winds will subside to today is "breezy" northwest winds of 15 to 25MPH with some occasional higher gusts. To start the day, the strongest winds and wind gusts will be felt across portions of central and south central South Dakota. Those wind speeds slowly back down through the late morning and early afternoon hours. However, northwest wind speeds and gusts increase notably across northwest South Dakota and portions of central and north central South Dakota throughout the afternoon hours.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 10 of 35

Yesterday's Weather

High: 64.2 at 6:08 PM

Low: 36.7 at 1:11 AM

High Gust: 43 at 9:50 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 85° in 1991

Record Low: 6 in 2007

Average High: 52°F

Average Low: 28°F

Average Precip in April.: 0.27

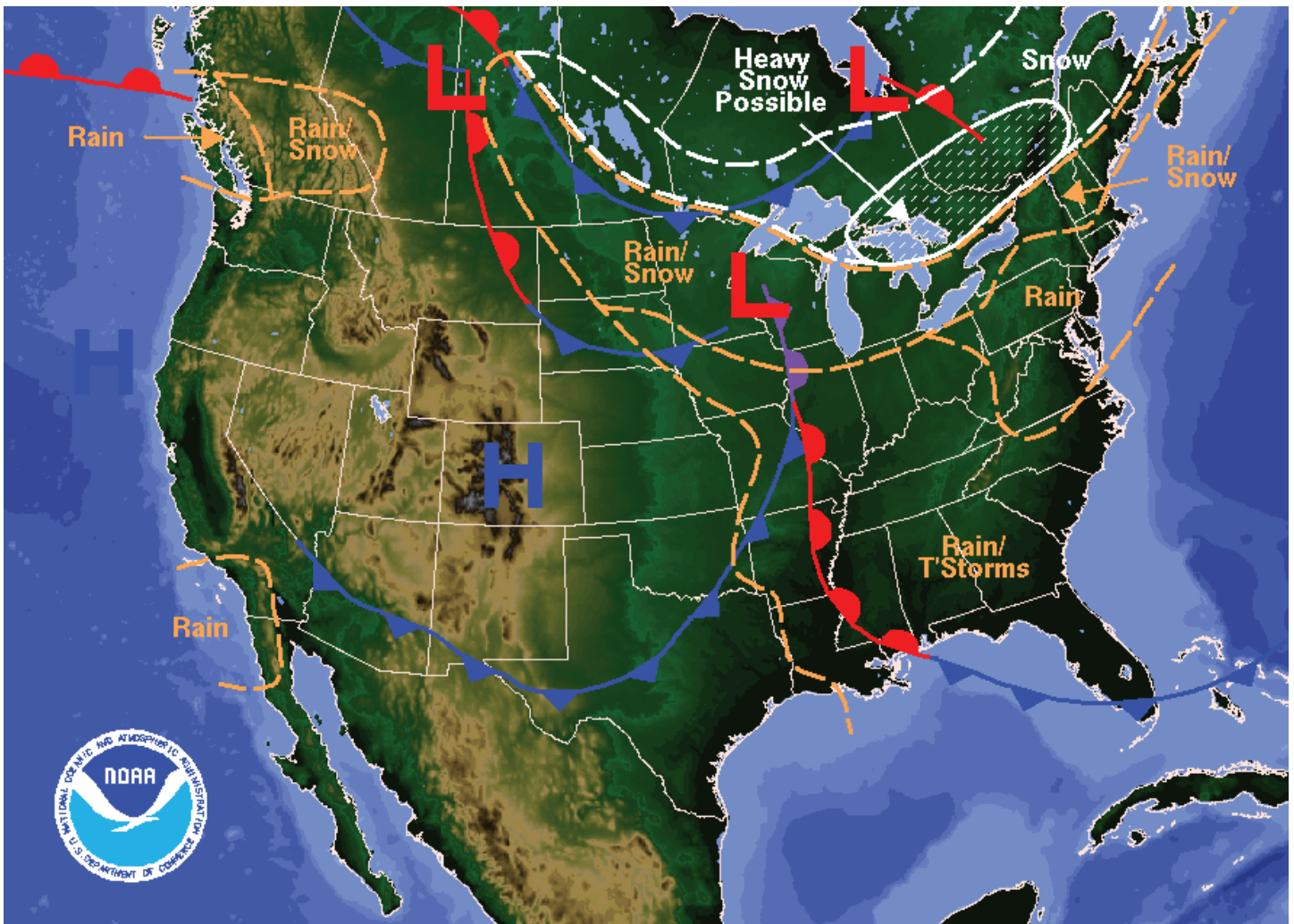
Precip to date in April.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 2.45

Precip Year to Date: 0.95

Sunset Tonight: 8:08 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:01 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Apr 06, 2016, issued 3:07 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 11 of 35



WHOSE SIDE IS GOD ON?

Heavyweight champion Joe Louis was once asked to help raise money for the Navy Relief Society. In preparing him for his speech he was advised to begin by saying, "My fellow Americans, God is on our side."

But he was nervous and as he was walking up the steps to the stage, he stumbled and lost his concentration. When he reached the microphone he began his remarks by saying, "My fellow Americans, we are on God's side."

In the book of Exodus we have an interesting story of Aaron allowing the children of Israel to get completely out of control. Even their enemies were amused at their unruly behavior. When Moses saw this, he shouted to the people, "All of you who are on the Lord's side, come here and join me. And all the Levites gathered around him." Moses then sent them into battle and after they were victorious he said to them, "Today you have earned a blessing."

The Levites did not earn a blessing because the Lord was on their side, but because they were on the Lord's side. Often as Americans we expect God to bless us because we assume that He is on our side. God does not work that way. We must be on His side.

Prayer: Father, may we take seriously the fact that we as a nation must repent of our sins and return to Your ways to be blest! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Exodus 32:25-26, 29 So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the Lord, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him.

County commissioners reject quarry expansion in Black Hills

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Pennington County commissioners have rejected a proposed expansion of a limestone quarry that's on the main tourist route to Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Iowa-based concrete supplier Croell Redi-Mix Inc. sought a construction permit from the county to expand the Perli Quarry southwest of Rapid City, in South Dakota's Black Hills.

The request was opposed by the Rapid City Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Black Hills and Badlands Tourism Association and some nearby homeowners.

Commissioners on Tuesday rejected an earlier county planning commission decision to approve a permit, saying an industrial site isn't compatible with an area that's zoned for agricultural use.

Croell Redi-Mix attorney Tom Brady says the company is weighing its options. He says the company believes it has a lawful right to mine the land.

Western South Dakota wildfire now 60 percent contained

PRINGLE, S.D. (AP) — Crews have made progress fighting a wildfire in the Black Hills National Forest area of western South Dakota, despite gusty conditions.

The Great Plains Fire Information office says the Cold Fire that was first reported Saturday afternoon east of Pringle is now 60 percent contained.

The fire has burned about 3 square miles in the Black Hills National Forest, Wind Cave National Park and on private land.

No structure damage or injuries have been reported, and no evacuations have been ordered. The cause of the fire isn't yet known.

Details of state legislation seeking religious protections

The Associated Press

Lawmakers in numerous states have advanced measures this year that would strengthen religious protections for individuals, organizations or some businesses that decline to provide services to same-sex couple based on their religious beliefs.

While some are narrowly tailored to protect clergy, others are written more broadly, potentially applying to an array of businesses. Some bills already have been sent to governors while others are pending in the legislature. A few already have failed to pass before legislative sessions ended.

Here's a look at some of the bills that have advanced in state legislatures over the past year:

ARKANSAS

The Republican-led Legislature passed a bill last year preventing government entities from substantially burdening the religious exercise of individuals, associations or corporations, unless by the least restrictive means to further a compelling governmental interest (House Bill 1228). After businesses raised concerns, lawmakers pulled back the bill and passed a new one that eventually was signed by Gov. Asa Hutchison. The revised version more closely mirrors the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, without specifically applying it to businesses and associations (Senate Bill 975).

FLORIDA

Republican Gov. Rick Scott signed a law stating that clergy, churches, religious schools and other religious organizations cannot be required to marry people or allow their facilities to be used for marriage celebrations that violate "a sincerely held religious belief." The law will take effect July 1 (House Bill 43).

GEORGIA

Republican Gov. Nathan Deal announced last week that he will veto a bill barring government penalties against religious schools and organizations that decline to employ, provide services to or allow the use of their facilities by people because of a "sincerely held religious belief." The measure also would have

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 13 of 35

protected clergy who decline to preform same-sex marriages. And it would have enacted a state version of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which says government "shall not substantially burden a person's exercise of religion" unless by the least restrictive means for a compelling government interest (House Bill 757).

INDIANA

Republican Gov. Mike Pence signed a bill last year barring government entities from substantially burdening the religious exercise of individuals, organizations and businesses, unless by the least restrictive means to further a compelling government interest (Senate Bill 101). After businesses raised concerns, Pence signed an amended version stating that the law cannot be used to deny services, public accommodations, employment or housing based on race, religion, age, sexual orientation or gender identity (Senate Bill 50).

KANSAS

Republican Gov. Sam Brownback signed a bill that prevents colleges and universities from denying religious student associations the same funding or benefits available to other groups because of requirements that its members follow the association's religious beliefs, standards or conduct. The law will take effect July 1 (Senate Bill 175).

KENTUCKY

The Republican-led Senate passed a measure that would expand the state Religious Freedom Restoration Act by barring penalties against those who decline to provide "customized, artistic, expressive, creative, ministerial or spiritual goods or services" to people that would infringe on their "right of conscience" or religious freedoms. The measure also applies to people who provide judgments, attestations and commissions. The bill is pending in the Democratic-led House, where House Speaker Greg Stumbo has questioned its constitutionality (Senate Bill 180).

MISSISSIPPI

Republican Gov. Phil Bryant signed a law Tuesday asserting a "broad protection of free exercise of religious beliefs." The measure will prohibit government from taking "any discriminatory action" against religious organizations that decline to host marriages, employ people or facilitate adoption or foster care based on a religious belief that marriage should be between one man and one woman, sex outside marriage is wrong or that sexual identity is determined by a person's anatomy at birth.

Similar protections will cover counselors and at least 13 other categories of wedding-related services, including photographers, disc-jockeys, florists, cake-makers, jewelers and limousine drivers. The bill will allow judges and marriage-license clerks to recuse themselves from same-sex marriages. It also will prohibit government penalties against those who set sex-specific standards for dress codes and the use of restrooms. The law will take effect July 1 (House Bill 1523).

MISSOURI

After ending a 37-hour Democratic filibuster, the Republican-led Senate passed a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would bar government penalties against individuals and business such as florists or photographers who cite "a sincere religious belief" while declining to provide "services of expressional or artistic creation" for same-sex weddings and receptions.

The protections also would apply to clergy and religious organizations that decline to make their facilities available for same-sex weddings. If also passed by the Republican-led House, the proposal would go before voters in either the August primary or November general election (Senate Joint Resolution 39).

NEBRASKA

A legislative committee advanced a bill allowing adoption and foster care agencies to decline to facilitate child placements based on "sincerely held religious beliefs." But the bill's sponsor decided last week not to press forward with the bill, which lacked enough support to overcome a potential filibuster (Legislative Bill 975).

OKLAHOMA

Republican Gov. Mary Fallin signed a bill last May stating that clergy and other religious officials cannot be required to perform marriages or provide marriage counseling, courses or workshops that violate their conscience or religious beliefs (House Bill 1007).

SOUTH DAKOTA

The Republican-led House passed legislation barring government from taking “discriminatory action” against people, organizations or businesses based on their “sincerely held religious belief” that marriage should be between one man and one women, sex outside marriage is wrong or that sexual identity is determined by a person’s biological sex at birth. The bill was tabled in a Senate committee and did not pass before the legislative session ended (House Bill 1107).

TENNESSEE

The Republican-led Senate has passed legislation exempting counselors and therapists from providing services to clients related to behaviors that conflict with “a sincerely held religious belief,” as long as they refer the clients to someone else. The bill is pending in the Republican-led House (Senate Bill 1556).

TEXAS

Just two weeks before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states must allow gay marriage, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott signed a law last June stating that clergy and religious organizations cannot be required to marry people or allow their facilities to be used for wedding celebrations that violate a “sincerely held religious belief” (Senate Bill 2065).

VIRGINIA

Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe vetoed a Republican-passed bill stating that clergy and religious organizations cannot be penalized for declining to participate in same-sex marriages (Senate Bill 41). The House also passed a bill that would bar the government from taking any “discriminatory action” against people, organizations or businesses based on their “sincerely held religious belief” that marriage should be between one man and one women, sex outside marriage is wrong or that sexual identity is determined by a person’s biological sex at birth. That bill was altered by the Senate and ultimately failed to pass before the legislative session ended (House Bill 773).

WEST VIRGINIA

The Republican-led House passed a bill modeled after the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, stating that government “shall not substantially burden a person’s exercise of religion” unless by the least restrictive means for a compelling government interest. The bill was amended in the Republican-led Senate to state that it would not apply to any anti-discrimination ordinances or child vaccination requirements. Senators then defeated the revised bill (House Bill 4012).

Battle between religious and gay rights splits GOP states

DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Republican lawmakers upset about the Supreme Court decision legalizing gay marriage have advanced measures in about a dozen states this year that could strengthen protections for those who refuse on religious grounds to provide services to same-sex couples.

The bills could benefit court clerks, photographers, florists, bakers, wedding-hall operators and others who say gay matrimony goes against their beliefs.

For a party already being torn apart by the presidential contest, the state legislative efforts have exposed deep rifts between the GOP’s social conservatives and its pro-business wing. Business leaders worry that such measures will allow discrimination and scare away companies and major events.

So far, only a few proposals have become law. Those include narrowly tailored protections shielding Florida clergy from having to perform same-sex weddings and college religious organizations in Kansas from losing aid.

A far more sweeping one was signed into law Tuesday by Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant, despite objections from some major corporations. It creates a religious shield from government penalties for an array of people and organizations, including marriage-license clerks, adoption agencies, counselors and more than a dozen categories of businesses that provide wedding-related services. It applies not only to those with religious beliefs about gay marriage, but also to those who believe that sex outside marriage is wrong and that sexual identity is determined at birth.

Other broadly written proposals have failed, stalled or are still working their way through legislatures.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 15 of 35

Some examples:

— Republican Gov. Nathan Deal of Georgia last week vetoed a religious protection bill passed by the GOP-led House, siding with top business executives who threatened boycotts and dire economic consequences.

— A GOP-passed bill shielding clergy and religious groups from participating in gay marriages was vetoed last week by Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat, who cited opposition from corporate leaders.

— In Tennessee, a coalition that includes the American Counseling Association launched an online ad campaign against the Republican House speaker over a bill that would let counselors turn away patients based on religious beliefs. The ad warns: "Businesses won't come to a state that discriminates."

— In Missouri, scores of activists rallied at the Capitol to protest a proposed constitutional amendment that would prohibit penalties against those who decline on religious grounds to provide wedding-related services to same-sex couples. The state Chamber of Commerce and Industry also came out against it.

"This is a unique issue because two of the primary bases of the Republican Party are both the business interest and the social conservative. It's rare, but occasionally those interests are not aligned," said Missouri state Rep. Elijah Haahr, chairman of the committee considering the measure.

In several states, major businesses and sports organizations — including Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, Walt Disney Co., the NFL and the NCAA — have joined lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists in raising concerns that such measures could legalize discrimination.

Some religious leaders have countered that it is the faithful who face discrimination for living according to their beliefs. They cite government fines and lawsuits against florists, bakers and photographers who declined to do work for same-sex weddings.

"Good and commonsense bills that simply underscore or protect freedoms that we've had since the founding of our country are being attacked by large corporations seeking to thwart the democratic process," said Kellie Fiedorek, an attorney for Alliance Defending Freedom, a Scottsdale, Arizona-based group that has backed religious-objection legislation and led court fights in various states.

More than 60 state legislative measures allowing for religious refusals at the expense of LGBT rights have been introduced, according to the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign.

"We're seeing definitely a greater number this year," including many with consequences that would be far-reaching, said Sara Warbelow, the campaign's legal director.

The battle came to the national forefront last spring when Indiana and Arkansas passed religious protection measures, then revised them after a backlash from businesses. Social conservatives intensified their push after the Supreme Court ruled in June that gay marriage is legal everywhere in the U.S.

Supporters say the measures are necessary to protect people such as Robert and Cynthia Gifford, who were fined \$13,000 for violating New York's anti-discrimination law after they declined to host a lesbian wedding at their Liberty Ridge Farm north of Albany in 2013.

The Giffords stopped hosting weddings altogether. But after recently losing an appeal, Cynthia Gifford said they plan to resume their wedding business. They will allow gay couples to get married on their property without personally participating in the ceremonies.

"It would have been nice to be protected by the law," she said. "This has been financially tragic for our family."

Opponents of religious protection measures argue they could harm states financially by discouraging major businesses from hosting events or expanding operations in places seen as hostile toward gay employees or customers.

The economic effect of such measures is open to debate.

A survey by the tourism promotion group Visit Indy found that Indiana's new law played a role in 12 conventions going elsewhere, costing Indianapolis as much as \$60 million in economic benefits. But that's just a fraction of the 1,100 conventions bid on by the city.

Indianapolis still reaped a record \$4.5 billion in economic benefits from tourism in 2015. It also booked more future convention business than any year before, thanks to a surge from Indiana-based organizations that offset a decline from out-of-state businesses, said Visit Indy Vice President Chris Gahl.

While some Republican lawmakers this year have pointed to Indiana as a reason for caution, others have

brushed aside threats of boycotts. In Georgia, the governor's veto rankled many religious conservatives. "This is why people are angry with the politicians of our nation," said Tanya Ditty, Georgia director of Concerned Women for America, a Christian group. "They are not elected to represent Hollywood values, nor Wall Street values. They're elected to represent the voters of Georgia, and that does not preclude people of faith."

State agency launches new virtual labor market data system

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Department of Labor and Regulation says users of its new virtual labor market data system can view information including occupational wage estimates and labor force and unemployment rates.

The agency said Tuesday that the new tool offers better functionality than the previous application. Browsers can also access statistics on employment, earnings by industry and population and the Consumer Price Index. New features include the ability to view or export maps and graphs of selected data. Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman says the new online resource is a great addition to the agency's services meant to help career planners, businesses and people looking for jobs. Hultman says the tool is technologically advanced but was designed to be intuitive to use.

Federal official pledges improved care at tribal hospitals

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal official acknowledged Tuesday that the level of care is "unacceptable" at some government-run hospitals serving Native American patients and assured tribal leaders her agency would work to enact swift and long-lasting reforms.

Mary Smith, principal deputy director of the Indian Health Service, spoke with Great Plains tribal leaders in Sioux Falls during the first in a series of meetings to discuss the hospitals' quality of care, including recent findings of woefully inadequate service at some of the facilities.

IHS provides free health care to enrolled members of Native American tribes as part of U.S. treaty obligations. In the Great Plains region, the agency provides services to about 130,000 people through seven hospitals, 15 health centers and several smaller satellite clinics.

"We are committed to fixing these issues not simply in the short-term but so that the changes are sustainable over time," said Smith, who has led the agency for about a month. "I am committed, along with the rest of the team, to creating a culture of quality, accountability and leadership. You have my assurance that is far from business as usual at IHS."

Most of the meeting Tuesday was focused on the need for significant improvements at two facilities in South Dakota and another in Nebraska where federal inspectors last year found serious deficiencies, some so concerning that the lives of patients were threatened.

In October, inspectors visiting the hospital on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwest South Dakota cited safety deficiencies including unsecured drugs and medical records and doctors without proper credentials.

An inspection of the hospital on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in November found conditions so alarming the emergency room was shut down, forcing patients to be diverted to facilities about 50 miles away.

And months earlier, an inspection report of the hospital in Winnebago, Nebraska, cited the case of a patient who died at a relative's house two days after he told hospital staffers about extreme back pain and was sent home. A hospital staff member then left him a voicemail telling him his kidneys were failing, but the staffer did not attempt to make additional contact.

Members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe expressed their frustration Tuesday over the closure of their hospital's emergency department for four months.

"We have lost six patients in the back of those ambulances since this happened," said Evelyn Espinoza, a registered nurse and health director of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. "... I cannot say with certainty that all six patients would still be alive today if Rosebud ER was opened, but I can say with absolute certainty that

the Rosebud ER would have been the nearest ER for our relatives to be treated at.”

Smith said the agency is currently accepting bids for a contract to manage the emergency rooms in Pine Ridge, Rosebud and Winnebago. She added the bidding soon will open for a contract to administer region-wide telemedicine services, which allow patients to access doctors remotely via video and other technology. The services are expected to focus on behavioral health and emergency medicine.

She also encouraged members of the audience, which included tribal members and health care workers, to work with the agency to fix problems.

“I’m treating every single day as urgent, but I need your help,” said Smith, who will visit some of the hospitals later this week.

Senators press for security measures after Brussels attacks

JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats said Tuesday they will push proposals to boost security at airports, train stations and other transportation hubs in response to attacks by the Islamic State in Brussels and elsewhere.

The initiatives outlined by Democratic senators would double from 30 to 60 the number of government “viper teams” that stop and search suspicious passengers in public areas before screening, often using bomb-sniffing dogs. They also want more federal grants to train law enforcement officers in how to prepare for and respond to shootings at vulnerable targets such as transportation hubs and other “soft targets.”

“What happened in Europe must serve as a wakeup call for the United States,” said Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, the No. 2 Democratic leader.

Democrats plan to add the ideas to an aviation policy bill under consideration in the Senate, along with a bipartisan measure to tighten the screening of workers who have access to airport restricted areas.

The screening bill, passed by the Senate commerce committee in December, would give the Transportation Security Administration ready access to additional terrorism-related databases maintained by the intelligence community when vetting airport workers. It also would let TSA conduct real-time, continuous criminal records checks through the FBI and expand the list of criminal convictions that would make a potential airport worker ineligible for security clearance.

Another bill passed by the House and the commerce committee last year with bipartisan support seeks to expand the number of passengers enrolled in TSA’s expedited clearance programs by giving the agency the ability to vet more people. It also is expected to be offered for inclusion in the aviation bill.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, who joined Democrats at the news conference, endorsed the proposals. He said the U.S. has no intelligence to indicate violent extremists are plotting a Brussels-style attack in the U.S., but it is important to remain vigilant against “self-radicalized lone actors” at public places and events.

On March 22, 35 people — including three suicide bombers — were killed and 300 injured in bombings at a Brussels airport and subway station. In October, a charter flight operated by a Russian airline, Metrojet, exploded after departure from Sharm el-Sheikh International Airport in Egypt, killing all 224 people aboard. U.S. authorities suspect the cause was a bomb.

The aviation bill would extend the Federal Aviation Administration’s authority to operate, due to expire July 15, through Oct. 1, 2017. It also contains provisions that lawmakers have been working on for more than four years to address aviation issues, including greater access for drones to the national airspace and protections for airline passengers chafing at fees for basic services such as checked bags and ticket changes.

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., chairman of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, said Tuesday that he would prefer to deal separately with the security bills that have already been approved by the committee. The proposals have wide support and are expected to easily pass the Senate. However, he didn’t say he’d oppose their inclusion in the aviation bill.

“I will pursue every option to enact these improvements and will vigorously oppose any effort to water down the security enhancements that passed the commerce committee,” he said.

TransCanada says spill forces shut down of Keystone pipeline

FREEMAN, S.D. (AP) — The Keystone pipeline will likely remain shut down for the rest of the week while officials investigate an apparent oil spill in southeastern South Dakota.

Oil covered a 300-square-foot area in a farm field ditch 4 miles from a Freeman-area pump station, about 40 miles southwest of Sioux Falls. It was discovered Saturday. TransCanada hasn't released the amount of oil.

About 100 workers are investigating where the oil came from and removing the contaminated soil. No pipeline damage had been found as of midmorning Tuesday, company spokesman Mark Cooper said.

TransCanada also said it had found no significant environmental harm. State officials were monitoring the cleanup, and so far TransCanada has "taken the necessary steps," said Brian Walsh, an environmental scientist with the South Dakota Department of Natural Resources.

The pipeline runs from Alberta, Canada, to refineries in Illinois and Cushing, Oklahoma, passing through the eastern Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. It's part of a pipeline system that also would have included the Keystone XL pipeline had President Barack Obama not rejected that project last November.

The Keystone pipeline can handle 550,000 barrels, or about 23 million gallons, daily. Cooper didn't immediately know the status of the oil that normally would be flowing through the pipeline.

The shutdown will have a short-term impact in which less-heavy Canadian crude will be getting to the market, according to Sandy Fielden, director of energy analytics for RBN Energy LLC. While it might have a temporary impact on some market prices, drivers are unlikely to see an impact at the pump.

"It causes a tightness in the system, but the system is already oversupplied," he said. "We're sending that crude to Cushing, which has got record inventories."

The pipeline has never had a leak since it began operating in 2010, according to Cooper, though there have been several leaks at pumping stations.

"It's potentially the first time we've seen anything on the pipeline itself," he said.

The Dakota Rural Action conservation group issued a statement saying it was "more than a little concerning" that TransCanada didn't inform the public until Monday. Cooper said the company notified landowners and regulators immediately on Saturday, and waited until Monday to notify the public so it had more information available.

USDA: Rainfall helps topsoil, subsoil moisture levels

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says most of South Dakota received some precipitation last week, helping topsoil and subsoil moisture levels.

The Agricultural Statistics Service says the heaviest amounts of precipitation fell in the north central and southeast parts of the state.

Topsoil moisture supplies are rated 4 percent very short, 20 percent short, 71 percent adequate and 5 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture supplies are rated 5 percent very short, 24 percent short, 69 percent adequate and percent 2 surplus. The precipitation and above average temperatures provided 3.3 days suitable for fieldwork.

The winter wheat crop is rated 1 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 58 percent good and 8 percent excellent. Spring wheat planted is at 8 percent, near last year's 12 percent and the five-year average of 10 percent.

Bill aims to speed up rape kit testing in South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A bill passed by South Dakota lawmakers aims to reduce the time it takes laboratories to test rape kits.

With some sexual assault victims waiting as long as half a year for their kits to be analyzed, lawmakers sought to address those long waits in their 2016 legislative session.

Last week, Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed into law the bill, which mandates that the complete analysis of rape kits must be done within 90 days after they're received by laboratories.

"Up until now, the system has been backlogged, and I think the wrong message has been sent to vic-

times," said Republican state Rep. Lynne DiSanto of Rapid City, who sponsored a similar bill in the recently concluded legislative session.

DiSanto told the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/1N6qYMQ>) that the law lets victims know that the state cares about them and wants to help them in a timely manner so they can find closure in their difficult situation.

Sexual assault victims wait an average of six months to get the results from their rape kit test, DiSanto said, citing information gathered by South Dakota's Legislative Research Council.

Rape kits are used to collect and preserve physical evidence in a sexual assault investigation, such as hair, semen and clothing fibers, which can be used to identify and prosecute the attacker.

The End the Backlog program run by the Joyful Heart Foundation said testing backlogs are a problem nationwide, and that a dozen states have recently passed laws addressing the issue. Isle Knecht, director of policy and advocacy at the Joyful Heart Foundation, said South Dakota also needs to work on tracking the status of kits and notifying victims of their rape kit results.

DiSanto said the new law is just the first step.

"When you've been a victim of a crime like this," she said, "it's the government's responsibility to not only pursue justice, but to keep you informed of the process and to help you navigate a difficult legal and judicial system."

Sioux Falls teen acquitted of murder now accused of assault

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls teenager acquitted of murder earlier this year now faces a domestic violence charge.

Eighteen-year-old Conner Hanson is accused of assaulting his girlfriend early Monday. He faces a simple assault charge. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney.

A jury in January found Hanson not guilty in the January 2015 killing of 18-year-old Anthony Gabriel, who authorities say was shot and killed after a car chase. Hanson was 17 at the time but was tried as an adult. He argued self-defense.

Rare Sumatran rhinoceros, captured on Borneo, dies

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A rare Sumatran rhinoceros has died just a month after being captured by Indonesian conservation experts on Borneo, where only a few of the animals survive.

Nyoman Iswarayoga, a spokesman for World Wildlife Fund Indonesia, said Wednesday that the female rhino, named Najaq, had a severe infection from wounds believed to have been inflicted by poaching traps.

Najaq was captured March 12, five months after being identified by forest cameras. Conservation experts have sighted two other Sumatran rhinos on Borneo but believe the population numbers about 15.

Only an estimated 100 Sumatran rhinos remain, mostly in Sumatra, and nine are in captivity. The species was rediscovered in the Indonesian part of Borneo through their trails and footprints in 2013.

The species is threatened with extinction by poaching for its horns, used in traditional Chinese medicine, and destruction of its habitat by farmers, illegal loggers and palm oil plantation companies.

Iswarayoga said an autopsy of the 10-year-old rhino, which died Tuesday, would determine the cause of death.

CEO says Malaysia Airlines has first monthly profit in years

EILEEN NG, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The chief executive of Malaysia Airlines said Wednesday that the carrier recorded a profit in February, its first positive monthly result in years, and is on track to return to the black by 2018.

In an interview with The Associated Press, CEO Christoph Mueller described the airline as a "ship that has many leaks," but said the monthly profit was a sign that things are on the right track. He said revenue

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 20 of 35

has improved and costs are down, underpinned by low jet fuel prices.

Twin disasters in 2014, including the disappearance of Flight 370 en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, hurt the airline's reputation. But Mueller said its main problems were an unsustainable network of routes, high operating costs and archaic information technology systems, among others.

"Our target is to break even by 2018," said Mueller, a turnaround veteran hired a year ago under a \$1.5 billion overhaul that included cutting 6,000 jobs and axing unprofitable routes.

"For a company that lost 2 billion ringgit (\$511 million) just last year, if you are able to break even for a month or so, it means the financial gap between revenue and cost has significantly closed, and that is good news that tells us that we are on the right trajectory," he said.

Even before the disasters, the national carrier was ailing from mismanagement that saddled it with at least \$1.7 billion in losses since 2011.

It reeled further after Flight 370 vanished in March 2014 with 239 people on board and a second Boeing 777 carrying 298 people was shot down over Ukraine a few months later. The company was removed from Malaysia's stock exchange the same year, with the government pumping in 6 billion ringgit (\$1.5 billion) under a radical restructuring.

In December, Malaysia Airlines unveiled an alliance with Emirates that allows it to piggyback on at least 70 of the Gulf carrier's global routes so it can focus on Asia. The only long-haul route it has kept is to London.

Mueller called the alliance a "win-win" situation. He said Malaysia Airlines isn't shrinking, but instead has added many new destinations to its network through the Emirates partnership.

He said the company is focusing on Asia, the strongest market for international air travel, so that it can leave "strong footprints" in the region.

"The ambition of Malaysia Airlines is to grow again when we can afford growth," he said. "If you grow as a loss making airline, you just increase the losses."

Mueller said the airline's fleet currently comprises 15 Airbus A330-300 planes, six superjumbo A380s and 54 Boeing 737-800s. He said four new A350-900 jets will be delivered in 2018, and that the airline will likely phase out its A380s at that time. The A380s are currently used for its London route.

The airline retired its 17 Boeing 777s after the 2014 disasters involving the aircraft. Asked if this was to remove the stigma associated with the tragedies, Mueller said it was because the 777s were the oldest planes in the airline's fleet, averaging 16 1/2 years, and were the least fuel efficient.

Mueller acknowledged that it would be bad for Malaysia Airlines and the industry if Flight 370 remains a mystery.

"A forever missing aircraft is certainly a heavy burden for the industry as a whole," he said.

An ongoing search in the southern Indian Ocean, where aviation experts believe the plane crashed after deviating from its original flight path, has found nothing so far. A wing part was found last year on Reunion Island in the western Indian Ocean. More plane debris was discovered recently in Mozambique and other parts of Africa and is being examined.

In rejuvenating the business, Mueller said the airline's products are "tired" and don't appeal to young travelers. The carrier has embraced changes including introducing a new business class with lie-flat beds, new menus and inflight Wi-Fi. It also plans to refurbish airport lounges.

To save costs, Mueller said he has reduced the number of suppliers from more than 20,000 to about 4,900. The target is to reduce the number to 2,000.

A year after taking over the job, Mueller said it has been hard work cutting through the corporate culture of a state-owned company where red tape was thick and employees had many "entitlements."

He said he is fostering a more open working environment in which hierarchies and bureaucracy are being slowly removed.

Employers are encouraged to communicate more freely with each other and to work as a team, he said. While there is still some unhappiness among staff, he said morale is picking up.

"We have 220 projects. I cannot pick one and say this is the one that will save the airline. We have to repair in a lot of cases," Mueller said. "My biggest problem is that the day has only 24 hours and the week has only seven days."

Janet Jackson delays tour; planning family, ordered to rest

NEW YORK (AP) — Janet Jackson is delaying her “Unbreakable” tour, saying Wednesday she and her husband are planning their family and that she is under doctor’s orders to rest.

The 49-year-old singer announced in a clip on her Twitter account Wednesday morning that there has been a “sudden change” to the second leg of her tour, which started in August.

She didn’t say she was pregnant, only that she “has to rest up; doctor’s orders.” Jackson said she has not forgotten about her fans and would continue the tour as soon as she possibly can.

In the one-minute, 46-second video clip, Jackson smiles and speaks directly to her fans. She asks that they understand that it’s important that she “does this now,” and thanked them for their love and loyalty.

She went on to thank her dancers, her band and her crew. She said couldn’t wait to get started again.

On Dec. 24 of last year, Jackson announced she was postponing her “Unbreakable” tour until the spring to have an unspecified surgical procedure. She had been next scheduled to perform in early January in Denver.

At that time, Jackson’s statement asked for prayers of support and said no further details on her medical condition would be disclosed.

Two weeks later, Jackson announced rescheduled tour dates after she took some time to recover from the surgical procedure. The singer again offered no details on her medical condition, but denied viral rumors that she had cancer.

Jackson said at the time the North American leg of her “Unbreakable” tour would resume May 14 in Las Vegas. Rescheduled shows were also to include dates in Portland, Oregon; Houston; Detroit; Atlanta; Washington; New York; Philadelphia and more. Live Nation had said tickets for previously announced dates would be honored at rescheduled shows.

Jackson began her “Unbreakable” tour last August and it soon made the Top 20 global concert tour listing compiled by Pollstar. The singer’s catalog of hits dates back to the mid-1980s, ranging from “What Have You Done for Me Lately” to “That’s the Way Love Goes” and “All for You.”

How stricter rules for brokers will affect retirement savers

MARCY GORDON, AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — High fees. Conflicts of interest. Inappropriate investments.

The Obama administration is going after a host of perceived rip-offs with the new rules it’s unveiling Wednesday for brokers who recommend investments for retirement savers.

No longer will brokers who sell stocks, bonds, annuities and other products be required just to recommend investments that are “suitable” for a client. They’ll now have to meet a stricter standard that has long applied to registered advisers: They will be considered “fiduciaries” — trustees who must put their clients’ best interests above all.

The new rules, which will be phased in starting a year from now, follow intense lobbying by both consumer advocates and the financial industry. Full compliance will be required by January 2018.

At stake are about \$4.5 trillion in 401(k) retirement accounts, plus \$2 trillion in other defined-contribution plans such as federal employees’ plans and \$7.3 trillion in IRAs, according to the Investment Company Institute.

The administration has said investors will save about \$4 billion annually under the new rules. The industry has countered that investment firms will have to shell out more than that just to comply with the rules. Financial firms also argue that the stricter rules will likely shrink Americans’ investment options and could cause brokers to abandon retirement savers with smaller accounts.

Americans increasingly seek guidance in navigating their options for retirement savings. Many professionals provide advice. But not all are required to disclose potential conflicts of interest.

“This is a huge win for the middle class,” Labor Secretary Thomas Perez said Tuesday in a conference call with reporters. “We are putting in place a fundamental principle of consumer protection.”

Here are some questions and answers:

BROKERS? FINANCIAL ADVISERS? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

It's significant. Brokers buy and sell securities and other financial products on behalf of their clients. They also can provide financial advice, with one key stipulation: They must recommend only investments that are "suitable" for a client based on his or her age, finances and risk tolerance.

So they can't, for example, pitch penny stocks or real estate investment trusts to an 85-year-old woman living on a pension. But brokers can nudge clients toward a mutual fund or variable annuity that pays the broker a higher commission — even without disclosing that conflict of interest to the client.

Registered investment advisers, on the other hand, are "fiduciaries." In that way, they're more like doctors or lawyers — obligated to put their clients' interests even ahead of their own. That means disclosing fees, commissions, potential conflicts and any disciplinary actions they have faced.

Advisers must tell a client if they or their firm receive money from a mutual fund company to promote a product. And they must register with the Securities and Exchange Commission, thereby opening themselves to inspections and supervision.

WHAT DO THE NEW LABOR DEPARTMENT RULES DO?

They put brokers under the stricter requirements when they handle clients' retirement accounts. The Labor Department has grappled with the issue for years. The department withdrew an earlier proposal in 2010 amid an outcry from the financial industry, which warned that it would hurt investors by limiting choices.

The rules update the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, known as ERISA, enacted in 1975. That was a far different time. Traditional company pension plans were still the dominant source of retirement income. Now, traditional pensions are increasingly gone. In their place are 401(k)-type plans, which require workers to set aside pre-tax money but also add a new layer of risk: Employees themselves must decide how to invest their retirement money, and many seek professional advice.

WHAT ARE THE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST?

Consumer, labor and civil rights groups have pushed for the new rules. They say the current system provides a loophole that lets brokers drain money from retirement accounts in fees they receive that can tilt the investment advice they give clients.

Ordinary investors with relatively small balances in their retirement accounts could especially benefit from the changes, according to Barbara Roper, director of investor protection for the Consumer Federation of America. These are the people who are now most likely to get "a sales pitch dressed up as advice" from brokers, Roper says.

AND THE OTHER SIDE?

Wall Street lobbying groups, mutual fund companies, life insurance firms and other industry interests have opposed the rules as proposed last year and pushed the Labor Department to revise them.

They say the stricter requirements could limit many people's access to financial guidance and retirement planning and their choice of investment products. They warn that that would fall especially hard on mid- and low-income employees with smaller retirement balances — say, less than \$50,000 — who could be abandoned by brokers.

The new requirement to act in a client's best interest means, in many cases, that the practice of charging commissions on every trade would be replaced by a set fee for a broker as a proportion of a customer's assets. Some brokers may decide that the smaller fees aren't worth their trouble, opponents say.

Some financial companies and groups may take the government to court over the new rules.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. WHO HAD MOST TO LOSE IN LATEST PRIMARY

Donald Trump emerges from Wisconsin as a damaged Republican front-runner following a crushing loss to rival Ted Cruz.

2. PRESIDENT WARMING UP TO BEING 'CRITICIZER IN CHIEF'

Obama is slowly embracing his role as the anti-Trump, taking on the Republican front-runner in ways that no other Democrat can.

3. BATTLE BETWEEN RELIGIOUS AND GAY RIGHTS SPLITS GOP STATES

The bills that protect those who refuse on religious grounds to provide services to same-sex couples could benefit court clerks, photographers, florists, bakers and others who say gay marriage goes against their beliefs.

4. SCRUTINY ON OFFICIALS WORLDWIDE INCREASES IN OFFSHORE LEAKS

Iceland's prime minister becomes the first major figure brought down by the leak of millions of records on shell companies.

5. WHY PAKISTAN STRUGGLES IN ANTI-TERROR FIGHT

Politicians openly consort with leaders of banned militant groups, and sympathy exists within the security forces and civil administration for perpetrators of crimes committed in the name of religion.

6. LATEST HEALTH CRISIS SHIFTS FUNDING FOCUS

The Obama administration will transfer leftover money from the largely successful fight against Ebola to combat the growing threat of the Zika virus, congressional officials say.

7. RIGHTS GROUP: DRAMATIC INCREASE IN EXECUTIONS IN 2015

Amnesty International reports that there was a 54 percent increase in executions globally last year, with Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia responsible for nearly 90 percent of the killings.

8. WHAT NEW PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY MEANS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Officials buttress their efforts to make life a little more affordable for workers who eke out a living in one of the most expensive cities in the country.

9. ROCKER: 'I'M ALWAYS NERVOUS'

Patrick Carney, drummer for the Grammy Award-winning rock duo The Black Keys, calms himself long enough to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Cleveland Indians' opener.

10. MOVE OVER, WIZARD OF WESTWOOD

UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma passes UCLA's John Wooden with his 11th national title, as the Huskies win their fourth straight national championship, 82-51 over Syracuse.

Ukraine leader defends himself in offshore account leaks

KEN MORITSUGU, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — One day after the prime minister of Iceland resigned, the president of Ukraine defended himself Wednesday in the massive leak of records on offshore accounts that has named political officials, business and celebrities from around the world.

President Petro Poroshenko said at a news conference in Tokyo that his case is significantly different than others in the so-called Panama Papers, including those in Iceland and Russia, where friends of President Vladimir Putin have been named.

An offshore holding company set up for his candy business was necessary to put his assets into a blind trust when he became president in 2014, Poroshenko said.

He was in Japan to meet Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and business leaders.

The leaks have raised suspicion that such offshore entities were set up to avoid taxes, but Poroshenko denied that was the purpose in his case. Rather, he said, it was the only way to put his assets into a blind trust through Rothschild investment bank.

"This is absolutely normal procedure, and I think this is the main difference from the naming of all the

political figures in this Panama list," he said.

Asked why he had failed to fulfill a campaign promise to sell his business if elected, Porshenko said there are no buyers for assets in a country "in a state of war."

He said he was open to an investigation.

"If we have anything to be investigated, I am happy to do that," he said. "But, this is absolutely transparent from the very beginning. No hidden account, no associated management, no nothing."

Life story, movie star father lift Poe in Philippines' race

TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Her life story could have come straight out of a soap opera. As a newborn, Grace Poe was abandoned in a Catholic church and adopted by movie star parents, giving her a powerful narrative and name that have helped catapult her to front-runner in the Philippine presidential race.

A political newcomer, elected to the Senate just three years ago, Poe has promised to cut taxes, fight crime and offer free kindergarten-to-college education for the poor. But it is the popularity of her late father, regarded as the king of Philippine movies, and her humble beginnings that appeal to the masses in this country where presidents have traditionally come from the landed gentry and political elite.

The 47-year-old candidate's campaign speeches are peppered with dialogues from the movies of her late father Fernando Poe Jr., popularly known as FPJ, who often played roles of an underdog battling powerful opponents to champion the poor and oppressed. He too ran for president in 2004 but lost amid allegations he was cheated in an election many viewed as marked by fraud. He died months later, unable to carry out his battles off the screen.

His daughter is pledging to fight real-life poverty and despair — and her father's public image is a huge asset in her campaign.

"I like her because Fernando Poe is my idol," said Eliza Oledan, a laundrywoman with nine children, after hearing Poe at a rally in Manila. "I also like her platform of government, especially that she will make college education free." One of her children had to stop schooling due to lack of money, Oledan said.

Poe's compelling life story nearly cost her her candidacy, however, when opponents claimed that because she was a foundling, it wasn't clear that she was a natural-born Filipino, as the constitution requires. Last month, the Supreme Court declared her qualified to run.

Other detractors have questioned her allegiance because she once renounced her Filipino citizenship to become a naturalized U.S. citizen. Poe later gave up her U.S. passport to accept a government post. Her husband and children are American citizens.

If elected president on May 9, Poe tells voters she will offer a free lunch program for all public day care and elementary schools, more job opportunities for women and more aid to farmers.

She told an audience of mostly college students that she would increase Internet speed in the country, among the slowest in Asia. And she told businessmen she would improve infrastructure and push to amend the economic provisions of the constitution that discourage foreign investments.

"I think I can deliver on those promises," she told The Associated Press. "Filipinos should really have a leader that unifies."

Asked if she believes her poignant life story is boosting her campaign, she said it's important that the candidate has a story to tell, but most important is that "the candidate would be able to understand the story of our people, and in our case we don't want anyone left behind."

Temario Rivera, a political science professor at the University of the Philippines, credits Poe's popularity to her fresh public personality untainted by corruption allegations, her ability to connect with ordinary people and her father's popularity.

"The foundling narrative is a very powerful narrative," he said. The celebrity status of her family as well as her and her father's underdog image "hits the right note, especially for a society where many continue to be poor and marginalized."

A recent survey by independent pollster Social Weather Stations gave Poe support from 34 percent of

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 25 of 35

would-be voters. Tough-talking Mayor Rodrigo Duterte got 31 percent while Vice President Jejomar Binay and former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas both got 17 percent.

Poe's critics have pounced on her lack of experience, but Rivera points out the same could be said of U.S. President Barack Obama when he assumed office. Poe needs to assemble a good team and be a fast learner, he added.

Some have been upset by the support she has received from a wealthy businessman who allegedly profited from a tax imposed on impoverished coconut farmers during the martial law regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Others have questioned her personal story. For years, rumors have swirled that she is the illegitimate daughter of Marcos with her adoptive mother's sister — a rumor Poe and her family deny.

At a recent rally, dressed in her trademark immaculate white shirt and blue jeans, Poe told the working class audience that those who question her being Filipino only need to look at her round nose, short height and dark hair.

"There are so many children who are found abandoned in garbage dumps in Manila," she said. "Every week, we hear news of children being thrown away. Can we say they are not Filipino?"

Everyone should be given equal opportunity, she said, and that is why she will push for free education for the poor.

"The problem with political candidates is they are all honey-tongued during election," said Ramon Castro, a technician who favors another presidential candidate but acknowledges Poe's lead in polls. If she wins, he said, "let's see if she can fulfill her promises."

In Pakistan, tackling extremism is a political minefield

BY KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Tackling extremism is a political minefield in Pakistan, where politicians openly consort with leaders of banned militant groups and sympathy exists within the security forces and civil administration for perpetrators of crimes committed in the name of religion. As a result, many remain skeptical of the state's ability to put an end to the militant violence that kills hundreds of Pakistani civilians each year.

A suicide bombing in a park in Lahore that killed 72 people, many of them Christians celebrating Easter Sunday, brought renewed international attention to Pakistan's extremism problem. In the aftermath, security forces arrested hundreds of suspected militants.

At the same time, however, demonstrators calling for the implementation of Islamic law and expressing their support for the man who murdered an anti-blasphemy campaigner were allowed to congregate freely in the capital. On social media, pictures circulated showing senior members of Pakistan's elite police forces praying at the grave of Mumtaz Qadri, the policeman charged with killing the secular, left-leaning politician Salman Taseer because he defended a Christian woman accused of blasphemy. When Qadri was hanged for the murder in February, tens of thousands of Pakistanis rallied in his support.

The sincerity of authorities' efforts to tackle extremism was further called into question when Rana Sanaullah, the law minister for Punjab province — of which Lahore is the capital — issued statements denying that militant groups operated in the area.

Yet outlawed and violent Sunni Muslim militant groups are widely known to be headquartered in Punjab province, though many hide behind different names, according to Zahid Hussein, an expert on militancy in Pakistan.

Among them is Jaish-e-Mohammed, which operates under several banners according to Hussein, and has been implicated in a number of bombings. Its leader, Masood Azhar, was freed from an Indian jail — where he was being held for attacks in Indian-controlled Kashmir — in exchange for the release of passengers aboard the 1999 hijacked Indian Airlines plane.

The U.S.-declared terrorist group Lashkar e-Taiba also operates in the province, under the name Jamaat-ud Dawah. It was banned in Pakistan in 2015, but its leader Hafiz Saeed travels freely around the country and gives speeches inciting people to attack western and Indian interests. Punjab is also the headquarters of Sipah-e-Sahaba (SSP), whose military arm is responsible for scores of attacks on Pakistan's minority

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 26 of 35

Shiite Muslims, according to Hussein.

Law Minister Sanaullah might be expected to know that SSP operates in Punjab. He openly campaigned with the SSP leader during provincial elections, although the group is officially outlawed.

Pakistan is regularly witness to deadly militant attacks — on schools and universities, buses, parks, churches, temples and Imam Bargahs, Shiite places of worship. According to the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, 4,612 people were killed in bombings and other violence in the country in 2015.

Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, the group that claimed responsibility for the Easter Sunday bombing, has roots in the tribal region and has declared its sympathy with the Islamic State group. According to Michael Kugelman, Senior Associate for South and Southeast Asia at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, it shares many views in common with the scores of other militant groups operating in Pakistan.

"If there is one thing that can be said about all Pakistan-based terror groups, it is that they are all cut from the same cloth," Kugelman wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "They all share the same violent extremist views, and many of them retain strong links to al-Qaida. And though they focus on different targets — some target Pakistan, others India, others Afghanistan —there are many examples of operational collaborations across the board. In effect, the terrorist landscape in Punjab — and beyond — is essentially one large, overlapping network."

Thousands of Pakistani soldiers have been killed or wounded in battles against militants in the tribal regions, which border Afghanistan in the northwest of the country. Yet the Pakistani military has historical links to militant groups — raising further doubts abroad about whether the security services are up to the job.

It was the military that spawned the likes of Lashkar-e-Taiba, offering it financial, organizational and operational assistance. Others like Harakat-ul-Jihad, whose fighters attack Indian targets inside the disputed Kashmir region, are known to have links with Pakistan's Intelligence Agency (known by its acronym, the ISI).

Pakistan's military rulers have also often aligned themselves with the country's extremist groups. In the 70s and 80s, military autocrat Zia-ul Haq used extremist groups to push his agenda of restricted liberties and more Islamic laws. More recently, U.S.-backed Gen. Pervez Musharraf positioned himself a bulwark against extremism while patronizing groups when it suited him, striking deals with them to keep him in power.

"In reality, the fundamental cause of mayhem on Pakistani streets is not a malicious foreign power or inept civilians, but blowback from the military's own long history of using jihad as an instrument of national security," Aqil Shah wrote last month in the U.S.-based Council on Foreign Relations publication, Foreign Affairs.

The military's spokesman and three star general, Asim Bajwa, strongly refuted the suggestion.

He did not acknowledge the military's past links to militant groups, but said in an interview that today the army has a "zero tolerance" policy toward extremists. "It is a different time," Bajwa said.

"Our operations (against militants) are indiscriminate," he said. "It is not possible to differentiate from the air and from the ground. You just go in. We are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism."

The army led the offensive in Punjab following the Easter Sunday attack, carrying out raids throughout the province, sometimes in joint operations with police and paramilitary rangers. Bajwa says that 20,000 militants were rounded up in one week. The majority were subsequently released.

Despite the Lahore bombings, there are modest signs of progress. In its 2015 report, the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan said violent attacks by militants halved between 2014 and 2015.

"Pakistani army operations in North Waziristan have killed many terrorists and destroyed their networks, but many more terrorists remain," said Kugelman of the Woodrow Wilson Center. "So long as Pakistani society continues to provide a fertile environment for extremist thought, and so long as the Pakistani state does not counter such dangerous ideologies, then more terrorists, nurtured and fueled by these hateful narratives, will keep regenerating."

Pakistan's military spokesman Gen. Bajwa insisted, however, that the military is determined to eliminate extremism. "We want to progress. We want to move ahead," he said. "And we want the world to stand with us."

Impeachment call latest complication for Alabama governor

KIM CHANDLER, Associated Press

MELISSA BROWN, Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Two weeks after admitting to sexually charged remarks to a female aide, embattled Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley faces a call for his impeachment from a bipartisan group of lawmakers who said the public has lost confidence in the Republican governor.

Although the impeachment effort is considered a longshot in the legislative session that ends next month, it is a sign of the governor's growing political troubles in the wake of the scandal.

"We are looking at this governor who has essentially betrayed the trust of the people of Alabama through actions and lies that have caused us to have some doubt about his leadership," Rep. Ed Henry said during a news conference at the Alabama Statehouse.

Henry introduced the five-page articles of impeachment Tuesday, accusing Bentley of moral turpitude, willful neglect of duty, corruption and incompetence.

Bentley lashed out at the effort Tuesday, saying he would vigorously defend himself.

"Today's press conference is nothing more than political grandstanding intended to grab headlines and take the focus away from the important issues the Legislature still has to address before the end of the session," Bentley said in a statement.

Bentley last month admitted making inappropriate remarks to his senior political adviser, Rebekah Caldwell Mason, who has since resigned. The admission came after former Alabama Law Enforcement Secretary Spencer Collier, a day after being fired by Bentley, accused the governor of having an affair with Mason and of interfering with law enforcement investigations. Bentley has denied both accusations.

Yet the scandal has engulfed Bentley, a mild-mannered dermatologist and former Baptist deacon whose political ascendancy was based partly on his morally upright, honest reputation.

Republican leaders in the GOP-controlled Alabama Legislature are not pushing the impeachment effort. The resolution was sent to the House Rules Committee, where it will likely linger for the 11 meeting days remaining in the legislative session without a floor vote.

House Rules Committee Chairman Mac McCutcheon said the committee would first establish an investigating commission to vet the articles of impeachment and determine whether grounds exist for impeachment.

Some Alabama lawmakers quickly dismissed the impeachment effort as premature.

"I'm not in the mood to impeach someone over personal issues. Unless someone can show us a reason — that someone has misused their office or misused tax dollars — and I haven't seen that," said Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh, the GOP's leader in the chamber.

Republican Rep. Jack Williams said Tuesday that he can't support an impeachment process "wrought with stoked-up emotion." Williams said the governor deserves due process as the state Ethics Commission conducts its investigation.

"It's the wrong day and the wrong way," Williams said.

Alabama lawmakers have never previously tried to impeach a sitting governor. The state constitution spells out a vague but seldom-used procedure for impeachment. If the House of Representatives approves the impeachment resolution, a trial would be held in the Alabama Senate.

But the impeachment effort is another indication of the shift in the fortunes of a governor who has banked on his scrupulous character.

"There is a crisis of confidence, and this needs to be resolved," Republican Rep. Mike Ball said.

Dianne Bentley, the governor's ex-wife, filed for divorce in 2015, saying their 50-year marriage had suffered an irreparable breakdown. Recordings obtained by The Associated Press purportedly show the governor — before his divorce — professing love to someone named Rebecca or Rebekah and telling her how much he enjoyed kissing her and touching her breasts.

"I love you so much; I worry about loving you so much," Bentley says on the call.

The governor in a news conference last month said he did not have a "physical affair" with Mason and that there was no "sexual activity."

Henry said the recordings cast doubt on Bentley's description and undermine the governor's credibility

on that and other issues.

The impeachment articles lay out few specifics of the charges against the governor but cite an “inappropriate relationship” with Mason and suspicions that he might have inappropriately used his office resources to conceal or advance the relationship. The impeachment articles also cite a lack of transparency in how Mason was paid. Mason was not on payroll, but was paid by Bentley’s campaign.

Bentley has a habit of saying in speeches how much he loves the people of his state. Henry said voters do not reciprocate the affection right now.

“If he truly loves the people of this state, he’ll step down,” Henry said.

Cruz win in Wisconsin leaves Trump damaged front-runner

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Republican Donald Trump emerged from Wisconsin as a damaged front-runner following a crushing loss to rival Ted Cruz, deepening questions about the billionaire businessman’s presidential qualifications and pushing the GOP toward a rare contested convention fight.

Democrat Bernie Sanders also scored a sweeping victory in Wisconsin’s primary that gives him a fresh incentive to keep challenging Hillary Clinton. But Sanders still lags Clinton significantly in the delegate count.

Both parties are turning their sights toward New York, which offers a massive delegate prize in its April 19 contests. It marks a homecoming of sorts for several candidates, with Trump, Clinton and Sanders all touting roots in the state.

Trump, who has dominated the Republican race for months, suddenly finds himself on the defensive as the campaign moves east. He’s struggled through a series of missteps, including his campaign manager’s legal issues after an altercation with a female reporter and his own awkward explanation of his position on abortion.

Exit polls in Wisconsin highlighted the deep worries about Trump surging through some corners of the Republican Party. A majority of GOP voters said they’re either concerned about or scared of a potential Trump presidency, according to surveys conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and television networks.

Cruz has stepped forward as the candidate best positioned to block Trump, though it would likely take a convention battle to accomplish that goal. A Texas senator with a complicated relationship with Republican leaders, Cruz cast his Wisconsin victory as a “turning point” in the race and urged the party to rally around his candidacy.

“We’ve got the full spectrum of the Republican Party coming together and uniting behind this campaign,” he said.

Trump was unbowed in his defeat. His campaign put out a biting statement accusing Cruz of being “worse than a puppet — he is a Trojan horse, being used by the party bosses attempting to steal the nomination from Mr. Trump.”

Sanders still trails Clinton in the pledged delegate count and has so far been unable to persuade superdelegates— the party officials who can back any candidate — to drop their allegiance to the former secretary of state and back his campaign.

At a raucous rally in Wyoming, Sanders cast his victory as a sign of mounting momentum for his campaign. “With our victory tonight in Wisconsin, we have now won 7 out of 8 of the last caucuses and primaries,” he declared.

With an overwhelming white electorate and liberal pockets of voters, Wisconsin was favorable territory for Sanders. In a sign of Clinton’s low expectations in the Midwestern state, she spent Tuesday night at a fundraiser with top donors in New York City.

Clinton congratulated Sanders on Twitter and thanked her supporters in Wisconsin. “To all the voters and volunteers who poured your hearts into this campaign: Forward!” she wrote.

Sanders' win will net him a handful of additional delegates, but he'll still lag Clinton significantly. With 86 delegates at stake in Wisconsin, Sanders will pick up at least 45 and Clinton will gain at least 31.

That means Sanders must still win 67 percent of the remaining delegates and uncommitted superdelegates in order to win the Democratic nomination.

Clinton's campaign has cast her overall lead as nearly insurmountable. Yet Sanders' continued presence in the race has become an irritant for Clinton, keeping her from turning her attention to the general election.

In the Republican race, Cruz was poised to collect most of Wisconsin's 42 Republican delegates.

Trump still has a narrow path to claim the nomination by the end of the primaries on June 7. But by losing Wisconsin, the real estate mogul has little room for error in upcoming contests.

Complicating the primary landscape for both Cruz and Trump is the continuing candidacy of John Kasich. The Ohio governor's only victory has come in his home state, but he's still picking up delegates that would otherwise help Trump inch closer to the nomination or help Cruz catch up.

To win a prolonged convention fight, a candidate would need support from the individuals selected as delegates. The process of selecting those delegates is tedious, and will test the mettle of Trump's slim campaign operation.

Cruz prevailed in an early organizational test in North Dakota, scooping up endorsements from delegates who were selected at the party's state convention over the weekend. While all 28 go to the national convention as free agents, 10 said in interviews they were committed to Cruz. None has so far endorsed Trump.

Despite the concern among some Wisconsin Republicans about Trump becoming president, nearly 6 in 10 GOP voters there said the party should nominate the candidate with the most support in the primaries, which so far would be Trump. Even among voters who favored Cruz, 4 in 10 said the candidate with the most support going into the convention should be the party's nominee.

Reluctantly, Obama embracing his role as the anti-Trump

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — He won't be on November's ballot, but President Barack Obama is slowly embracing his role as the anti-Trump, taking on the Republican front-runner in ways that no other Democrat can.

With Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders still fighting it out in the Democratic primary, the task has fallen increasingly to Obama to articulate the counter-message to Donald Trump, whose ascent to the White House would constitute an overwhelming rebuke to Obama. Democrats are working hard to use the contrast between Obama and Trump to paint the Republican candidate as anything but presidential.

For months, Obama and his aides mostly avoided getting dragged into the fray or letting the campaign din distract from Obama's agenda. The White House would sidestep questions about the latest Trump controversies, refusing to turn Obama into a pundit on the race to replace him.

When Obama waded in, it was only to offer implicit rebukes of the Trump phenomenon, such as his assertion in September that "America is great right now" — a not-so-veiled reference to the business mogul's campaign promise to "make America great again."

Now the Trump criticism is coming with increasing frequency and ease. Asked Tuesday whether Trump's proposals were already damaging U.S. relations, Obama answered unequivocally: "Yes."

"I am getting questions constantly from foreign leaders about some of the wackier suggestions that are being made," Obama said. "They don't expect half-baked notions coming out of the White House. We can't afford that."

The Democratic National Committee quickly circulated video of Obama's remarks, arguing they illustrated how Trump "simply doesn't have the temperament necessary to be commander in chief."

Yet by calling attention to Trump's positions, the White House risks further elevating him, while giving Obama's critics a fresh reason to get behind the billionaire businessman.

Obama has said repeatedly he doesn't believe Trump will win, and White House officials said there was no concerted effort to insert Obama more visibly into the election debate. After all, every minute Obama spends talking about Trump is a minute wasted when it comes to Obama's many unfinished pieces of

business.

In his latest rebuke, Obama unloaded on Trump's proposal to compel Mexico to pay for a border wall by threatening to cut off remittances that Mexican immigrants in the U.S. send back home. Asked about that idea, Obama issued a point-by-point rebuttal, arguing that would actually increase the flow of immigrants into the U.S. and that tracking huge numbers of remittances was impossible.

"Good luck with that," Obama said.

Obama's public scolding of Trump, who for years peddled inaccurate claims about Obama's birth certificate, dates back to 2011, when Obama roasted him at the glitzy White House Correspondents' Association Dinner. Trump was visibly humiliated as Obama lobbed joke after joke at him on national television.

Obama, echoing the broader message from Democrats this year, has stressed that Trump isn't the only Republican espousing "draconian" rhetoric about Mexicans, Muslims and others. Yet the brunt of Obama's criticism has centered on Trump, who has the best mathematical path to the Republican nomination despite losing in Wisconsin on Tuesday.

Though Clinton and Sanders have both vigorously attacked Trump, neither has been able to focus exclusively on the Republican as their battle for the Democratic nomination continues. Obama hasn't endorsed either of the Democrats or campaigned on their behalf, leaving his condemnation of Trump as his primary foray into the race to date.

The White House said once the Democrats choose their nominee, Obama will be out in full force campaigning, raising money and activating his own supporters. White House spokeswoman Jennifer Friedman said Obama would cast the general election as a choice between building on Obama's policies and abruptly reversing course.

"This is a choice that the president does not take lightly, and is something he will lay out for the American people with increased frequency in the weeks and months ahead," Friedman said.

San Francisco tries to make life affordable in costly city

JANIE HAR, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In approving a novel paid parental leave policy, San Francisco officials buttressed their efforts to make life a little more affordable for workers who eke out a living in one of the most expensive cities in the country.

Mayor Ed Lee is expected to sign legislation approved Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors that requires employers to provide fully paid six-week leaves for new mothers and fathers. Currently, the state of California pays about 55 percent of a worker's salary when they take leave, which advocates say is not enough for working families.

The San Francisco measure requires employers with at least 20 employees to make up the rest.

"The vast majority of workers in this country have little or no access to paid parental leave, and that needs to change," Supervisor Scott Wiener, who pushed the measure, said at a news conference before the vote.

Paid parental leave is the latest proposal to come from a city that has led the country on employee protections even as the cost of living soars. The median rental price in the five-county San Francisco metropolitan area was \$3,350 in February, according to real estate data firm Zillow, and the median price for a home tops \$1 million.

For example, San Francisco approved a \$15 hourly minimum wage for workers in 2014, a mandate that California Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law Monday for the entire state.

In 2007, San Francisco officials required businesses to set aside money to be used toward employee health care, long before the federal government approved the Affordable Care Act.

And in 2006, San Francisco voters approved paid sick leave, the first in the country to require the benefit.

Some larger employers, such as Twitter and Netflix, already offer generous benefits for their workers but owners of small businesses say they don't have such deep pockets.

"These are issues that need to be taken at the state level, and the state now is showing some appetite for dealing with these issues," said Mark Dwight of Rickshaw Bagworks, a company of 30 employees that

makes custom work bags in San Francisco.

But in the meantime, he said, "let's make it a level playing field, for everyone."

Attorney Jason Geller, managing partner of Fisher & Phillips San Francisco employment law office, said he expects retailers to pass on the costs to consumers who can and will pay higher prices in a bid to make the city more equitable.

"I am a business person and a resident of San Francisco, and I know that if they can pass on that expense, people will pay it," he said. "We know that consumers in San Francisco will pay higher prices."

Paid leave has become a topic in the presidential campaign as companies, especially in Silicon Valley, start offering better benefits. Twitter announced Tuesday that it would offer up to 20 weeks of fully paid leave for new parents in the U.S., starting May 1.

The U.S. lags other many countries in providing parental leave and is the only major industrialized nation that doesn't require paid leave.

Kim Turner, a nonprofit attorney who took advantage of the state parental leave program, says full paid leave like San Francisco's would have been better.

"I do think employers should be pitching in more," she said. "I think we all need more help. It's just so hard to make ends meet with little ones in the house."

The regulation will be phased in, starting with businesses that employ 50 workers in January 2017. Businesses with 35 to 49 workers must comply starting in July 2017, and businesses with 20 to 34 workers have until January 2018.

Classes off, party on: a Philly bash for champion Villanova

DAN GELSTON, AP Sports Writer

VILLANOVA, Pa. (AP) — Once Villanova's band stopped playing its fight song, Jay Wright took over as pep rally conductor.

"Just for the hell of it, let's do it," he exhorted to nearly 2,000 fans.

"When I say, Nova, you say, 'Nation!'"

"Nova!"

"Nation!" they screamed back at the head coach.

The Wildcats gave their fans plenty of reason to go wild through March Madness — and more fun is ahead.

The national champions were welcomed back Tuesday at the airport with a police escort that swept rush hour cars off the interstate and dispatched them to Villanova's football stadium for a rally.

This was just a celebratory appetizer.

There's a bigger bash ahead.

Villanova will get a championship parade Friday.

The parade in Philadelphia will cover five blocks of Market Street and end outside City Hall, skipping the city's traditional athletic celebration route down Broad Street. The Phillies were the last major championship team to have a parade, in 2008.

Kris Jenkins' 3-pointer in the final seconds gave Villanova its second national title, following the stunner over Georgetown in 1985.

"I watched it quite a few times and every time it's just like, wow, I can't believe I was that open," Jenkins said of his shot at the rally. "Then I can't believe I made the shot. It's crazy."

Villanova had lost three times in the first weekend as a No. 1 or 2 seed since a Final Four run in 2009. Even the die-hards had little faith that the Big East champions could pull off a run all the way to the first weekend in April.

ESPN said Villanova was picked to win it all in only 2.56 percent of its NCAA brackets and that more users selected No. 16 Hampton to advance out of the first round than selected Villanova to win it all.

Now, this surprise champion has infused a dose of joy into the city sports scene.

A city yearning for a title from its disappointing big-bankroll pro teams — Eagles, Phillies, 76ers, Flyers

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 32 of 35

— will fete a bunch of amateurs who don't even play within city limits.

The 76ers' last title, in 1983, ended a golden age in Philly sports during which the city teams won six championships in 23 years — the Eagles in 1960, the Sixers in 1967 and '83, the Flyers in 1974 and '75 and the Phillies in 1980.

Since '83, only the Phillies in '08 broke through and raised a championship banner.

Consider the bleakness in Philly, the Wildcats won six games over the tournament; the 76ers had only nine wins all season through Monday.

Philly fans can rejoice that Jenkins, Ryan Arcidiacono, Daniel Ochefu, Josh Hart and Jalen Brunson all accomplished what Donovan McNabb, Allen Iverson and Eric Lindros never could — bring home a championship.

Jenkins, Arch and the rest of the Wildcats had strands of net tied to their caps as they greeted fans. With three TV helicopters hovering overhead, Ochefu hoisted the trophy. Wright organized a championship photo on the stage with hundreds fans as the backdrop. He tweeted the photo with the caption, "NOVA NATION YOU ARE THE BEST!" He's scheduled to take a congratulatory phone call from President Barack Obama on Wednesday.

The football scoreboard said it all: Villanova 77, Visitor 74.

Wright could have a future as a carnival barker if wants to retire from coaching.

"We've got a lot of heart! Josh Hart!" he said, introducing Hart to the crowd.

"Has everybody caught on to the nickname Big Smooth? We like that nickname? I love saying, Big Smoooooth," Wright said.

Big Smooth is, of course, Jenkins who hit the Big Shot in the championship game.

Jenkins' winner came on a play Villanova works on every day in practice: Jenkins inbounds to Arcidiacono, who works the ball up court. Ochefu sets a pick near halfcourt to clutter things up. Then Arcidiacono creates.

This time, the senior point guard made an underhanded flip to Jenkins, who spotted up a pace or two behind the arc and swished it with Carolina's Isaiah Hicks running at him. Or, as Jenkins put it: "One, two step, shoot 'em up, sleep in the streets."

That was all it took.

Students rushed Monday night from Villanova's arena, The Pavilion, onto a nearby commercial strip where pubs and restaurants festooned with balloons and banners were packed with revelers, ready to step things up.

"We love you!" Wright told the crowd. "You guys are the 2016 national champions!"

Cruz, Sanders emerge victorious in Wisconsin primaries

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Republican Ted Cruz stormed to a commanding victory in Wisconsin Tuesday, denting front-runner Donald Trump's chances of capturing the GOP nomination before the party's convention. Democrat Bernie Sanders triumphed over Hillary Clinton but still faces a mathematically difficult path to the White House.

Trump's defeat capped one of the worst periods of his campaign, a brutal stretch that highlighted his weaknesses with women and raised questions about his policy depth. While the billionaire businessman still leads the Republican field, Cruz and an array of anti-Trump forces hope Wisconsin signals the start of his decline.

"Tonight is a turning point," Cruz told cheering supporters at a victory rally. "It is a call from the hard-working people of Wisconsin to America. We have a choice. A real choice."

Cruz, a Texas senator with a complicated relationship with Republican leaders, also cast his victory as a moment for unity in a party that has been roiled by a contentious primary campaign.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 33 of 35

But Trump was unbowed. His campaign put out a biting statement: "Ted Cruz is worse than a puppet — he is a Trojan horse, being used by the party bosses attempting to steal the nomination from Mr. Trump."

Sanders's sweeping win in virtually every county in Wisconsin, except Milwaukee, gives him greater incentive to keep competing against Clinton. But he still trails her in the pledged delegate count and has so far been unable to persuade superdelegates— the party officials who can back any candidate — to drop their allegiance to the former secretary of state and back his campaign.

At a raucous rally in Wyoming, Sanders cast his victory as a sign of mounting momentum for his campaign. "With our victory tonight in Wisconsin, we have now won 7 out of 8 of the last caucuses and primaries," he declared.

The results in Wisconsin make it likely both parties' primaries will continue deep into the spring, draping front-runners Trump and Clinton in uncertainty and preventing both from fully setting their sights on the general election.

With an overwhelming white electorate and liberal pockets of voters, Wisconsin was favorable territory for Sanders. In a sign of Clinton's low expectations in the Midwestern state, she spent Tuesday night at a fundraiser with top donors in New York City.

Clinton congratulated Sanders on Twitter and thanked her supporters in Wisconsin. "To all the voters and volunteers who poured your hearts into this campaign: Forward!" she wrote.

Sanders' win will net him a handful of additional delegates, but he'll still lag Clinton significantly. With 86 delegates at stake in Wisconsin, Sanders will pick up at least 45 and Clinton will gain at least 31.

That means Sanders must still win 67 percent of the remaining delegates and uncommitted superdelegates in order to win the Democratic presidential nomination.

While Trump has been the dominant force in the Republican race, he battled a series of campaign controversies in the lead-up to Wisconsin, including his campaign manager's legal problems following an altercation with a female reporter and his own awkward stumbles in clarifying his views on abortion. Wisconsin's Republican establishment, including Gov. Scott Walker, has also campaigned aggressively against the businessman.

Exit polls in the state underscored the concerns about Trump that are surging through some corners of the Republican Party. A majority of Republican voters said they're either concerned or scared of a potential Trump presidency. More than a third said they were scared about what Trump would do as president, and about 2 in 10 said they were concerned, according to surveys conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and television networks.

With his victory Tuesday, Cruz won at least 33 Wisconsin delegates, while Trump carried at least three. Six delegates are still up for grabs, pending the outcome in two congressional districts.

Trump still has a narrow path to claim the nomination by the end of the primaries on June 7. But by losing Wisconsin, the real estate mogul has little room for error in upcoming contests.

Complicating the primary landscape for both Cruz and Trump is the continuing candidacy of John Kasich. The Ohio governor's only victory has come in his home state, but he's still picking up delegates that could otherwise help Trump inch closer to the nomination or help Cruz catch up.

To win a prolonged convention fight, a candidate would need support from the individuals selected as delegates. The process of selecting those delegates is tedious, and will test the mettle of Trump's slim campaign operation.

Cruz prevailed in an early organizational test in North Dakota, scooping up endorsements from delegates who were selected at the party's state convention over the weekend. While all 28 go to the national convention as free agents, 10 said in interviews they were committed to Cruz. None has so far endorsed Trump.

Despite the concern among some Wisconsin Republicans about Trump becoming president, nearly 6 in 10 GOP voters there said the party should nominate the candidate with the most support in the primaries, which so far would be Trump. Even among voters who favored Cruz, 4 in 10 said the candidate with the most support going into the convention should be the party's nominee.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 34 of 35

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 6, the 97th day of 2016. There are 269 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 6, 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

On this date:

In 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith in Fayette, New York.

In 1886, the Canadian city of Vancouver, British Columbia, was incorporated.

In 1909, American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits (IH'-noo-wits) became the first men to reach the North Pole.

In 1917, Congress approved a declaration of war against Germany.

In 1945, during World War II, the Japanese warship Yamato and nine other vessels sailed on a suicide mission to attack the U.S. fleet off Okinawa; the fleet was intercepted the next day.

In 1954, a month after being criticized by newsman Edward R. Murrow on CBS' "See It Now," Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., was given the chance to respond on the program; in his pre-filmed remarks, McCarthy charged that Murrow had, in the past, "engaged in propaganda for Communist causes."

In 1965, the United States launched Intelsat I, also known as the "Early Bird" communications satellite, into geosynchronous orbit.

In 1971, Russian-born composer Igor Stravinsky, 88, died in New York City.

In 1980, 3M introduced its "Post-it Notes," a re-branding of a product formerly known as "Press 'n Peel."

In 1996, actress Greer Garson died in Dallas at age 91.

In 1998, country singer Tammy Wynette died at her Nashville home at age 55.

In 2014, actor Mickey Rooney, 93, died in North Hollywood.

Ten years ago: At the death penalty trial of al-Qaida conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee), former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani described his own harrowing experiences in lower Manhattan on Sept. 11, 2001. U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., apologized for an altercation in which she'd entered a Capitol building unrecognized, refused to stop when asked by a police officer and then struck him.

Five years ago: Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi appealed directly to President Barack Obama in a letter to end what Gadhafi called "an unjust war"; he also wished Obama good luck in his bid for re-election. Portugal became the third debt-stressed European country to need a bailout as the prime minister announced his country would request international assistance.

One year ago: The Phi Kappa Psi fraternity at the University of Virginia announced it would "pursue all available legal action" against Rolling Stone, saying a Columbia Journalism School review showed the magazine acted recklessly and defamed its members by publishing a discredited article that accused them of gang rape. Kenyan warplanes bombed militant camps in Somalia after a vow by President Uhuru Kenyatta to respond "in the fiercest way possible" to the massacre of Kenyan college students by al-Shabab militants. Kentucky coach John Calipari and Spencer Haywood were among 11 new inductees named to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Duke scored a 68-63 victory over Wisconsin for the program's fifth NCAA national title. Character James Best, 88, best known for his role as Sheriff Rosco P. Coltrane on "The Dukes of Hazzard" comedy show, died in Hickory, North Carolina.

Today's Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning scientist James D. Watson is 88. Composer-conductor Andre Previn is 87. Country singer Merle Haggard is 79. Actor Billy Dee Williams is 79. Actor Roy Thinnes is 78. Movie director Barry Levinson is 74. Actor John Ratzenberger is 69. Baseball Hall of Famer Bert Blyleven is 65. Actress Marilu Henner is 64. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Janet Lynn is 63. Actor Michael Rooker is 61. Former U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., is 60. Rock musician Warren Haynes is 56. Rock singer-musician Frank Black is 51. Actress Ari Meyers is 47. Actor Paul Rudd is 47. Actor-producer Jason Hervey

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, April 06, 2016 ♦ Vol. 22 - No. 251 ♦ 35 of 35

is 44. Rock musician Markku Lappalainen (mar-KOO' lap-uh-LAN'-en) is 43. Actor Zach Braff is 41. Actor Joel Garland is 41. Actress Candace Cameron Bure (buhr-RAY') is 40. Actor Teddy Sears is 39. Jazz and rhythm-and-blues musician Robert Glasper is 38. Actress Eliza Coupe is 35. Folk singer-musician Kenneth Pattengale (Milk Carton Kids) is 34. Actor Bret Harrison is 34. Actor Charlie McDermott is 26.

Thought for Today: "Never think that you're not good enough yourself. A man should never think that. My belief is that in life people will take you at your own reckoning." — Isaac Asimov (1920-1992).

Asian shares mostly up, recovering from early morning losses

TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Asian shares mostly inched up Wednesday, recovering from early morning losses after U.S. stocks fell for the second day as the head of the International Monetary Fund sounded downbeat on the outlook for the world economy.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.2 percent at 15,767.29. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was up 0.3 percent at 20,235.29. Australia's S&P ASX 200 was 0.4 percent higher at 4,944.30. China's Shanghai Composite fell 0.2 percent to 3,046.79. South Korea's KOSPI rose 0.4 percent to 1,970.37. Taiwan's benchmark TAIEX index fell 1.6 percent to 8,525.15. Southeast Asian Markets were mixed.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "U.S. stocks set a weak lead for this morning's opening," said Ric Spooner, chief market analyst at CMC Markets in Australia. "With the U.S. profit-reporting season about to begin, higher valuations have made markets more vulnerable to profit taking."

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks fell for a second day on Tuesday, as the head of the International Monetary Fund sounded downbeat on the outlook for the world economy. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 133.68 points, or 0.8 percent, to 17,603.32. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 20.96 points, or 1 percent, to 2,045.17 and the Nasdaq composite fell 47.86 points, or 1 percent, to 4,843.93.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude was up 99 cents at \$36.87 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils, rose 62 cents to \$38.49 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The U.S. dollar rose against the yen to 110.56 from 110.31 yen in the previous trading day. The euro was nearly flat at \$1.4158 from \$1.4163.