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The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

Two bedroom apartment in the Rix Apartments (former city apartments) at 407 N Garfield

FOR RENT

Attached garage. Major appliances included. \$700 per month Roger: 605/397-7118

Wednesday, March 11 Birthday: Nora Rix

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

School Lunch: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit, tea bun.

6:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Lenten Meal (Men Serve)

7:00 pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

Thursday, March 12

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Submarine, French fries, lettuce with tomato, fruit.

State Girls Tourney in Watertown

Friday, March 13

Birthdays: Angie Peterson, Ron Anderson, Sandy Hjermstad

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

School Lunch: Cheese pizza, green beans, romaine salad, fruit.

State Girls Tourney in Watertown

Saturday, March 14

Birthdays: Beatrice Schauer, Katie Lyren, Erin Sternhagen, Kalen Kjellsen, Mendy Jones, Syd-



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.

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A Lifetime of Caring and Sharing

SOUTH DAKOTA

HISTORY & HERITAGE

"No trip was too long or sufferer too poor to keep Dr. Jarvis from those who needed her service."

Those words by her daughter Annette summed up the life of Abbie Ann Jarvis.

In 1898, Jarvis became the first woman licensed to practice medicine in South Dakota.

"She would be out all night on a doctor call and come home in the morning when the birds were singing. She'd be real happy, even though she'd lost a night's sleep," said Irene Cordts of Faulkton in a telephone interview. Now 103, Cordts was one of the many babies Jarvis delivered.

Jarvis, her husband Matthew and their two sons arrived in Redfield in 1880. Three years later, she and her family left Redfield to homestead.

The family moved to Faulkton in in 1888. They sold their homestead in 1890 and Matthew started a drugstore in Faulkton. Jarvis' father, Samuel Hall, was a doctor in Faulkton.

About 1892, Jarvis took her 8- and 6-year-old daughters with her to Chicago where she began a four-year medical course at the Woman's Medical College of Northwestern University. Her two sons remained in Faulkton with their father. In an article in the Faulkton Record, Helen Bottum wrote how Jarvis would go to bed early and wake up at 3 a.m. to study.

In the summer, Jarvis and her daughters would return to Faulkton.



Abbie Ann Jarvis is a pioneer in the sense that she was one of the first white women to spend the winter in Redfield, Dakota Territory, and a pioneer in medicine as she was the first woman licensed to practice medicine in South Dakota. The photo of her is undated. (Photo by South Dakota State Historical Society - State Archives.)

Jarvis' education was interrupted at the end of three years, when she left college to care for her ill mother. When her mother died in 1897, Jarvis and her daughters returned to Chicago and Jarvis resumed studying medicine. She graduated fourth in her class of 24 in 1898.

Jarvis, about 44 years old at the time, returned to Faulkton and started practicing medicine.

"She was a tall handsome woman with curling dark hair and snapping brown eyes," Bottum wrote. "Her professional costume was a black dress and a big white starched apron. She carried the traditional black bag. As she opened the door she would call out cheerfully, 'How art thou?' Her face would be shining with friendliness and concern. Someone said, 'Just a glimpse of Dr. Jarvis' white apron makes me feel better."

There were immediate demands for Jarvis' services, according to Bottum. Initially, she traveled by her

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horse, Lady Bug, and buggy. Later, she traveled by a car driven by a daughter or others.

Roads were prairie trails, farms were few and far between, nights could be starry or "pitch black" and the weather could be windy, rainy, snowy or scorching. She once sought shelter from a cloudburst by driving behind a haystack and waiting until morning. She arrived at the house soaked to the skin and bedraggled, but in time to deliver a boy.

"Frightened women on lonely farms waited for her Little Lady Bug and buggy and had perfect confidence that she would come, and she did," Bottum wrote. "Women in childbirth had reason to bless her. At that time babies were not born in sterilized hospitals but in humble little homes where the boiler on the cook stove furnished the hot water and there was no sanitation."

In 1915, Jarvis took a six-week post-graduate course at the Abbott Hospital in Minneapolis. She specialized in women's and children's diseases, according to an article written by Cordts. Some of the children diseases during the time of Jarvis' practice were scarlet fever, typhoid fever, croup, whooping cough, diphtheria, pneumonia, spinal meningitis, pneumonia and inflammatory rheumatism. Some common afflictions of adults were stroke, typhoid fever, cancer, influenza and heart failure. Horserelated injuries from kicks and runaways were common.

Jarvis' dream of a hospital in Faulkton came true in 1915 with the opening of Providence Hospital.

Jarvis and her husband experienced tragedy as well as blessings. A son, Matthew, died in an accident in 1905 and a daughter, Lucretia, died two years later of tuberculosis. Another daughter, Maggie Belle, died in infancy.

Jarvis was involved in the community as well as her medical practice. She was a worthy member of the Eastern Star, taught Sunday school and was active in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

"She was kind, loving, helpful. She was just all the good things you can think of," Cordts said.

Jarvis practiced medicine almost until her death from cancer on May 2, 1931, at the age of 76.

Faulkton and South Dakota honored the pioneer physician in many ways after her death. She was featured in a "Dakota Images" article in "South Dakota History," the quarterly journal of the South Dakota State Historical Society; inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame; honored as "Woman of Yesteryear" by the Resource Center for Women of Aberdeen; and chosen for inclusion in "The Argus Leader South Dakota 99," which honored 99 people who had most influenced the state in its first 99 years. Jarvis was portrayed by Marilyn Peters of Britton at programs throughout South Dakota, was selected as the subject of a special postal cancellation during Faulkton's observance of the state's centennial in 1989, and was the topic of a South Dakota State Centennial history writing contest paper by Cordts.

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.

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Gov. Daugaard Signs Bills Into Law PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed the following bills into law yesterday. For more informa-

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed the following bills into law yesterday. For more information on a bill, go to http://legis.sd.gov and enter the bill number in the Bill Quick Search box in the top right hand of the page.

HB 1029 – An Act to revise certain requirements regarding high performance building design and construction standards for newly constructed or renovated state-owned buildings.

HB 1043 – An Act to repeal certain outdated and obsolete provisions regarding the Department of Education.

HB 1060 – An Act to make an appropriation to reimburse certain family physicians, dentists, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners who have complied with the requirements of the recruitment assistance program and to declare an emergency.

HB 1081 – An Act to repeal certain provisions regarding county officials and the board of county commissioners.

HB 1089 – An Act to ban the practice of female genital mutilation in the state, to provide a penalty therefor, and to declare an emergency.

HB 1090 – An Act to prohibit a person from serving as a member of a consumers power district board of directors in certain cases.

HB 1097 – An Act to provide for a reduced minimum fall enrollment for certain school districts.

HB 1100 – An Act to clarify how a vacancy on a school board is filled.

HB 1101 – An Act to ensure local control over curriculum and methods of instruction.

HB 1102 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the regulation of licensing massage therapists.

HB 1105 – An Act to provide for an affidavit creating a rebuttable presumption that a person is not an employee for purposes of workers' compensation and to provide a penalty therefor.

HB 1106 – An Act to establish the rights of municipal, county, or township officers in certain decisionmaking processes.

HB 1121 – An Act to authorize township boards to establish speed zones on township roads.

HB 1125 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the notice for meeting of public bodies.

HB 1135 – An Act to expand certain bonding provisions regarding local government officials and employees.

HB 1137 – An Act to exclude the passing time between classes in the number of hours required in the school term for secondary students.

HB 1151 – An Act to improve public safety through confidential stress management services for emergency service providers.

HB 1189 – An Act to make an appropriation to fund tax refunds for elderly persons and persons with a disability and to declare an emergency.

HB 1229 – An Act to revise provisions related to the release of medical waste.

SB 5 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning the assessment and taxation of real property.

SB 8 – An Act to exempt certain transactions entered into by the State Investment Council and Division of Investment from certain procurement requirements.

SB 9 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the transfer of funds administered by the state investment officer.

SB 10 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning the classes of investments used for state funds. SB 29 – An Act to establish provisions for auxiliary members to serve on the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

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SB 38 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning the state communications system and the South Dakota law enforcement telecommunications system.

SB 56 – An Act to provide direction regarding the calculation of adjusted gross proceeds for the purpose of calculating the gaming tax.

SB 57 – An Act to authorize and regulate the playing of craps, roulette, and keno within the city limits of the city of Deadwood.

SB 75 – An Act to revise the effective period of the travel permit for certain livestock used for rodeo purposes and to declare an emergency.

SB 76 – An Act to extend the length of time a local livestock ownership inspection certificate is valid for transportation.

SB 78 – An Act to authorize counties or medical providers to recover inmate healthcare costs from insurers.

SB 80 – An Act to increase the selling price of a towed vehicle that exempts the seller of the vehicle from certain vehicle dealer licensing requirements.

SB 87 – An Act to revise the circumstances creating a vacancy in municipal office.

SB 88 – An Act to authorize emergency appointments to the municipal election board.

SB 90 – An Act to require school districts to provide veterans a preference in employment.

SB 93 – An Act to impose a gross receipts tax on the rental of certain motorcycles in lieu of the excise tax on motor vehicles.



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Children's Gardening Mini-grant Opens March 9, 2015

BROOKINGS, S.D. - SDSU Extension and the Community and Family Extension Leaders (CFEL) are pleased to announce opportunities for helping educational garden projects fund seeds, plants, small garden equipment or other programming materials through Children's Gardening Mini-grant.

The mini-grant opens March 9, 2015.

The grant is offered to any school-age group, K-12, with preference given to after-school and out-ofschool time programs.

Participants must partner with SDSU Extension through a Master Gardener, a county 4-H Youth Program Advisor, FNP/EFNEP assistant or other connection. The program must incorporate hands-on learning experiences for children over a period of 6-12 weeks and include programming related to plant science and nutrition. A brief summary report of the project is also required.

Applications and a complete list of grant requirements are available at iGrowSDLocalFoods.org under the publications tab in the resource library on March 9, 2015. Applications are due April 1, 2015.

Deliver or mail the application to the SDSU Extension Regional Center in Sioux Falls, at 2001 E. 8th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57103. Or email the applications to Christina.Zdorovtsov@sdstate.edu.

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South Dakota Department Of Veterans Affairs



Larry Zimmerman Secretary

Vietnam Veterans just weren't welcomed home!

When many Vietnam Veterans returned home there were no parades, there were no ceremonies, there were no celebrations; many of them got dropped off at an airport and hailed a cab to take them home to their loved ones. Being spat on and told to remove their uniforms for their own safety to name of a few of the welcomes they received.

They did what was right for the country. They did their duty and unfortunately many did not appreciate it

The war cost the lives of more than 58,000 American military service members. More than 300,000 were wounded; thousands more have suffered debilitating medical conditions stemming from the exposure to Agent Orange. And those missing in action should be in our daily thoughts and prayers.

In 2006, South Dakota Vietnam Veterans were provided a South Dakota welcome home with a parade, programs and the unveiling of a state Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In 2011, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution to provide our Vietnam Veterans with the chance at a proper welcome. This resolution recognized March 30 as the final withdrawal date of all combat-support troops from Vietnam and designated it as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

To honor our Vietnam Veterans, celebrations will be held across the state the last weekend in March. I ask you to join us in Pierre March 28-29 to give our heroes another welcome home and to say thank you. They did what their country asked them to do; now let us join together to express our gratitude, remember their service, and say "thank you and welcome home."

Vietnam Veterans are the largest group of veterans in our state and they are the first to attend welcome home celebrations for our heroes. They live by their motto, "Never again will one generation of Americans abandon another."

They hold jobs, have families, and are a great asset for our state. We need to take an extra minute out of our lives to thank them for their service. Although their service was decades ago, for many of them it is relived daily.

It is never too late, never too late, to pay tribute to the men and women who served and continue to serve our country.

I urge all citizens and communities to honor Vietnam Veterans on March 28-30 and to remember and honor the service of all veterans throughout the year.

We must never forget them. We must always honor and thank them!"

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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National Gas Prices in Retreat after Rising for 40 Days

AAA South Dakota, March 10, 2015 – The national average price of regular unleaded gasoline fell yesterday for the first time since increasing for 40 consecutive days, which was the longest streak of daily price increases since 2011. During this period, average gas prices increased by 43 cents per gallon, but have fallen by a half cent since Saturday. While today's price of \$2.45 per gallon is three cents more than one week ago and 28 cents more than one month ago, pump prices continue to reflect a substantial yearly discount. Compared to the same date last year motorists are saving an average of \$1.04 per gallon.

"Hopefully, gas prices in South Dakota will follow the national downhill trend," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "Although our statewide average at \$2.399 is up nine cents over last week, gas prices are still significantly lower than one year ago. Last year South Dakotans we're paying an average of \$1.09 more per gallon according to FuelGaugeReport.AAA.com."

	Today	Last Week	Change	Feb. 10	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.423	\$2.392	\$0.031	\$2.127	\$0.296	\$3.488
Brookings	\$2.548	\$2.479	\$0.069	\$2.216	\$0.332	\$3.656
Huron	\$2.423	\$2.310	\$0.113	\$2.121	\$0.302	\$3.568
Mitchell	\$2.359	\$2.305	\$0.054	\$2.137	\$0.222	\$3.538
Pierre	\$2.500	\$2.373	\$0.127	\$2.220	\$0.280	\$3.634
Rapid City	\$2.210	\$2.115	\$0.095	\$1.858	\$0.352	\$3.428
Sioux Falls	\$2.452	\$2.362	\$0.090	\$2.127	\$0.325	\$3.452
Vermillion	\$2.458	\$2.315	\$0.143	\$2.166	\$0.292	\$3.456
Watertown	\$2.544	\$2.424	\$0.120	\$2.245	\$0.299	\$3.602
Yankton	\$2.388	\$2.314	\$0.074	\$2.213	\$0.175	\$3.538
South Dakota	\$2.399	\$2.309	\$0.090	\$2.073	\$0.326	\$3.494

Retail gas prices typically tend to trend higher this time of year as refineries undergo maintenance and reduce stockpiles of winter-grade fuel in preparation for the changeover to summer-grade gasoline, which is more costly to produce.

The West Coast is the most expensive region for retail gasoline today due to unexpected refinery problems. Plus, environmental regulations in California require the state to sell specialized blends of gasoline, which limits the state's ability to substitute fuel from neighboring markets to overcome supply shortages. California, at \$3.43, has the country's most expensive fuel today, followed by Hawaii, \$3.14; Alaska, \$2.92; and Oregon and Nevada, both at \$2.88.

The global price of crude oil remains volatile due to speculations about possible production cuts due to oversupply and news of rising global demand. Without intervention from OPEC, global prices are expected to continue to fluctuate as markets attempt to find a level. U.S. production continues to hit record levels, and according to the EIA's most recent report, stockpiles have climbed to their highest weekly levels since the energy agency started collecting statistical data on the subject in 1982.

At the close of yesterday's formal trading on the NYMEX, WTI closed up 39 cents, settling at \$50.00 per barrel.



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Today in Weather History March 11, 1991: A developing winter storm, centered to the south of the Black Hills, caused heavy snow to fall

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

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

1897 – The coldest March reading at Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada occurred as the temperature dropped to 38 degrees below zero.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Mild, dry air will dominate conditions today. Fire weather will be a chief concern thanks to a south/ southeast wind at 10 to 20mph with gusts up to 30mph across central South Dakota.

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Yesterday's Weather High: 56.8 at 2:24 PM

Low: 30.3 at 8:05 AM High Gust: 22 at 1:34 PM Snow: 0.00 Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 64° in 1934

Record Low: -27° in 1948 Average High: 37°F Average Low: 18°F Average Precip in March.: 0.30 Precip to date in March.: 0.00 Average Precip to date: 1.32 Precip Year to Date: 0.40 Sunset Tonight: 7:34 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:52 a.m.





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LIFE LONG LEARNING

Doctors and nurses, public school teachers and sheriffs, as well as all other licensed professionals, are required to participate in "continuing education" studies. They must do so to retain their licenses and be current in the latest methods and regulations that affect their profession. If they fail to complete the "units" that are necessary, they lose their licenses and can no longer practice their profession.

That is not true for those of us who profess to accept the teachings of God's Word. We have a choice in the matter. We may, if we "want" to, read and study His Word, attend church, pray and fellowship with other believers. What we do or do not do is a result of our love for and commitment to and walk with the Lord.

However, there are consequences if we do not follow the teachings of Scripture: "Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge." There is a warning in this verse that is best understood if we translate it to read: "Look, my children, if you ever stop listening to and refuse to follow what I have taught you, you will end up wandering through life and not know where you are going or what you are doing."

Scripture, especially the writings of Solomon, contain many warnings about abandoning the teachings of God. This one is straight to the point. It is a thought provoking contrast to what so many teach and follow today: "If it feels good, do it!" Although it may "feel good" today, when you awaken to the realities of such foolishness it may be too late: "You will have strayed from the things of God."

Wisely God gives us choices. He never has nor ever will force us to choose Him or His teachings. It's up to us to choose. But if we do indeed love Him our choices will reflect His ways.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to refuse to give up a life dedicated to a life-long pursuit of loving You, knowing You and following You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Proverbs 19:27 Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.

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News from the Associated Press

Public still has time to review proposed elk management plan

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Game, Fish and Parks Department says South Dakota residents who want to have a say in how the state manages its elk population can still share their input.

The department's Division of Wildlife released a draft of its five-year elk management plan to the public in December. The department says residents wanting to comment on the plan still have until March 22 to review the final draft.

Division of Wildlife Director Tony Leif says there's "large interest" in the plan and the state wants to give the public enough time to comment before it's adopted by the Game, Fish and Parks Commission in April.

Badlands/Bad River region 1 of 4 to get USDA economic award

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Economic development leaders in part of western South Dakota have been recognized for coming up with a plan that helps the entire Badlands/Bad River region of Haakon, Jackson and eastern Pennington counties.

The U.S. Agriculture Department says the area's Stronger Economies Together long-range plan passed a High Quality Plan review, and is only the fourth plan nationally to receive such a designation.

That SET program is sponsored by USDA Rural Development in partnership with South Dakota State University Extension and the Regional Rural Development Centers.

It's designed to strengthen the ability of rural communities and counties to work together in developing and implementing regional economic development plans.

The designation gives the region access to \$5,000 seed money to start putting its plan in place.

Montana man dies following 2-vehicle crash in South Dakota

FREEMAN, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Montana man was killed in a two-vehicle crash in southeastern South Dakota.

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety says 55-year-old Keith Stockard of Superior, Montana, died in the accident on Tuesday afternoon. The department says his vehicle was struck by a garbage truck after he attempted to make a U-turn on Highway 44 near Freeman.

Stockard was taken to a hospital, where he later died.

The department says he wasn't wearing a seatbelt.

South Dakota artifact on display at NY museum art exhibit

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An artifact belonging to South Dakota's Cultural Heritage Center is now on display at a world-renowned museum in New York City.

South Dakota's Sioux Horse Effigy is being showcased at the Metropolitan Museum of Art as part of an exhibition of Plains Indian masterworks.

"The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky" includes more than 130 works of art from 57 European, Canadian and American institutions as well as private collections. Featured works range from a 2,000-year-old human-effigy stone pipe to contemporary paintings, photographs and a video-installation piece.

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Some of the pieces on display are robes painted by early Plains Indians and masterworks collected in the 18th century by European explorers.

The exhibit runs through May 10.

North Dakota St holds on to win Summit League title

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — North Dakota State appeared to take control of the game with a big run midway through the second half. However, the Bison had to fend off South Dakota State's surge down the stretch to earn a return trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Lawrence Alexander scored 16 of his 25 points in the second half to help North Dakota State hold on for a 57-56 win Tuesday night to take the Summit League tournament title and an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

After cutting a nine-point deficit to one in the final minute, the Jackrabbits fouled Alexander with 8 seconds remaining and he missed the front end of a 1-and-1, giving South Dakota State a final shot. However, George Marshall's 3-point attempt was wide left.

"We maybe got a little impatient offensively, but they're a great team," North Dakota State coach David Richman said. "It's a game of runs, and that's going to happen."

A.J. Jacobson added 12 points and eight rebounds for the Bison (23-9), who advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the third time in school history. Last year, they beat Oklahoma in their first game.

Cody Larson scored 19 points to lead the Jackrabbits (23-10), and Deondre Parks added 13 points and six rebounds.

The Bison had a 17-4 run in the second half and led by nine with just over 6 minutes remaining. However, the Jackrabbits rallied to pull within one in the final minute. South Dakota State had a chance to take its first lead since the 11:11 mark, but George Marshall's shot was blocked out of bounds with 8 seconds remaining.

The call on the court originally went to the South Dakota State, but after an official review, possession was given to North Dakota State. The Jackrabbits were forced to put Alexander — an 81-percent free-throw shooter — on the line.

"We wanted this stage," Richman said. "We knew our backs were going to be against the wall in a hostile environment with a pro-South Dakota State crowd. But they've (North Dakota State players) handled so many things down the stretch this year."

Despite the missed free throw, Alexander was named the tournament's MVP.

South Dakota State took its biggest lead of the game at 35-31 when Larson scored on his second of back-to-back dunks with 12:35 to play. Larson's dunks capped a 12-3 run after the Bison built a five point lead early in the second half.

But Alexander responded to South Dakota State's surge, hitting two deep 3-pointers in less than a minute, quieting the crowd of 9,033. After North Dakota State built the lead to nine, South Dakota State used a timeout and responded accordingly, setting up the frenzied finish.

The Jackrabbits shot a season-worst 32 percent. They were just 24 percent from the floor in the first half, but were still tied at 23-23 at the break.

"They're a great defensive team, but the only reason we were in the game is because we played good defensively," South Dakota State coach Scott Nagy said. "When you have open shots, you need to be able to knock those things down."

Nagy was proud of the way his team fought back after nearly falling behind by double digits.

Asked what he told his players after the game, Nagy said: "I think most people don't try, and they live

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in the middle. They don't put their hearts out there and they try and protect themselves. When you do this and you put your heart out there in front of all these people, sometimes it's exhilarating and sometimes it's incredibly painful. But that's what living feels like.

"I hope they live the rest of their lives that way and they don't protect themselves. It's hurtful sometimes. Very hurtful."

Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Region 1AA Sioux Falls Lincoln 66, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 54 Watertown 36, Yankton 35 Region 2AA Aberdeen Central 78, Rapid City Central 68, 20T Huron 53, Sturgis 47 Region 1A Regional Final: Aberdeen Roncalli 75, Tiospa Zina Tribal 59 Region 2A Regional Final: Clark/Willow Lake 52, Sioux Valley 29 Region 3A Regional Final: Dell Rapids 59, Madison 49 Region 4A Regional Final: Lennox 39, Canton 31 Region 5A Regional Final: Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 48, McCook Central/Montrose 45 Region 6A Regional Final: Winner 63, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 62 Region 7A Regional Final: Little Wound 68, St. Francis Indian 40 District 8A Championship: St. Thomas More 63, Lead-Deadwood 44 District 2B Championship: Hitchcock-Tulare 57, Potter County 54 District 3B Championship: Wolsey-Wessington 49, Arlington 36 Region 4B Hanson 65, Chester 47 Region 5B Parker 67, Irene-Wakonda 54 Region 6B Gregory 64, Corsica/Stickney 44 Region 7B White River 61, Rapid City Christian 50

Region 8B Faith 63, McLaughlin 44

State House passes proposal to hike road and bridge funding JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A proposal to hike funding for roads and bridges by more than 50 million in its first year has passed the full South Dakota House, but the bill will likely require further legislative negotiation before it is finished.

The South Dakota House voted 54-14 on Tuesday for the transportation funding bill, which also includes an increase in the maximum speed limit on interstate highways to 80 mph. The measure now heads back to the Senate for its consideration, and House Majority Leader Brian Gosch said he anticipates the bill will require negotiations in a conference committee.

The proposal the House took up is a modified version of the transportation plan that Gov. Dennis Daugaard originally proposed and that the Senate had passed. It raises road and bridge funding through increases in fuel taxes, fees and other assessments.

Rep. Mary Duvall, who is the main House sponsor of the proposal, told her colleagues that it's time for

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lawmakers to address funding for the state's transportation infrastructure.

"The need is there, and it is well documented and it is overwhelming," said Duvall, R-Pierre. "As much as we dislike talking about raising taxes and fees, I honestly think this is a responsible thing to do."

A House committee on Monday amended the bill to further raise vehicle license plate fees and give the counties the authority to increase the wheel tax more than initially proposed. The additional vehicle license plate fee hike means millions of dollars in increased revenue, but the committee also limited future revenue by reducing the number of years that the gas tax would increase from eight to three.

The committee also removed Senate-imposed requirements on the way counties could assess property taxes for infrastructure spending. Gosch said he anticipates disagreement when the Senate considers the bill again.

Republican Rep. Thomas Brunner argued on the House floor against raising taxes on South Dakota residents. He said the increased license plate fees are tough to stomach and the revenue hikes would hurt residents.

"The old song says that the spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down," said Brunner, R-Nisland. "Well there's not enough sugar in this bill."

Another piece of the proposal would increase the maximum interstate highway speed limit in law from 75 mph to 80 mph. Secretary of Transportation Darin Bergquist has said the state Transportation Commission has the authority to set lower speed limits.

SD man who escaped after sentencing arrested after car chase

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man who escaped after a sentencing hearing has been arrested after a high-speed chase that at times exceeded 100 mph.

Police in Rapid City say the 30-year-old man escaped from the Meade County Courthouse before noon Tuesday, got on a car and began driving eastbound on Interstate 90.

Officers deployed spike strips near two mile markers and managed to slow down Hopkins who then continued to drive into Rapid City. Police say the man later abandoned the vehicle and fled into a home, where he remained for several minutes.

The Rapid City Journal reports the man emerged from the house holding a knife and threatened to commit suicide. Officers then fired several non-lethal beanbag rounds, striking him at least once.

Police say he again attempted to flee, but was subdued by officers using a stun gun. The man hasn't been charged in connection with the incident.

House approves plan to audit candidate nominating petitions

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The House has approved a measure allowing the Secretary of State's office to audit a random sample of voter signatures from statewide candidates' petitions to get on the ballot. The House voted 68-0 to send the measure to Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

Rep. Jim Bolin says the revisions were inspired by the 2014 election cycle. During the race for U.S. Senate, at least two candidates were accused of election law violations.

Under current law, the office has the authority to review a random sample of signatures from voter ballot measures to determine their authenticity.

But the office can't check the accuracy of signatures on the nominating petitions of statewide candidates. Secretary of State Shantel Krebs has said the focus is on races such as governor and U.S. Senate, not legislative contests.

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House lawmakers push voiding transgender athletic policy

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The House is taking another shot at voiding a High School Activities Association policy on transgender student participation in sports.

The House voted Tuesday to amend a bill to include the language and passed the measure, which now heads back to the Senate.

The activities association policy requires schools to review requests by transgender students or their guardians to decide on which team the students can participate. A committee would then make the determination.

Republican Rep. Jim Bolin's plan would require students to play on the same team as the sex identified on their birth certificates. He says the Senate should debate the measure, which previously perished in committee.

The full Senate rejected a procedural attempt earlier Tuesday to take up the bill. House Majority Leader Brian Gosch says he anticipates the House's latest attempt won't prevail.

Senate votes to increase scholarship amount for new students BY KEVIN BURBACH, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Senate voted Tuesday to phase in increases in per-student funding for the state's Opportunity Scholarship, eliminating previously proposed increases for current students in light of reduced revenue projections for the state.

Senators voted to amend the bill to still allow incoming South Dakota college students to receive up to \$1,300 for their first three years of school and up to \$2,600 for their fourth year. Students already receiving the scholarship would not see increases under the changes made Tuesday.

Republican Sen. Deb Peters, who chairs the appropriations committee, said the increases for current students had to be removed after state economists predicted Monday that revenue collections next budget year will fall short of previous budget predictions.

The current Opportunity Scholarship allows South Dakota high school students who attend in-state post-secondary institutions to receive up to \$1,000 for their first three years of college and up to \$2,000 for their fourth year. High school students have to meet certain academic requirements, like earning good ACT scores and taking four years of math and science courses, to be eligible for the scholarship.

Jack Warner, the CEO of the South Dakota Board of Regents, said the regents are still prepared to support the bill but hopes other revenue can be found to support it.

"It keeps the best and brightest in South Dakota but to do that ... the purchasing power needs to be increased," he said.

Warner said the per-student amount of the Opportunity Scholarship hasn't changed since it was implemented in 2004. At that time, he said, the scholarship made up about 26 percent of the total tuition and fees a student would pay. He said now the scholarship makes up closer to 16 percent, but the proposed bill would bring it to about 20 percent for incoming students.

"You have to maintain an adequate incentive for students to take the right courses and continue their interest in the program," he said.

The bill now returns to the full House, which voted to increase the scholarship amounts for current students before the reduced revenue projections were announced. If the House doesn't agree with the Senate's change, legislators from both chambers work on a compromise in a conference committee.

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Over 21,000 South Dakota residents select health insurance

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Federal health officials say 21,393 South Dakota residents selected health insurance plans during the second enrollment period under a provision of the Affordable Care Act.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced the new enrollment numbers Tuesday. The figures are through Feb. 22.

Officials had estimated that up to 27,626 South Dakota residents were eligible to select health plans through the federal marketplace healthcare.gov.

The federal report shows that 86 percent of those who selected plans in South Dakota qualified for a tax credit, and the credits averaged \$228 per month. The report says 47 percent of South Dakotans paid \$100 or less per month after tax credits.

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering a challenge to the subsidies in South Dakota and other states where residents depend on the federal marketplace, rather than state-established websites. The court's decision is expected in late June.

SD House votes to send juvenile justice overhaul to governor JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A key proposal for Gov. Dennis Daugaard that aims to significantly decrease the number of juvenile offenders in state-sponsored care is headed to his desk.

The state House voted 60-7 on Tuesday to send the measure to Daugaard for his signature. The proposal attempts to reduce South Dakota's startlingly high rate of adolescents who are committed to the care of the Department of Corrections by focusing on the most dangerous offenders and pushing lower-risk juveniles into community-based treatments.

Juveniles committed to state care live in various settings, from the state's STAR academy campus to private, in-patient treatment programs

Daugaard has highlighted the measure, which mirrors changes lawmakers made to the adult criminal justice system in 2013, as a major policy priority for the 2015 legislative session.

"I am grateful that the House voted in support of juvenile justice reform today," Daugaard said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Through the proven interventions and treatment programs offered in (the overhaul), both the taxpayers who fund the correctional system and the young offenders who need to be rehabilitated will be better served."

House Majority Leader Brian Gosch said he hopes to see the juvenile justice system overhaul achieve the same positive results as the changes to the adult system.

The measure would encourage the courts to keep lower-risk offenders at home to receive out-patient treatment for such things as addiction and mental health issues.

Rep. Elizabeth May, a Republican from Kyle, offered concerns that the proposal could create additional burdens for counties. May said that Jackson County's spending on jail-related costs nearly tripled after the 2013 adult criminal justice overhaul.

"Every time they come up with a bill like this I have to be concerned at the county level," May said. Gosch said the bill includes provisions to help defray county costs.

Daugaard is recommending about \$3.2 million for the next budget cycle for the proposal. Much of that is to expand access to community services, especially in rural counties.

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Police: Man tried to trick SD doctor into giving him drug

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Louisiana man has been arrested after he tried to trick a South Dakota doctor into giving a specific prescription drug.

Sioux Falls Police spokesman Sam Clemens says 60-year-old Jessie Mayeaux complained about chest pain at Avera Heart Hospital Monday night. Mayeaux then mentioned several medications that he was allergic to, but said he could take the painkiller Dilaudid.

Clemens says Mayeaux's specific request raised a red flag with the doctor. Hospital staff then realized that Mayeaux had checked in with a fake name.

Police were called to the hospital and Mayeaux told police he used the false name because his identity had been stolen and believed someone was after him.

Mayeaux, of Ponchatoula, Louisiana, was arrested on a charge of trying to obtain controlled substance by misrepresentation.

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. CLINTON'S EMAIL DEFENSE COMES DOWN TO TRUST

The prospective presidential candidate says she handed over all her work communications to the State Department. But her no-apology explanation will do little to placate critics.

2. ELEVEN MISSING IN MILITARY CHOPPER CRASH IN FLORIDA

Fate of seven Marines and four soldiers unknown after an Army helicopter crashed during a night training exercise between Pensacola and Destin.

3. FRATERNITY'S HISTORY TRACED BACK TO ANTEBELLUM SOUTH

Sigma Alpha Epsilon, whose members chanted racial slurs at the University of Oklahoma, struggled with race issues long before the latest video surfaced.

4. WHO IS KEEPING DETRACTORS IN HER REAR-VIEW MIRROR

Afghanistan's only woman taxi driver got behind the wheel after the fall of the Taliban, challenging conservative views--and ignoring death threats--in her native country.

5. WHAT MIGHT HAVE CAUSED HELICOPTER CRASH IN ARGENTINA

Afternoon sun and strong winds could have been a factor in the tragedy that took the lives of several prominent French athletes, an official says.

6. KERRY, ASHTON AND DEMPSEY TO TESTIFY ON CAPITOL HILL

The three top national security officials will tackle the Islamic State's extremist threat, Iran's sphere of influence and Mideast hotspots before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

7. CITY MANAGER OUT IN FERGUSON, MISSOURI

The change comes as the town's council holds its first public meeting since the U.S. Justice Department accused the police force and municipal court system of racial bias.

8. 'BLURRED LINES' DISPUTE COULD ALTER MUSIC BUSINESS

The \$7.4 million verdict that hit Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke has the potential to change artists' concepts of what constitutes copyright infringement.

9. WHICH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT METHOD UTAH IS BRINGING BACK

If the governor signs the bill, Utah would become the only state allowing firing squads to carry out the death penalty.

10. NUT RAGE FLIGHT ATTENDANT SUES COMPANY, FORMER EXEC

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The Korean Air employee says her career was ruined after she was verbally and physically attacked by the executive who has been sentenced to one year in prison.

AP News in Brief

Analysis: Clinton's no-apology email defense won't change dynamic between her critics, backers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The message from Hillary Rodham Clinton: Trust me. But in a 21-minute news conference to address why she used a private email account as secretary of state, the favorite for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 2016 did little to try to build that trust among those willing to give her the benefit of the doubt.

Granted, that may be a thin slice of America. Few people inspire more clear-cut devotion and antipathy than the former first lady, senator and diplomat. Still, as she nears the launch of her presidential campaign, Clinton might have used the occasion of a rare news conference to reach out, to make a special effort to refute claims that she's overly secretive and legalistically clever.

For instance, she might have taken up the suggestion of Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, who demanded Clinton ask a neutral arbiter to review the contents of her private email server.

But Clinton didn't.

She remained poised before a pack of reporters, giving no ground. The server will remain private. She said she had exercised her right to decide which of roughly 60,000 emails at issue were work-related and which concerned personal topics, such as her mother's funeral and her daughter's wedding. She deleted and did not archive those in the second group, she said.

Military: 7 Marines, 4 soldiers missing after Army helicopter crashes in the Florida Panhandle

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Seven Marines and four soldiers were missing early Wednesday after an Army helicopter crashed during a night training exercise at Eglin Air Force Base in the Florida Panhandle. Base officials said the Marines are part of a Camp Lejeune-based special operations group and the soldiers were from a Hammond, Louisiana-based National Guard unit.

The helicopter was reported missing around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday and search and rescue crews found debris from the crash around 2 a.m. Wednesday, Eglin spokesman Andy Bourland said.

"At this time all are missing," Bourland said.

Names of those involved were being withheld pending notification of next of kin, he said.

1 fraternity member seen in video, parents of another apologizes for racist chant

DALLAS (AP) — A former University of Oklahoma fraternity member who was shown in a video chanting a racial slur issued an apology Tuesday, as did the parents of a second student.

In a statement emailed by his father, Parker Rice said the incident that was caught on video was "likely was fueled by alcohol," but "that's not an excuse."

"I am deeply sorry for what I did Saturday night," Rice said in a statement emailed to The Associated Press by his father. "It was wrong and reckless."

Meanwhile, the parents of another student seen on the video, Levi Pettit, released a statement that

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said, "he made a horrible mistake, and will live with the consequences forever." Both Pettit and Rice are from Texas.

Long before disturbing video by Oklahoma members, Sigma Alpha Epsilon struggled with race

Sigma Alpha Epsilon's international headquarters may be in Illinois, but the fraternity's roots are firmly planted in the antebellum South. "We came up from Dixie land," says a ditty from an old songbook, boasting about SAE's success.

Now, nearly 160 years after its founding at the University of Alabama, another song — this one chanted by members of the frat's University of Oklahoma chapter and containing racial slurs and lynching references — hearkens back to the bad old times in the land of cotton and puts a new spotlight on the group's activities over the years.

SAE began on the Tuscaloosa campus on March 9, 1856, a few months after Noble Leslie DeVotie outlined his vision to a close circle of friends during a stroll along the banks of the Black Warrior River.

The initial members visualized "a bond which would hold them together for all time," William C. Levere wrote in a 1916 history of the fraternity. "So it came about that in the late hours of a stormy night, the friends met in the old southern mansion and by the flicker of dripping candles organized Sigma Alpha Epsilon."

More chapters were soon launched in Tennessee, North Carolina and even Washington, D.C., at what is now George Washington University. But the founders weren't interested in a national presence.

Pilots in Argentina helicopter crash that killed 10 were well trained, authorities say

VILLA CASTELLI, Argentina (AP) — The two helicopters had just taken off and were flying in tandem over some of Argentina's most rugged terrain, carrying well-known French athletes and others who were participating in the popular TV reality show "Dropped."

Then one of the aircraft suddenly swerved, clipping the other and sending both plummeting to the ground in the foothills of the Andes and killing all 10 people on board.

The helicopters were in good condition and both Argentine pilots were qualified and experienced, family and officials said Tuesday, with speculation on why the collision happened ranging from blinding sunlight to the thermal updrafts that are common in the hot, cactus-filled landscape.

Andres Navarrete, mayor of Lamadrid, the northwestern municipality that includes the town of Villa Castelli close to the crash site, said one of the pilots, Juan Carlos Castillo, had "an entire life of experiences" flying helicopters.

Monday's crash, which killed eight French nationals and the two Argentine pilots, sent France into mourning and raised questions about the dangers of filming survivalist reality programs in far-flung lands under extreme conditions.

From dream job to lawsuit: flight attendant in nut rage case sues Korean Air, former exec

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A flight attendant who says she was living her dream by working for Korean Air is now suing the airline and its infamous nut rage executive, claiming the bizarre onboard tantrum ruined her career.

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Kim Do Hee, the flight attendant, is seeking compensation through a trial in New York city after she was verbally and physically attacked by Korean Air heiress Cho Hyun-ah, according to a statement on Wednesday by two American law firms, the Weinstein Law Firm and Kobre & Kim.

Cho, a vice president overseeing cabin service at the time of the Dec. 5 incident, was enraged that Kim, 27, served her macadamia nuts in a bag, not on a dish.

After a heated confrontation with crew in the first class cabin, Cho ordered head flight attendant Park Chang-jin off the plane, forcing it to return to a gate at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

It is the first civil lawsuit connected with the nut rage case, which infuriated South Koreans and hogged global headlines. Last month a South Korean court sentenced Cho, 40, to one year in prison for violating aviation security laws, using violence against a flight attendant and other charges. Cho, who is the daughter of Korean Air's chairman, has appealed the ruling from prison.

Ferguson city manager is 5th to be fired or resign after Justice Department report

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) — Five people in Ferguson have been fired or resigned under pressure in the week since the release of a Justice Department report alleging racial bias in the city police department and a profit-driven court system.

The latest to go was City Manager John Shaw, whose eight-year tenure in the St. Louis County town ended Tuesday when the city council voted 7-0 to approve a "mutual separation agreement." His departure followed the firing of Municipal Court Clerk Mary Ann Twitty, the resignations of police Capt. Rick Henke and Sgt. William Mudd, and the Monday resignation of Municipal Court Judge Ronald Brockmeyer.

The St. Louis suburb has been beleaguered by unrest since a white police officer fatally shot unarmed, black 18-year-old Michael Brown last summer. Brown's shooting prompted protests in the St. Louis area and across the nation, which escalated in November when a St. Louis County grand jury declined to bring charges against Officer Darren Wilson, who later resigned.

The Justice Department also cleared Wilson of civil rights charges in the shooting in a report released March 4. But that same day, the DOJ also issued a scathing report citing racial bias and profiling among police and alleging that the court system functioned as a money-making enterprise that particularly targeted the poor and minorities.

The report repeatedly cited Shaw's role, as the city's chief executive, in encouraging police to aggressively ticket motorists as a means to generate revenue.

Afghanistan's only woman taxi driver braves death threats to defy conservative traditions

MAZAR-I-SHARIF, Afghanistan (AP) — Sara Bahai's decision to become Afghanistan's only known female taxi driver was motivated less by ideals of equality than by the need to support an extended family — and a love of driving that has confined her conservative detractors to the rear-view mirror.

She still remembers her first time behind the wheel, shortly after the Taliban were driven from power in the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. "I felt like I was in the sky, and I totally fell in love with driving," she said. There was no turning back.

Bahai, now around 40 years old, had already spent much of her life defying taboos in Afghanistan, where women are widely regarded as inferior to men and discouraged from working outside the home.

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She never married, she said, because she had to support her parents and siblings and feared a husband would prevent her from working. With no children of her own she adopted two boys, now both in high school. When Taliban insurgents shot and killed her brother-in-law, she took in her sister and seven nieces and nephews. She now supports a dozen people.

To put food on the table, she drives around the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif in a spotlessly clean yellow and white Toyota Corolla with sparkly woven seat covers and a good luck talisman in the front window.

\$7.4M verdict in 'Blurred Lines' judgment likely to ripple through music, legal industries

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jury's verdict that Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke copied Marvin Gaye's music to create their hit song "Blurred Lines" won't just be felt by the singer's pocketbooks — it has the potential to change how musicians work and could open the door to new copyright claims.

An eight-person jury determined Tuesday that Williams and Thicke copied elements of Gaye's 1977 hit "Got to Give It Up" and ordered the pair to pay nearly \$7.4 million to the late singer's three children.

Gaye's daughter, Nona Gaye, wept as the verdict was read and later told reporters, "Right now, I feel free. Free from ... Pharrell Williams' and Robin Thicke's chains and what they tried to keep on us and the lies that were told."

The music industry may feel new constraints in the coming years as artists — and lawyers — sort through the verdict and its implications.

Howard King, lead attorney for Thicke and Williams, told jurors in closing arguments that a verdict for the Gaye family would have a chilling effect on musicians' trying to evoke an era or create an homage to the sound of earlier musicians. Williams contended during the trial that he was only trying to mimic the "feel" of Gaye's late 1970s music, but insisted he did not use elements of his idol's work.

Trades, retirements, even some signings — Revis back to Jets — as NFL free agency begins

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL's business season began with a bang. Several actually: trades, retirements and, yes, even some big free agent moves.

It wasn't until mid-evening Tuesday that the first huge star took advantage of free agency: Darrelle Revis returning to the Jets for five years and \$70 million.

There were plenty of moves beforehand involving frequent All-Pros. But they were in the form trades or leaving the sport altogether.

Monster deals sent Saints tight end Jimmy Graham to Seattle and Rams quarterback Sam Bradford to Philadelphia. San Francisco linebacker Patrick Willis, plagued by sore feet, announced his retirement. So did injury-prone QB Jake Locker of the Titans, who spent just four seasons in the league.

The biggest shocker was the Graham deal, which sent Seahawks center Max Unger to New Orleans, along with a first-round draft pick. Seattle also got a fourth-rounder.

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 11, the 70th day of 2015. There are 295 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 11, 1865, during the Civil War, Union forces under General William T. Sherman occupied Fayetteville, North Carolina.

On this date:

In 1861, the Constitution of the Confederate States of America was adopted by the Confederate Congress in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1888, the Blizzard of '88, also known as the "Great White Hurricane," began inundating the northeastern United States, resulting in some 400 deaths.

In 1915, during World War I, Britain enacted a sweeping, long-distance blockade aimed at disrupting trade to and from German ports.

In 1935, the Bank of Canada began operations, issuing its first series of bank notes.

In 1942, as Japanese forces continued to advance in the Pacific during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia. (MacArthur, who subsequently vowed, "I shall return," kept that promise more than 2¹/₂ years later.)

In 1955, Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin, died in London at age 73.

In 1965, "I Lost It at the Movies," a collection of film criticism by Pauline Kael, was first published by Little, Brown and Co.

In 1977, more than 130 hostages held in Washington D.C. by Hanafi Muslims were freed after ambassadors from three Islamic nations joined the negotiations.

In 1993, Janet Reno was unanimously confirmed by the Senate to be attorney general.

In 2004, ten bombs exploded in quick succession across the commuter rail network in Madrid, Spain, killing 191 people in an attack linked to al-Qaida-inspired militants.

In 2011, a magnitude-9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami struck Japan's northeastern coast, killing nearly 20,000 people and severely damaging the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power station.

In 2012, sixteen Afghan villagers - mostly women and children - were shot dead as they slept by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, who later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Ten years ago: A judge, court reporter and sheriff's deputy were shot to death at an Atlanta courthouse; Brian Nichols, who killed them as well as a federal agent, surrendered a day later at the apartment of Ashley Smith, a woman he'd taken hostage. (Nichols was later convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.)

Five years ago: A federal appeals court in San Francisco upheld the use of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance and "In God We Trust" on U.S. currency. In an address at Tel Aviv University, Vice President Joe Biden said "good faith negotiations" could recognize Israeli security needs and the Palestinian goal for a viable state. Sebastian Pinera was sworn in as Chile's new president on a day when the country was peppered with a dozen significant aftershocks from a February earthquake. Pro Football Hall of Famer and former television actor Merlin Olsen died in suburban Los Angeles at age 69.

One year ago: In an extraordinary public accusation, the head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., declared the CIA had interfered with and then tried to intimidate a congressional investigation into the agency's possible use of torture in terror probes during the Bush administration. Swedish Radio reporter Nils Horner was shot dead in Kabul, Afghanistan, in an attack

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claimed by a Taliban splinter group. Dallas Seavey ran a blistering pace and took the lead just hours before the finish to win the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Today's Birthdays: Media mogul Rupert Murdoch is 84. ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson is 81. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is 79. Musician Flaco Jimenez (FLAH'-koh hee-MEH'-nez) is 76. Actress Tricia O'Neil is 70. Actor Mark Metcalf is 69. Rock singer-musician Mark Stein (Vanilla Fudge) is 68. Singer Bobby McFerrin is 65. Movie director Jerry Zucker is 65. Actress Susan Richardson is 63. Recording executive Jimmy Iovine (eye-VEEN') is 62. Singer Nina Hagen is 60. Country singer Jimmy Fortune (The Statler Brothers) is 60. Singer Cheryl Lynn is 58. Actor Elias Koteas (ee-LY-uhs koh-TAY-uhs) is 54. Actor-director Peter Berg is 53. Actor Jeffrey Nordling is 53. Actress Alex Kingston is 52. Country musician David Talbot is 52. Actor Wallace Langham is 50. Former U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., is 50. Actor John Barrowman is 48. Singer Lisa Loeb is 47. Neo-soul musician Al Gamble (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 46. Singer Pete Droge is 46. Actor Terrence Howard is 46. Rock musician Rami Jaffee is 46. Actor Johnny Knoxville is 44. Rock singer-musicians Benji and Joel Madden (Good Charlotte; The Madden Brothers) are 36. Actor David Anders is 34. Singer LeToya is 34. Actress Thora Birch is 33. TV personality Melissa Rycroft is 32. Actor Rob Brown is 31. Actor Anton Yelchin is 26.

Thought for Today: "Perhaps it is better to wake up after all, even to suffer, rather than to remain a dupe to illusions all one's life." - Kate Chopin, American writer (1851-1904).