

Groton Daily Independent

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Wednesday, March 9

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

School Lunch: Hamburgers, French fries, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken, boiled potato, green beans, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Betty Strom, Collette Van Cleave, Jamie Jorgensen, Jessica Grenz, Megan Flieds, Samuel Schlosser

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

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

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

7:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Lent Service

Thursday, March 10

Groton Area is the Band of the Day at the State A Tourney in Watertown

SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

State A GBB Tourney in Watertown

Senior Menu: Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rice and raisins, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Jennifer Little, Kerry Tullis. Malorie Harder, Todd Lerew, Alyssa Taylor, Kyleigh Englund

Friday, March 11

SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL

State A GBB Tourney in Watertown

Senior Menu: Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, sherbet, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Nora Rix

Saturday, March 12

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Actions taken at recent SDHSAA meeting

The South Dakota High School Activities Association met March 2.

Takini High School played three ineligible players in basketball between December 11, 2015 and January 4, 2016. As a result, the boys basketball program at Takini High School will be on probation for one year from March 2, 2016 to March 2, 2017.

A cooperative sponsorship of activities between Takini High School and Cheyenne-Eagle Butte High School in the sport of track for the 2015-16 school year was approved.

Rapid City Stevens violated the out-of-season rule relative to the coaching of a JO Volleyball team and as a result, its volleyball program will be on probation from March 2, 2016 to March 2, 2017 was approved.

Rosholt High School is forming a three-school cooperative agreement with Campbell-Tintah High School from Minnesota and Fairmount High School from North Dakota in the sports of boys and girls basketball and volleyball for the 2016-17 school year. The new cooperative will participate in the North Dakota championship series in those sports.

A second reading was approved encouraging member schools to consider not using any stereotypical Indian imagery and Indian mascots that cause harm.

A cooperative agreement between Irene-Wakonda and Centerville for girls basketball, volleyball and football for the 2016-17 school year was denied. The member schools wanted to football as 9AA and girls' basketball and volleyball as Class B classification, despite that its combined enrollments would move them up a level.

Member schools have requested that the football alignments and classifications for 2016 be reviewed. The board decided to keep the classifications for 9 man football the same for the 2016 season.

The calendar committee report was presented. An option under consideration for 9B, 9A, 9AA and 11B would be as follows (2016 dates in parenthesis):

1st allowable practice would be Monday of week 6—(August 8)

1st allowable game would be Friday of week 7—(August 19)

Final regular season would be Friday of week 15—(October 14)

1st round playoff would be Thursday of week 16—(October 20)

2nd round playoff would be Thursday of week 17—(October 27)

Semi-finals would be Thursday of week 18—(November 3)

Finals for all classes would be conducted during week 19—(November 10/11/12)

It was also suggested that the five day holiday moratorium must be set by the board and not left to the local schools to decide the dates.

Gov. Daugaard Announces Closure Of STAR Academy

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced today the state will close STAR Academy, the state-run juvenile corrections facility near Custer, on April 8, 2016.

“Over the last ten years, the average daily population of juveniles under DOC jurisdiction has been cut in half. The juvenile justice reforms passed by the Legislature last year are expected to further reduce the number of juvenile commitments,” said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. “I thank the staff at STAR Academy for the service they have given to our state. They have done their jobs selflessly by placing the needs of the youth ahead of their own.”

Since Fiscal Year 2007, the average daily population of youth in the STAR Academy programs has declined from 166 to 51.

There are currently five juveniles in the Brady Academy, Youth Challenge Center and QUEST programs at STAR (State Treatment and Rehabilitation) Academy. The Department of Corrections anticipates only three juveniles will remain in the programs by the closing date. Those juveniles will return to their communities or transfer to another placement.

Under the Juvenile Justice Public Safety Improvement Act, \$6 million has been allocated to juvenile community-based programs throughout the state. The programs allow juvenile offenders to stay within their communities and address substance abuse, antisocial tendencies and family challenges.

The 64 employees working at STAR Academy were notified today of the decision to close the programs and provided with layoff notices. A one-time payment incentive plan equal to the staff member’s last two months of employment has been approved for staff members willing to stay on until their last day.

Impacted employees have been provided summary information of benefits and rights, including health, life and unemployment insurance, and conditions for reemployment preference. Reemployment preference guarantees the employee an interview for each career service position for which they apply for one year.

STAR Academy staff members were briefed last November on planned budget reductions at STAR Academy for Fiscal Year 2017. Informal layoff notifications were also given at that time.

Some STAR Academy staff members and facility maintenance staff will remain until June 8 to complete administrative and security tasks to close the campus.

“I thank the staff of STAR Academy for their dedicated service to the youth of the state of South Dakota over the years,” said Corrections Secretary Denny Kaemingk. “Although this is a difficult time, we celebrate their success in building STAR Academy into a nationally recognized facility.”

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Congratulations to the following teams and individuals for placing in the Watertown FFA CDE.

Dairy Cattle - 3rd Place Team

Nicholas Achen - 1st Place
Miranda Hanson - 14th Place
Brenna Johnson - 15th Place

Horse - 2nd Place Team

Josie LaMee - 1st Place
Cassandra Townsend - 4th Place
Allison Wilson - 18th Place

Livestock - 5th Place Team

Emma Watje - 17th Place
Braiden Craig - 18th Place
Turner Webb
John Jensen

Milk Quality - 2nd Place Team

John Achen - 4th Place
Portia Kettering - 11th Place
Paityn Bonn
Jennie Doeden
Audrey Wanner

Natural Resources - 3rd Place Team

Brody Sombke - 9th Place
Kyle Miller - 15th Place
Hayden Anderson

Vet Science - 3rd Place Team

Trey Wright - 2nd Place
Kate Helmer - 18th Place
Hannah Webb

Meats

Madilyn Wright - 5th Place



Ready to bring your heart and expertise to a team that feels more like a family? Bring your passion for patient care to the Golden LivingCenter in Groton. The Groton facility is now hiring for CNAs and Nurses. They have new wages with an excellent benefits package. All shifts are open. Join the team today by calling Jessica at 397-2365. The Golden LivingCenter of Groton is looking for you!

Groton Coffee Cup League

Team Standings: Jungle Lanes 35, James Valley 24 1/2, Ten Pins 20 1/2. Kens 16

High Games: Penny Stolle 192, Gert Erickson 176, Vicki Walter 169, Joyce Walter 169

High Series: Penny Stolle 478, Joyce Walter 475, Vicki Walter 456

Conde National League

Team Standings: Pirates 26, Colts 20, Braves 20, Cubs 18, Giants 18, Mets 17

Men's High Games: Lance Frohling 216, 200; Larry Frohling 201, Justin Kesterson 176

Men's High Series: Lance Frohling 583, Larry Frohling 527, Chad Furney 465

Women's High Games: Vickie Kramp 191, Nancy Radke 170, Mary Larson 168

Women's High Series: Vickie Kramp 438, Mary Larson 438, Renee Hanlon 423, Michelle Johnson 416



**(Back Row, L to R): Nicholas Achen, Brody Sombke, Landon Marzahn
(Front Row, L to R): Macy Knecht, Erin Smith, Keri Pappas, Jaden Oliver**

Groton Area High School National Honor Society

The Groton Area High School chapter of National Honor Society will be holding an induction ceremony for new members on Monday, March 30, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the GHS conference room in the new addition and will be open to all parents, grandparents, and friends of the members and inductees.

The new members of NHS were selected from a field of eligible students by a ten-member committee. Eligibility is based on a 3.0 grade point and then the students are evaluated further on the basis of their completed application. This evaluation considers each student's accomplishments in the areas of academics, character, leadership, and service.

The current members of the Groton Area Gold Key Chapter of the NHS are Lily Cutler, Hailey Hanson, Marlee Jones, Maggie Simon, Carly Wheeting, Katie Miller, and Megan Unzen. The students who will be inducted this year are seniors Brody Sombke, son of Clint and Kiersten Sombke, and Jaden Oliver, daughter of Chad and Stacy Oliver; juniors Nicholas Achen, son of Craig and Cindy Achen; Macy Knecht, daughter of Patrick and Carol Knecht; Landon Marzahn, son of Wade and Renee Marzahn; Keri Pappas, daughter of Kelly and Valerie Pappas; and Erin Smith, daughter of Steve and Carol Smith.

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City Council March 7, 2016 Minutes

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7pm at City Hall for their regular first monthly meeting with the following members present: Flihs, McGannon, Blackmun, Glover, Opp, Peterson, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Also present were: Attorney Johnson, Finance Officer Lowary, Kathy Sundermeier, Paul Kosel, Gordon Nelson, and Sherwin Nyberg.

The minutes were approved as read on a motion by Glover and seconded by Opp. All members present voted aye.

The financial report was approved on a motion by McGannon and seconded by Glover. All members present voted aye.

The following bills were approved for payment on a motion by Peterson and seconded by McGannon. All members present voted aye.

Executive Payroll 484.85 salaries; Administrative Payroll 6,165.05 salaries; Public Safety Payroll 13,132.53 salaries; Public Works Payroll 17,188.97 salaries; Cultural & Recr Payroll 762.85 salaries; City of Groton 828.84 postage, dep ref, util, sav; Cons Fed Cr Union 1,125.00 emp savings; First State Bank 7,252.11 ss & wh; US Post Office 209.39 postage; Samantha Miller 148.98 dep refund; April Abeln 38.87 med flex; David Hunter 2,550.00 med flex; Buhls 31.70 rug rent; Chase Visa 693.81 books, motel, supp; Clark Engineering 1,937.50 eng; Cummins 1,051.50 repair; Darrels 543.80 tires; Digital Ally 100.00 battery; Les Dohman 480.00 HWH sales inc; Fire Safety First 106.00 ext rechgs, 1st aid supp; Heartland Waste 6,150.64 garbage hauling; Irby 37.69 testing; James Valley Telecomm 548.42 telephone, internet; Jensen Feed & Grain 2,064.60 rock salt; Johnson, Drew 800.00 legal services; Matheson Tri Gas 57.28 arg/CO2; NW Energy 10.00 nat gas; S&S Lumber 84.96 supplies; SD Dept of Health 30.00 testing; SD State Treasurer 9,753.85 sales tax; SD Retirement 7,875.60 retirement; Verizon Wireless 41.61 comm; WEB Water 10,183.79 water

Moved by Opp and seconded by Glover to hold Equalization Hearings at City Hall, on Monday, Mar 21, immediately following the 2nd monthly meeting and on Tuesday, Mar 22 at 7pm. All members present voted aye.

CPI for 2017 was announced to be 0% and any Opt Out must be completed by July 1.

The dog licensing ordinance will remain the same, but an additional 2 week period will not be given.

Kent Mauck enters the meeting. At 7:15pm garbage hauling bids were opened and read aloud: Heartland Waste Management, Moberly, SD : traditional collection at \$10.45/mon/ residence or container collection at \$12.45/mon / residence.

A-1 Sanitation, Aberdeen, SD : container collection at \$10.50/ mon/ residence.

Mr. Mauck addressed concerns regarding the current service. Costs for local operation were found to be too high to also pay for a truck. Moved by McGannon and seconded by Blackmun to accept the low bid of \$10.45/ mon/ residence for traditional collection for the April 16, 2016-April 15, 2019 contract. All members present voted aye. Moved by Flihs and seconded by Glover to set the new rate charged to utility residential customers at \$11.00 / mon/ residence effective April 16, 2016. All members present voted aye.

Spring load limits for city streets became effective Mar 8. Garbage routes are restricted to 6th St, Main St, Hwy 37, and Railroad Ave. until spring thaw is complete. Mr. Mauck leaves the meeting. During the

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discussion Terry Herron and Shawn Lambertz enter the meeting.

Department reports were given by Terry Herron, Public Works Supt.; and Shawn Lambertz, Electric Supt. Topics included were reconstruction of the backstops at the little fields of the baseball complex; future WAPA rate reductions; and a meeting attended by Lambertz, Lowary, McGannon, Opp, and Fliehs with Heartland CEO Russ Olson was discussed.

A cat electrocuted at the top of an electric pole was reported. Complaints of many wild cats living in town and in the storm sewers were discussed. Nelson and Nyberg also addressed the Council regarding the large numbers of cats without homes which are being fed, but not cared for by residents. Moved by Peterson and seconded by Blackmun to give 1st Reading to Ordinance 704, Cat Licensing, which would have cat owners license their pets to help distinguish unclaimed cats from pets. All members present voted aye.

An appeal on how much penalty charges are given to customers that pay only part of their utility bill by the 10th of the month was discussed. The current penalty of 10% of the original bill vs. 10% of the outstanding balance was debated. No relief was grant to Paul Kosel for this appeal and no change in future penalties were made. Lambertz left meeting at this point.

Herron presented quotations from Kampa Construction (\$32,640.00) and Wright and Sudlow (\$36,442.30) for the repair work needed on 6th St. Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp to accept low quotation from Kampa Construction and proceed with the project. Certificates of insurance will gathered from Kampa Construction. All members present voted aye.

Herron also presented quotations from Kampa Construction (\$1,860.00) and Wright and Sudlow (\$2,340.00) for the curb cut at Cheris On Main. Any action on this was tabled until the next meeting to discuss cost sharing with Cheri.

Dollar General developers have requested abandonment of the easements on the Randall's Additon property which they are hoping to use. Since water and sewer have already been moved from the easement, the east west easement can be vacated, but the north south electric easement will have to remain in place to provide power to the north side of Highway 12. No action was taken until the property owner petitions the city. Nelson and Nyberg reported on the concerns expressed at hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

A SD Recreation Trails Program 80/20 grant for a walking or biking path is available if applications are submitted by April 15. Location, use, and expenses were discussed. Aerial maps will be reviewed for possible locations.

Groton City has received notice that \$50,000 was given by the David Olson estate to meet the needs of the community. Suggestions of the walking path, baseball playground equipment, swimming pool slide, swimming pool observers shelter, and park improvements were given. Study will continue.

Several additional reports were given on swimming pool comparison to other communities, costs for lengthening the swimming season, number of baseball and softball players, and pool attendance. Recreation prices for 2016 were discussed. Moved by Opp and seconded by Glover to raise the daily passes to the pool to: Adults= \$5 per session; Youth = \$3.00 and Seniors = \$3.00. All members present voted aye. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Glover to leave charges for baseball as is, but to be sure Legion, Teener, and Jr. Teener games have a donation hat passed at each game and the proceeds given 50% to the Baseball Foundation for repairs and 50 % to the City for operations. All members present voted aye.

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Lowary presented the 2016 annual report. Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Peterson to accept the annual report as presented. All members present voted aye.

Lowary present nominating petitions from Scott Hanlon as Mayor (3 year term); Jay Peterson as Ward 1 Councilman (1 year term); David Blackmun as Ward 1 Councilman (2 year term); David McGannon as Ward 2 Councilman (2 year term); and Burt Glover as Ward 3 Councilman (2 year term) and recommended their approval. Moved by Opp and seconded by Flihs to accept the nomination petitions as presented and to cancel the April 12, 2016 election. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Opp to grant a request to close Main Street between E 1st Ave and E 2nd Ave on Sunday, June 19, for a car show that is sponsored by the Groton Lions Club. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp to set the renewal date for the group health insurance plan to October 1, 2016 upon the advice of the insurance agent to avoid additional charges under ACA. All members present voted aye.

Council members inspected Community Center tables and chairs to determine if there are any to surplus for sale.

Moved by Opp and seconded by Glover to adjourn into executive session for personnel matters at 9:02pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 9:35pm.

Moved by Glover and seconded by Blackmun to hire the following persons for summer employment: Cemetery Caretaker Brian Gravatt; Baseball Concessions Becca and Chuck Padfield; Baseball Grounds-keepers and Assistant Coaches: Adam Herman, Brandon Keith, Brady Keith, Truit Rogers; Swimming Pool Lifeguards: Trisha Keith, Kelli Hanson, Kyler Ell, Halle Dohman, Nicole Koehler, Taryn Rossow, Sydney Thorson, Taylor Gustafson, Isaiah Cutler, Aubrey Wanner, Jasmine Schaller, Marlee Jones, Luke Thorson, Emma Donley, Jackson Oliver, Seric Shabaaz, and Tylan Glover. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Glover and seconded by Flihs to give 1st Reading to Ordinance No. 703, The 2016 Summer Salary Ordinance. All members present voted aye.

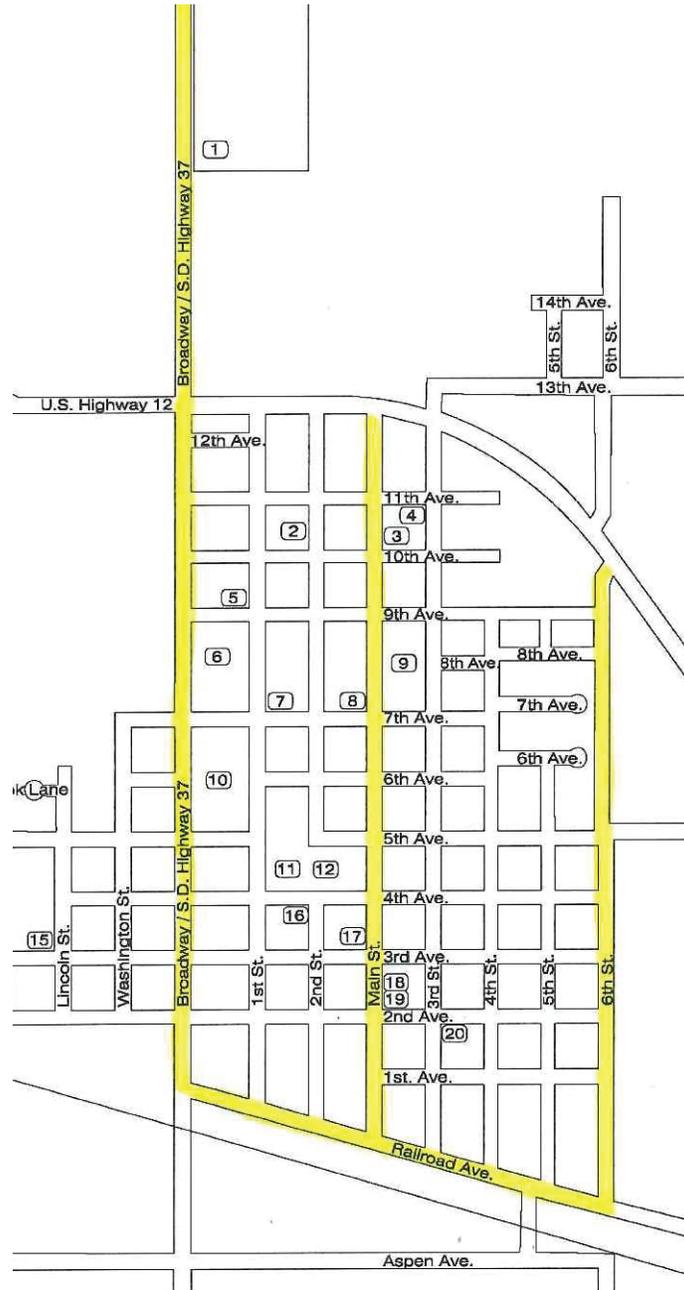
Meeting adjourned.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Anita Lowary, Finance Officer

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Effective March 8th, 2016 until further notice

To Help Preserve Our Streets

GROTON Garbage Pickup Service

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

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

Residents north of 13th Avenue (Olson and Jacobson Development) need to

bring their garbage to the Bus Barns.

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

Thank you for your cooperation!!

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Today in Weather History

March 9, 1993: High winds gusting in excess of 50 mph moved east across South Dakota behind a strong cold front. Peak wind gusts reported included 62 mph at Pierre and 49 mph at Aberdeen. In addition, high winds flipped over a mobile home on top of a car and a utility shed near The Oahe Reservoir. Also, a semi-tractor trailer was overturned while crossing Ft. Randall Dam. An office trailer was also tipped over at the same location.

1891: On this date through the 13th, a blizzard struck southern England and Wales with gale force winds. 220 people were killed; 65 ships foundered in the English Channel and 6,000 sheep perished. Countless trees were uprooted and trains buried. Up to a foot of snow and snowdrifts of 11.5 feet were reported at Dulwich, London, Torquay, Sidmouth and Dartmouth. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the National Maritime Museum.

1956: A whopping 367 inches of snow was measured on the ground at the Rainier Paradise Ranger Station in Washington. The snow depth was a state record and the second highest total of record for the continental U.S.

1957: An earthquake measuring a magnitude 8.6 struck the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. A Pacific-wide tsunami was generated that caused \$5 million dollars of damage in Hawaii, but fortunately, no lives were lost. Hardest hit was the island of Kauai, where houses were damaged and roads washed away. Waves reached 52.5 feet high at Haena, HI.

1960 - A winter storm produced a narrow band of heavy snow from north central Kentucky into Virginia and the mountains of North Carolina. Snowfall amounts ranged from 12 to 24 inches, with drifts up to eleven feet high in western Virginia. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Gale force winds ushered arctic air into the north central U.S. Some places were 50 degrees colder than the previous day. Northeast winds, gusting to 60 mph, produced 8 to 15 foot waves on Lake Michigan causing more than a million dollars damage along the southeastern shoreline of Wisconsin. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A cold front brought high winds to the southwestern U.S. Winds in the Las Vegas Valley of Nevada gusted to 70 mph, and one person was injured by a falling tree. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Twenty-two cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. In New Mexico, afternoon highs of 72 at Los Alamos, 76 at Ruidoso, and 79 at Quemado, were records for March. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in West Texas. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 71 mph at Lubbock, and golf ball size hail was reported at several other locations. Strong thunderstorm winds injured two persons north of the town of Canyon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

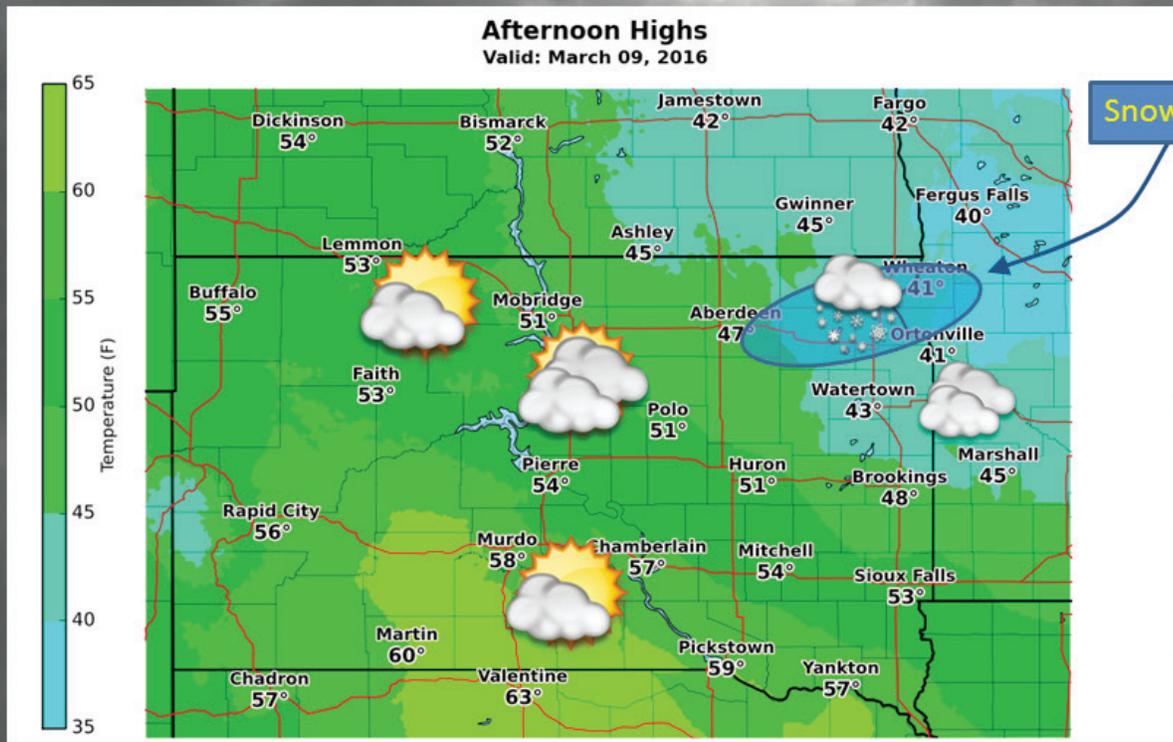
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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Decreasing Clouds	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 43 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 60 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 40 °F	High: 65 °F



Cool - But Still Above Normal Clearing Clouds - Localized Morning Snow



National Weather Service - Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 3/9/2016 5:19 AM Central

Published on: 03/09/2016 at 5:20AM

Cool air and clouds - along with a localized area of accumulating snow - will gradually shift east during the day. Milder air moves in for Thursday with dry conditions and temperatures above average going into next week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 49.4 at 12:01 AM

Low: 34.3 at 6:50 PM

High Gust: 32 at 1:05 PM

Precip: 0.00 (4 Inches Snow)

Today's Info

Record High: 65° in 1913

Record Low: -20 in 1951

Average High: 36°F

Average Low: 17°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.27

Precip to date in March.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 1.29

Precip Year to Date: 0.60

Sunset Tonight: 6:32 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:54 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Mar 09, 2016, issued 4:01 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE

Two men were hunting in Africa. As they were walking across a shaky bridge, two lions started to chase them.

Realizing they may not make it, James said, "Pray, John!"

John, frightened, said, "All I can remember is: 'Lord, make us truly grateful for what we're about to receive.'"

"Not for the lions, John, for us!"

Sadly, it seems that most of the time when we call upon the Lord for His help, guidance, peace or comfort, it is when we are facing life's biggest threats or problems. When life is pleasant and pleasurable we rarely pause to think about Him or thank Him for the good times. But when problems erupt and times are difficult we may not know how to begin or what to say. Perhaps it's because we rarely pray when the sun is shining and good things are happening.

So what do we do? Develop the habit of praying at all times, and soon we will discover that "God is a very present help in times of trouble."

Prayer: Lord, it seems that when I pray, I realize how much I truly need You and how little I can do for myself. I do know that there is never a time when I can get by without Your help: in Your Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Feds aim to seize \$191K from polygamous businesses

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Federal prosecutors want to seize \$191,500 from businesses with ties to a polygamous group accused of carrying out a multi-million dollar food stamp fraud scheme.

Authorities filed court documents this week to get funds they say were diverted from food stamp purchases and put into bank accounts of several companies involved in the scheme.

Authorities say the polygamous sect on the Utah-Arizona border diverted at least \$12 million worth of federal benefits.

Attorneys for the suspects weren't immediately available for comment.

All but one of the 11 people indicted have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The suspects include Lyle Jeffs, who runs the day-to-day operations of the group with his brother Warren Jeffs serving a life sentence in Texas for sexually assaulting girls he considered brides.

Summit League tournaments set attendance records

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Summit League says the 2016 basketball championships set 10 attendance marks in the tournament's second year at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls.

The combined attendance for the men's and women's tournament was more than 65,000, surpassing the record set last season by more than 5,000 fans.

The men's championship game drew 10,306, the top figure for any session in the event's 32 years. Tuesday afternoon's women's championship game set a record of 8,647 for the finals.

Summit League Commissioner Tom Double (DOO'-pihl) says the support is amazing, especially on the women's side where the league has become a fixture at the top of the NCAA attendance charts.

Rapid City police community advisory committee begins work

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A police advisory group that grew out of racial tensions in Rapid City last year has begun its work.

The 15-member Community Advisory Committee organized by the police department met for the first time in late January, with a goal of improving relations and prioritizing policing strategies in the city.

The group began as the Cultural Advisory Committee. Police announced its formation last summer to improve cultural understanding between law enforcement and the community.

The title has changed, but the goal hasn't, police Chief Karl Jegeris said Wednesday.

"I believe this collaborative approach will have a significant positive impact on crime reduction and community safety for years to come," he said.

Officials said the committee is a voice for all cultures and races but that a focus is on ensuring the Native American culture is adequately represented. More than half the group's members are American Indian.

Committee Coordinator Vaughn Vargas, appointed by Jegeris last year, is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

Native Americans make up nearly two-thirds of the people arrested in Rapid City. An independent study on race relations last year indicated friction between the American Indian community and the mostly white police force, but also a desire to improve the situation.

Racial tensions were strained last year by several incidents including Native American children being sprayed with beer during a minor league hockey game.

Western states look closely at endangered species protection

DENVER (AP) — Wildlife managers, conservationists and business interests are meeting in Denver as the Western Governors Association looks for ways to change the way endangered species are protected.

They'll spend Wednesday and Thursday talking about the states' role in deciding what species get protection under the federal Endangered Species Act and how conservation is paid for, among other topics.

It's part of a review of the Endangered Species Act initiated by the chairman of the Western Governors Association, Republican Matt Mead of Wyoming. Mead has said the law creates obstacles for local governments and industries, and he questioned how well it protects wildlife.

Endangered species decisions are bitterly contested in the West because they can restrict the energy industry and agriculture. Recent debates centered on grizzly bears, wolves and the greater sage grouse.

Rapid City man pleads not guilty in Pierre police chase

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has pleaded not guilty to federal charges tied to a car chase in Pierre during which a police officer fired his weapon.

Thirty-six-year-old Alvin Chambers faces two counts of using a car to assault a federal officer. A trial date was not immediately set.

The Feb. 19 chase began when officers attempted to arrest Chambers on a drug-related warrant. Chambers allegedly rammed squad vehicles belonging to a city police officer and a deputy U.S. marshal during the chase. Authorities say the city officer at one point fired his gun twice at the suspect's vehicle.

Authorities say Chambers eventually parked and ran into a hotel, where he was apprehended.

Man accused of showing inappropriate photo to teen at store

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have arrested a man accused of showing an inappropriate photo to a teenage girl in a Sioux Falls store.

Bruce William Crawford was arrested Tuesday afternoon. He's charged with sexual exploitation of a minor. He's accused of showing the photo to a Scheels employee on Saturday afternoon.

Inmate records showed Crawford was booked into the Minnehaha County Jail and had a bond amount of \$10,025. It wasn't immediately clear if he has an attorney.

South Dakota State men win Summit championship, 67-59

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Freshman forward Mike Daum scored 18 points and grabbed nine rebounds Tuesday night to lead South Dakota State to a 67-59 win over North Dakota State to capture the Summit League championship and an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Deondre Parks added 14 points for the Jackrabbits (26-7), who advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the third time in the past five years.

Carlin Dupree led North Dakota State (20-13) with 19 points, and Khy Kabellis added 17 for the Bison. "They made some good shots," Dupree said. "We contested some of them, and some of them we left them open."

Much of the early matchups inside the paint centered on a couple of freshman forwards — the 6-foot-9, 230-pound Daum for the Jackrabbits and the Bison's big guy, 6-foot-6, 240 pound Dexter Werner. Werner scored nine points for the Bison.

Daum, who was the tournament MVP, said the Jackrabbits were able to play a fast-paced game.

"We had a lot better ball movement than we had during the past two games," Daum said.

South Dakota State coach Scott Nagy called Daum one of the most efficient players in college basketball, making good use of every minute he's out on the court.

Both teams came out cold, hitting just three of a combined 12 shots to open the game.

The Bison had a two-point lead midway through the first half when the Jackrabbits went on a seven-

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point run.

Parks hit a 3-pointer and added a layup, then Baum hit a jumper for his first points of the game.

But the Bison kept the Jackrabbits close, twice regaining the lead and then cutting South Dakota State's halftime lead to 30-29 on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Dupree.

TIP-INS

Tuesday night's Summit League title game highlighted two of the best defensive teams in the conference. North Dakota State has been holding opponents to an average of 64.4 points per game this season, best in the Summit League. South Dakota State has held its foes to a 41.5 shooting rate this season, best in the conference.

FAMILIAR FACES

Tuesday night's game was the third time that North Dakota State and South Dakota State met in the Summit League final. The Jackrabbits topped the Bison 73-67 in 2013, and the Bison got even in 2015 with a 57-56 victory.

CARDIAC KIDS

South Dakota State's championship game win wasn't as nail-biting as its earlier Summit League tournament victories. The Jackrabbits topped Oral Roberts 73-70 in the opener and then prevailed 54-53 over Denver in Monday's semifinals. "We didn't want that to happen tonight," Dupree said.

PACKED HOUSE

Tuesday night's game drew a mostly Jackrabbits-friendly crowd of 10,188 fans to the Denny Sanford Premier Center, setting a new record for the Summit League championship. The tournament moved into the new, larger venue last year.

UP NEXT

The Jackrabbits will learn their NCAA Tournament opponent on Sunday.

The Bison will have to wait and see if they'll get an invitation to a postseason tournament.

Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Region 1AA

Sioux Falls Lincoln 54, Watertown 36

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 64, Brandon Valley 60

Region 2AA

Aberdeen Central 74, Sturgis Brown 42

Rapid City Central 64, Mitchell 55

Region 1A: Aberdeen Roncalli 48, Sisseton 47

Region 3A: Sioux Falls Christian 60, Dell Rapids 59

Region 4A: Dakota Valley 52, Vermillion 50

Region 5A: Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 61, Parkston 56

Region 7A: Winner 51, Little Wound 49

Region 8A: St. Thomas More 64, Spearfish 48

Region 1B: Warner 62, Waverly-South Shore 29

Region 2B: Potter County 74, Highmore-Harrold 35

Region 3B: DeSmet 49, Wolsey-Wessington 43

Region 4B: Chester 60, Canistota 49

Region 5B: Irene-Wakonda 64, Menno 42

Region 6B: Corsica/Stickney 77, Colome 50

Region 7B: White River 66, Rapid City Christian 49

Region 8B: Harding County 68, Timber Lake 62

South Dakota State women win Summit championship 61-55

DIRK LAMMERS, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Macy Miller had 18 points and 10 rebounds Tuesday to lead South Dakota State to a 61-55 win over South Dakota to capture the Summit League championship and an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The defense-led victory gives South Dakota State (26-6) its seventh trip to the March tournament in the past eight years. Freshman guard Madison Guebert added 14 points for the Jackrabbits, sinking three of her six 3-point attempts at key moments in the game.

Nicole Seekamp, the Summit League Player of the Year, led South Dakota (26-6) with 22 points, and Kelly Stewart added 11 points for the Coyotes.

Defense dominated, with both teams shooting 34 percent during the game.

Seekamp said she thought that the Coyotes' transition defense wasn't as good as it could have been in the second half.

"They're a great transition team, and I thought sometimes that we kind of got lost, and that's when they kind of made big plays," Seekamp said.

Both teams tried to drive to the basket early but struggled to sink shots within the paint. The Jackrabbits hit just 22 percent of their first-quarter shots, missing nine layups.

Gaby Boever, one of just two seniors on the young South Dakota State team, said there was no panic, and the Jackrabbits concentrated on taking their time and finishing.

"I feel like we were rushing, trying to create contact that necessarily wasn't there," Boever said.

South Dakota also struggled early, shooting under 27 percent in the opening period while missing five jumpers and four layups.

The squads improved their shooting a bit in the later quarters, but defense continued to dominate. The Coyotes headed to the locker room with a 27-26 lead at the half, but South Dakota State reversed it at the end of the third quarter, taking a 40-38 lead.

Guebert said the team applied a lot of defensive pressure and spread the ball among its shooters.

"Offensively, we were really moving the ball well, sharing it, knocking down shots," she said.

TIP-INS

South Dakota entered the game with the nation's ninth-best scoring offense at 79.5 points per game, and the Coyotes scored 73 and 78 points in the first two rounds of the tournament. The team ran into a South Dakota State defense that held its opponents to just 60 points in the first two rounds.

CHARITY STRIPE STRUGGLES

South Dakota typically shoots about 72 percent from the free-throw line but made just 10 of 19 free throws on Tuesday. "That was a little bit uncharacteristic for us," said South Dakota head coach Amy Williams. "And I think it kind of made us just a little bit uncomfortable."

UP NEXT

The Jackrabbits will learn their opponent Monday evening when the NCAA women's bracket is announced on ESPN. The Coyotes will await an invitation to a postseason tournament.

RECORD CROWD

A total of 8,647 fans packed the Denny Sanford Premier Center on Tuesday afternoon, setting a record for a women's Summit League championship. About two-thirds of the crowd wore the Jackrabbits' blue and gold while the rest donned Coyote red.

House blocks marijuana-related seizure disorder treatment

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state House has blocked a bill that would have allowed people with severe seizure disorders to use a compound in marijuana for treatment.

The chamber's 25-43 vote means the bill won't advance to Gov. Dennis Daugaard. It had passed through the Senate.

The bill would have allowed doctors to prescribe preparations of the compound, called cannabidiol, that

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were low in THC, an intoxicant in marijuana.

Republican Rep. Fred Deutsch says it's "not realistic" that there's no possibility users could get high.

George Hendrickson watched the vote from the House gallery. His 3-year-old son, Elijah, has a condition that has previously been helped "fabulously" by the treatment.

Hendrickson says the outcome shows "ignorance and pigheadedness running amok." The Sioux Falls resident says it makes him feel unwelcome in South Dakota.

Ex-Blackfeet councilwoman charged with harboring fugitive

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — A former Blackfeet tribal councilwoman has been indicted on federal charges of harboring a fugitive and lying to authorities.

Cheryl Little Dog pleaded not guilty during an arraignment Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Great Falls. She was released under special conditions.

A grand jury indictment unsealed Tuesday alleges Little Dog hid a South Dakota fugitive named Frank Gallardo in the crawl space of her home.

The indictment alleges she told U.S. marshals and FBI agents that Gallardo had left the area.

Gallardo was wanted on charges of molesting an 8-year-old girl. Officers found him in the crawl space and extradited him to South Dakota.

Little Dog was removed from the tribal council in November over the allegations that she hid Gallardo.

Her attorney, Roberta Cross Guns, declined to comment "because we are so early in the process."

State House approves education funding formula overhaul

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state House on Tuesday passed an overhaul of South Dakota's education funding formula to incorporate the half-cent sales tax increase recently approved by the Legislature for teacher pay.

House lawmakers voted 55-12 for the legislation, but changes made in the chamber will have to be considered by the Senate, which approved a different version of the plan. The overhaul and tax increase are part of a package lawmakers are considering this year to boost South Dakota's lowest-in-the-nation teacher pay.

"It's been a long time coming, and we're not 100 percent there yet, but we're so close," said Mary McCorkle, president of the South Dakota Education Association. "It's really a historic time for education in South Dakota."

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office has said the new funding system would improve accountability over the education funding formula used today. The proposal would base the funding system on a target average teacher salary of \$48,500 and target student-teacher ratios for schools.

Tony Venhuizen, chief of staff to Daugaard, has said the measure will make it easier to have public discussion about how school dollars are spent.

"This is a good thing for education in South Dakota, and that then converts to one thing: it's good for our students," House Democratic leader Spencer Hawley said.

The bill would also place caps on school reserve funds and impose new limitations on the growth of property taxes used for capital projects.

The half-cent sales tax increase passed the Legislature earlier this month. Advocates argued the state needs an ongoing source to pay for increasing teacher salaries and getting South Dakota out of last place. The state's average salary of \$40,023 in 2013-14 was nearly \$12,000 a year less than the average of six surrounding states.

The increase would raise about \$107 million in the upcoming budget year, most of which would be put toward helping raise the target average teacher salary to \$48,500 per year.

About \$36.5 million of the increase also would go to property tax relief, and about \$3.2 million would go toward salaries at technical schools.

Opponents argued the tax increase should be limited. They also said additional money for education could be found in existing state funds.

Lawmakers who spoke against the funding formula overhaul Tuesday criticized how it had been presented. "These smaller districts, the only way their teachers are going to get a raise is if there are fewer of them," said Republican Rep. Thomas Brunner, who voted against the measure.

The House on Monday unanimously passed a separate proposal aimed at improving school efficiency that's part of the proposed education changes. The measure would encourage schools to share resources and use distance learning.

Bill to encourage scholarships for private schools approved

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A bill that would give insurance companies tax credits for contributions to help lower-income students in South Dakota attend private schools is headed to Gov. Dennis Daugaard after passing Tuesday through the state Legislature.

The House voted 45 to 23 to approve the bill after using a procedural move to revive it. The measure had passed through the Senate, but had stalled in a House committee.

Daugaard has said that he would consider the measure if it is neutral to the state's budget.

Supporters say the measure would give parents the opportunity to make a choice about where they want their children to go to school. Such programs have been "very successful" in other states, said House Republican leader Brian Gosch, the main House sponsor of the measure.

Robert Wehde, president of Sioux Falls Catholic Schools, said he is "pleased and excited" for families that will benefit and the students that private schools will be able to serve.

"It's monumental," Wehde said. "It is (a change) that provides an opportunity, and I think it'll open up new doors in South Dakota."

Students would be eligible for the scholarships under the bill if their families in the year before entering the program made up to 150 percent of the income standard used to qualify for free or reduced-price lunch at school. Supporters say the proposal wouldn't drain state dollars because the average scholarship amount would have to be lower than what the state would spend on a child attending public school.

The proposal would allow insurance companies to get an 80 percent tax credit for total contributions to a grant organization that would provide the scholarships. The total amount of credits would be capped at \$2 million each budget year.

The measure would allow insurance companies to contribute to the community and do something that would be good advertising for them, Gosch said.

Democratic Rep. Karen Soli, who opposed the measure, said the bill is "rather insulting" to public schools who are committed to educating all students.

"These public schools have need of every penny of state support we can give them to help them do this essential task," Soli said.

Legislature sends government oversight overhaul to governor

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Legislature has sent Gov. Dennis Daugaard a proposed overhaul of government oversight after a murder-suicide last year involving two employees of a Platte-based educational cooperative.

The House voted 65-2 for the bill Tuesday.

Daugaard has said the state needs to have a better internal control system that "reaches" into organizations such as Mid-Central Educational Cooperative.

The organization handled administration of the federal GEAR UP college-readiness grant for the state until the agreement was canceled last year.

Republican Rep. Jim Bolin says the bill gives South Dakota better understanding and management of federal funds that come into the state.

The legislation establishes a state board to create effective internal controls. It also requires organizations that receive grants to attest that they enforce conflict-of-interest policies, among other things.

Lawmakers OK bill to provide prenatal care to non-citizens

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — State lawmakers have approved a measure that would provide prenatal care to low-income women living in South Dakota who are not U.S. citizens and not qualify for Medicaid.

The measure now heads to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who supports it. Proponents attempted to gain the Legislature's approval for the bill during at least three legislative sessions.

The measure would create a prenatal care program as allowed under the existing low-income health insurance program for children who don't qualify for Medicaid, known as the Children's Health Insurance Program.

A child born to a noncitizen is considered a citizen if born on U.S. soil. So in the case of low-income families, the state must cover the child's medical costs upon birth.

Supporters of the measure who testified before lawmakers said that without prenatal care, the risk of complications increases and so do the costs.

14-year-old young man arrested in shooting death in Yankton

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement authorities in Yankton say a 14-year-old young man has been arrested in connection with a shooting that left another teen dead over the weekend.

The Yankton County Sheriff's Office says the young man was arrested Monday night on charges of first- and second-degree manslaughter. He is being held in juvenile detention.

The teenager in custody was arrested in the death of another 14-year-old young man, who died at a hospital after being shot Saturday in Yankton.

Yankton County Sheriff Jim Vlahakis told the Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan on Tuesday he couldn't elaborate on the investigation other than to say that the suspect and victim were friends.

The name of the teen in custody has not been released because he is not charged as an adult.

Man who falsely claimed cattle losses gets 1 year in prison

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A rancher has been sentenced in South Dakota to one year in prison after admitting that he falsely claimed losing over a hundred cattle during the autumn blizzard of 2013.

Twenty-eight-year-old Karl Knutson, formerly of Vale, has also been ordered to spend three years on supervised release and pay a fine of more than \$7,300.

Authorities say Knutson submitted a claim to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in May 2014 for the loss of 129 head of cattle even though he actually lost at most 13. The October 2013 blizzard left ranchers reeling with financial losses.

Knutson pleaded guilty in November as part of a deal with prosecutors. Under the agreement, a false statement count was dismissed. Prosecutors also recommended that Knutson be sentenced to probation and fines.

Court records show Knutson recently relocated to western North Dakota.

Sioux Falls foster mother charged with murder in boy's death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls foster mother is facing charges including murder in the January death of a 2-year-old child in her care.

Thirty-two-year-old Mary Beth Jennewein was arrested Monday and was being held on \$1 million bond. She was scheduled to make a court appearance Tuesday afternoon.

The boy died Jan. 6. Police spokesman Sam Clemens says an autopsy indicated traumatic brain injury was the cause of death.

The boy originally had been taken to the hospital Jan. 4 for a breathing problem, but a radiologist detected a skull fracture. The boy died after being taken off life support.

Clemens says the child had been placed in Jennewein's care in September.

Database of problem police officers may get test in Ferguson

NOMAAN MERCHANT, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — In the wake of Michael Brown's death, the federal government wants to require the Ferguson Police Department to check all new hires against a database of officers who have been stripped of their law enforcement licenses for misconduct.

The mandate to consult the National Decertification Index received little notice in the government's proposed agreement to reform the police and court systems in the St. Louis suburb. But the measure's inclusion suggests to some observers that federal authorities could finally be seeking to put the index into wider use after years of resisting the idea.

The database contains the names of about 20,000 former officers who were pushed out of law enforcement. The index has been used inconsistently, and many officers who are stripped of their badges in one jurisdiction are free to move to another.

Criminal justice advocates have long called for the creation of a clearinghouse of information on bad cops similar to the National Practitioner Data Bank, which tracks malpractice lawsuits and complaints against doctors. Those calls have been rejected by Congress and opposed by some law-enforcement groups, particularly police unions worried about creating a blacklist.

When Congress was debating a national police registry in 1996, one union official compared the idea to the "witch hunts of Salem." The bill failed.

"Law enforcement was late getting into the registry business," said Raymond Franklin, a retired director of Maryland's police standards agency and one of the creators of the index. "Every profession has it now. And quite frankly, nobody ever talks about the National Practitioner Data Bank for doctors being a blacklist. You would expect that there would be a source of information about how doctors could have problems."

If adopted, the requirement for Ferguson would be unusual. When police departments in Cleveland or Albuquerque, New Mexico, negotiated major agreements following shootings by officers, the Justice Department did not require them to begin using the index.

The Ferguson deal was put on hold last month after city officials rejected the cost of implementing the 127-page plan, and the Justice Department sued to enforce it. On Tuesday, the city council seemed to change course again, setting a March 15 vote to reconsider the deal.

The proposed settlement followed the government's highly critical assessment of Ferguson's law enforcement and legal systems after a white officer shot and killed Brown, an unarmed 18-year-old black resident, in August 2014. The Justice Department later cleared Darren Wilson, concluding that evidence backed his claim that he shot Brown in self-defense. His death helped spawn the national "Black Lives Matter" movement.

A yearlong Associated Press investigation last year found that the index was missing thousands of names because the voluntary, privately run effort does not include every state, and vast variations exist in how local and state officials track and handle police misconduct.

Forty-four states and the District of Columbia have a process for removing the licenses of police officers for misconduct, a process commonly known as decertification. The index aims to collect those records, but participation is limited to 39 states, including Missouri.

Even states that are relatively aggressive in identifying bad officers, such as Georgia, do not participate because their record-keeping differs too much from the national index, and the effort to convert the information would be time-consuming and costly, Georgia officials said.

What states do report to the index is also limited. Participating agencies enter only the names of decertified officers, their employers, dates of decertification and basic reasons for the punitive action. There is no detailed information on why an officer was pushed out, nor is the index open to the public.

Federal money helped launch the index in 2000 after state police standards officials came together through their national group to create a bare-bones system for sharing decertification records. But the Justice Department does not fund it anymore.

The Justice Department did not respond to multiple requests for comment from the AP. The former head

of its Office of Justice Programs said federal funding was meant to launch the index, not fund it long term. "We thought it made sense at least from experimenting with it to see if it would catch on," said the official, Jim Burch, who now works for the Police Foundation.

Mike Becar, the executive director of the national police standards group, said his organization funds server space for the index at a minimal cost, but the index cannot expand without outside funding.

In a report last year, the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing called on the Justice Department to partner with the national police standards group to expand the index to all states and territories. Including the index in the Ferguson agreement could be a sign that federal officials are acting on that plan.

"This is another venue or opportunity for pushing that," said Matthew Hickman, a Seattle University researcher who has long studied police decertification. It will send a message to Missouri and other states that the Justice Department "is paying attention to this issue and thinks that participation in the NDI is a good thing."

But getting Congress to pass a law making the index mandatory, Hickman added, would be a "serious uphill battle."

Yiddish theater's evolution is focus of NYC exhibition

NEW YORK (AP) — Second Avenue on Manhattan's Lower East Side was once nicknamed Yiddish Broadway.

An exhibition at the Museum of the City of New York showcases the growth of Yiddish theater over a century from a thriving immigrant entertainment movement to its impact on Broadway.

"Yiddish Theater: From the Bowery to Broadway" opened Wednesday and runs through July 31.

Visitors will learn that the theater entertained over 1.5 million first-and second-generation Eastern-European Jewish immigrants. The term Second Avenue gradually also encompassed Yiddish theater in Brooklyn and Upper Manhattan.

The show spotlights its set designers and stars like Molly Picon (pih-KOHN') and Stella Adler and their crossover to Broadway and film.

It also features Zero Mostel's (mahs-TEHLZ') Tevye (TEHV'-yay) costume from "Fiddler on the Roof" and set models by Tony-winning designer Boris Aronson.

Boy with cancer who wished to be famous in China dies

WESTERLY, R.I. (AP) — An 8-year-old Rhode Island boy with terminal cancer whose dying wish to become famous in China reverberated around the world has died.

Dorian Murray died Tuesday, according to a post on the boy's official Facebook page.

"He was surrounded by people who love him and his transition to heaven was very peaceful. He was embraced by both mom and dad," the post by family friend Kathryn Thomas said.

Dorian, of Westerly, was diagnosed with a rare and untreatable form of pediatric cancer, alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma (ahl-VEE'-oh-lyr rab-doh-my-oh-sar-KOH'-mah), when he was 4. After cancer cells spread to his spinal fluid a few months ago, he and his family decided to stop his chemotherapy treatment so he could enjoy the time he had left.

Not long after, Dorian told his father he wanted to be famous in China before he went to heaven. His father, Chris, a police officer in Stonington, Connecticut, posted the wish on Dorian's Facebook page, urging people to use the hashtag #DStrong. It spread across the globe.

People from places as far away as Australia and Florida sent him photos and well wishes, and #DStrong became a trending topic on social media. It especially took off in China, where people sent photos of themselves on the Great Wall holding signs reading #DStrong. Dorian and his family also received invitations to travel to China, but declined due to his health.

The Rhode Island General Assembly declared Jan. 20 "#DStrong Day."

Dorian's family announced earlier this week that they planned to establish the Dorian J. Murray Foundation to raise money for pediatric cancer research and to help support families of children with pediatric cancer.

People in the community expressed sorrow at Dorian's death, including Roy Seitsinger Jr., superintendent

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of Westerly schools. He told families in a message that Dorian was a "precocious, gregarious, and loving little boy," the Westerly Sun reported.

US stocks rising as earnings impress investors and oil jumps

BERNARD CONDON, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks are moving higher Wednesday on some strong earnings reports and a rise in crude oil prices. Several energy companies are rebounding from big drops the day before. Murphy Oil is up 2.3 percent.

KEEPING SCORE: The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 67 points, or 0.4 percent, to 17,031 as of 12:07 p.m. Eastern time. The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 12 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,991. The Nasdaq composite increased 20 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,668.

FLYING HIGH: Air Transport Services jumped \$2.27, or 19 percent, to \$14.04 after turning in solid results and saying it will operate an air transport network for Amazon.

CHOW WOW: Pet-food company Blue Buffalo Pet Products rose \$3.44, or 19 percent, \$22 after posting strong earnings.

FOOD TROUBLE: Chipotle Mexican Grill fell \$24.91, or 4.7 percent, to \$499.78. The restaurant chain said it closed a Massachusetts store after four employees said they were feeling ill. The closure follows a series of food scares that sickened customers at its restaurants around the country. Chipotle has stepped marketing to win back customers and has said it's instituting food safety procedures so such incidents don't happen again.

OIL BOOST: Crude oil continued its climb from 13-year lows earlier this year. A barrel of benchmark U.S. crude was up \$1.54, or 4 percent, to \$38 a barrel. Brent crude, which is used to price international oils, rose \$1.24, or 3 percent, to \$40.86 a barrel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: The S&P 500 has tripled since bottoming out at 676.53 exactly seven years ago during the financial crisis. Stocks have been pushed up by higher corporate earnings, though not in the past year, and by the Federal Reserve's unprecedented efforts to encourage investors to take more risk by lowering interest rates on bonds and other safer assets. The current bull market is the third-longest of 11 since World War II.

THE QUOTE: "Inflationary pressures are non-existent, and so easy money still rules," said Chief Investment Officer Krishna Memani of Oppenheimer Funds, referring to central bank policies. "We believe this will be one of the longest economic expansions, and thus one the longest bull markets, we have experienced."

ECB IN FOCUS: Investors expect the European Central Bank will announce more efforts to stimulate the 19-country eurozone at the end of its policy meeting on Thursday. Possible moves include another cut in the deposit rate for funds from commercial banks to even further below zero. The hope is that will get banks to lend more. The ECB also could increase its bond-buying program to pump more money into the economy.

EUROPE HIGHER: Germany's DAX was up 0.3 percent while the CAC-40 in France rose 0.5 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.3 percent. The three indexes each fell nearly 1 percent the day before.

ASIA'S DAY: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 0.8 percent while South Korea's Kospi rose 0.3 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dipped 0.1 percent.

BONDS, CURRENCIES: U.S. government bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 1.88 percent from 1.83 percent. The euro rose to \$1.1020 from \$1.1002. The dollar edged up to 113.05 yen from 112.61 yen.

APNewsBreak: Video shows Google self-driving car hit bus

JUSTIN PRITCHARD, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Newly released video shows the moment a Google self-driving car learned the hard way not to tussle with a public bus.

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The collision happened on Valentine's Day, when a Google vehicle struck the side of a public bus in the Silicon Valley city of Mountain View. A Lexus SUV, which the company outfitted with sensors and a camera that allow it drive itself, edged into the path of the bus as it rolled by at about 15 mph, according to footage recorded by cameras on the bus.

It was the first time in several years of testing on public roads that a Google self-driving car prototype caused a crash. The tech giant has blamed other drivers for past collisions.

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority released the video and post-crash photos this week to The Associated Press under a public records request.

Though it was a low-speed collision, the impact crumpled the Lexus' front left side, flattened the tire and tore off the radar Google installed to help the SUV perceive its surroundings.

The Lexus had to be towed. Neither the Google employee in the driver's seat — who must be there under California law to take the wheel in an emergency — nor the 16 people on the bus were injured.

The transit agency has concluded based on the footage that the bus driver was not responsible, spokeswoman Stacey Hendler Ross said. An independent claims adjustor has not yet determined liability, she said.

Here are few other things to know about the crash and Google's self-driving cars:

IS THIS THE FIRST CRASH FOR A GOOGLE CAR?

No. The Feb. 14 crash is the first in which Google has acknowledged its car made a mistake that led to a collision.

Google has reported that between September 2014 and November, its prototypes drove themselves about 400,000 miles on city streets near its Silicon Valley headquarters without causing a collision.

Its fleet has likely driven an additional 100,000 miles since then, though the company won't be specific. According to Google's accounting, its cars have been hit nearly a dozen times in or around Mountain View since street testing began in spring 2014.

HOW DID THE CRASH HAPPEN?

The Lexus intended to turn right off a major boulevard but stopped after detecting sandbags around a storm drain near the intersection, according to an accident report Google filed with the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Photos show two small, black sandbags on either side of a drain at the curb. The right lane was wide enough to let some cars turn and others go straight, but to avoid driving over the sandbags, the Lexus needed to slide to its left within the lane. The bus and several other cars that drove straight were to the left of the Lexus, in the same lane.

When the light turned green, several cars ahead of the bus passed the SUV. Google has said that both the car's software and the person in the driver's seat thought the bus would let the Lexus into the flow of traffic. The Google employee did not try to intervene before the crash.

"This is a classic example of the negotiation that's a normal part of driving — we're all trying to predict each other's movements. In this case, we clearly bear some responsibility, because if our car hadn't moved there wouldn't have been a collision," Google wrote of the incident.

WHAT DOES THE VIDEO SHOW?

The footage shows angles from eight onboard cameras.

In one clip, passengers gazing out on a sunny afternoon are jolted to attention by a scraping, crunching sound and the impact, which causes several hand straps to sway.

In another clip, the Lexus RX450 can be seen bouncing off the side of the bus. Photos show a long scratch mark traversing the side of the bus.

A camera trained on the driver shows him open his mouth in surprise, then gesture as if to say, "Why did you just hit my bus?"

As passengers file out of the stopped bus, one says, "I couldn't tell what it was. I heard it."

SURPRISING MOVE

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Google has said that safety is its guiding principle in developing the cars, and that once mature, the technology promises to reduce collisions and deaths dramatically.

The software that controls the cars is programmed to follow all traffic laws and to drive conservatively, the company said. Police stopped a different prototype of Google's self-driving car last fall for going too slow in a 35 mph zone.

The law-abiding algorithms that rule the SUV's onboard computer make its decision to try and slip in front of the bus surprising.

Footage from a forward-facing camera on the bus shows there was not much more than a full car length between the bus and the GMC Yukon in front of it.

Google said it has tweaked its software to "more deeply understand that buses and other large vehicles are less likely to yield to us than other types of vehicles."

Water shut off at several Newark schools amid lead fears

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey's largest school district has shut off water fountains at 30 school buildings because of elevated levels of lead.

Newark Public Schools on Wednesday temporarily shut off the fountains where elevated levels of lead were recorded.

The state Environmental Protection Department says parents should have no concerns about their children's water and food consumption at school. The DEP says drinking water alone is not typically associated with elevated blood lead levels. Alternate supplies of water have been brought in for drinking and food preparation.

The district on Monday notified the DEP that annual testing found levels ranging from non-detect to above the EPA's action level for lead, which is 15 parts per billion.

The DEP has confirmed lead has not been found in the city's water supply.

As killings persist, New Orleans parade says 'Stop Violence'

MATT SEDENSKY, AP National Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — It bore trademarks of a classic New Orleans parade — the blare of brass, the dipping and kicking of dance, the strutting of bodies moving in unison through the streets. But wearing no sequins or plumes, those on parade were propelled by more than breezy revelry.

In a city torn by gun violence, they carried memories of the dead.

Travis Lyons, who has been on both sides of New Orleans' carnage, had dreamed for years of staging this event. He envisioned it as an anti-violence rally presented as a classic second line, as the sashaying, carefree processions are known in this city where they're a cultural cornerstone.

And now here they were, gathering in a circle outside City Hall, Mardi Gras so fresh that a stray lemon-colored feather blew past and a forgotten strand of fuchsia beads lay underfoot. Here they were, having buried friends and children and brothers, desperate to see the killing stop.

Pastor Kerwin Lewis stood among a crowd that would later grow to about 100 people. His teenage cousin was gunned down two decades ago while returning from his high school graduation party; a fiancée was shot years later. Offering a prayer, he thought of them.

"Oh God, we are losing a generation," he intoned. "Oh God, we pray that it comes to a stop."

Then the band started to play. Feet shuffled. The second line began.

Near the front, 61-year-old Venita Seals wore a red beret and a pin with photos of dead relatives. Asked how many people she's known who were killed, she stared off, unable to tally. A son, a grandson, a friend shot over \$60. She went on and on. She had her home broken into and said she was raped. She found herself needing to carry her .357 Magnum even to take out the trash.

"This is what I got to live with in my mind," she said. "This is what I got to hold in my heart."

The paraders moved past gabled roofs and columned balconies and porches with gingerbread woodwork that looked like a starburst and an abacus. Beneath a highway overpass, their instruments reverberated and echoed. Winding by towering downtown hotels and modest homes and a bakery that makes bread

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for po'boys, they moved along.

New Orleans' murder rate was more than eight times the U.S. average in 2014, the most recent national figures. Killings in the city increased slightly last year, to 164. Violent crime, often involving guns, has persisted even as officials have tried all types of programs to lower the rate. The blocks around the 1.5-mile parade route have seen assaults and rapes and homicides.

The violence has, at times, spilled over into the city's parades. Because they can attract thousands, those events can also be a convenient place to locate a rival.

Animosity has sprouted between the social clubs that stage the second lines, Lyons said, with fights breaking out over allegations of stolen dance moves and tussles over whose costumes were most extravagant, whose shoes most eye-catching.

Lyons, president of the Perfect Gentlemen Social Aid and Pleasure Club, saw his event as a show of solidarity. He invited other club presidents to march beside him, putting aside the competitiveness to stand united against the killing.

Fewer showed up than he had hoped, but he vowed to return next year, again spending about \$5,000 to fund the event himself.

They marched on in crisp February air, the sounds of horns piercing the quiet of a Saturday downtown. Some clutched bottles and cans in brown bags; many wore shirts with the words "STOP VIOLENCE" in a red octagon.

The second lines share history with jazz funerals, a parade of mourners that typically follows the deceased to the somber sounds of the band. Despite the losses suffered by those who gathered this day, though, the mood was upbeat and the music joyous.

Rosary McCaskill, a 58-year-old fashion designer, wore red shoes that blurred with the speed of her footwork. Explaining why she was drawn to the parade, she spoke of teens' passing comments about what they'll do "if" they live into their 20s, resigned to lives cut short by gunfire. She remembered the 26-year-old son of a friend who was shot in the head and killed.

"It really put a dent in my heart," she said.

A trombone's slide extended skyward as the throng passed a barren tree draped in shiny plastic beads, purple, gold and green. The hollow sound of a cowbell punctuated the footsteps of marchers, some of whom questioned why attendance was lower than they'd expected, others who wondered aloud how an anti-violence second line could possibly bring a halt to the bloodshed.

But Rodney Richardson, driving a truck near the head of the parade, said those in this special second line were just using a means of communicating as quintessentially New Orleans as gumbo and jazz to project a positive message.

"Even if all of us just reach one kid, that one kid could probably reach another kid," said Richardson, a 50-year-old contractor and member of Perfect Gentlemen. "You got two times two times two times two — next thing you know, it's not so bad anymore."

Few spectators appeared; those who did simply took in the parade. A man all in denim crouched low; two sisters looked on with big green bows in their hair. As the gold of the Superdome loomed off to the right, some marchers sucked cigarettes, some stared at their phones.

With bald head and beaming smile, Lyons was a stout force up front.

He got his start around the age of 14, as a lookout for neighborhood drug dealers, shouting "Fire in the hole!" if he spotted a police car. He said he went on to sell drugs himself, quickly finding marketing ploys. His bags of marijuana would come with a mint taped to them. When others were selling cocaine for \$25, he said, he'd offer smaller quantities for less so as not to lose prospective buyers. He learned to hustle every dollar he could.

Today, at 48, he's hustling again. Give people something, he has learned, and they will gravitate to you. He'd covered the fees for permits and musicians and was giving onlookers a show. He just hoped they got the message.

Lyons has been stabbed and shot; a 9mm bullet still in his abdomen sometimes floats to the surface of his belly. He used to be consumed by rage, so eager to inflict pain on enemies he soaked his bullets in garlic to give them extra sting. Asked if he ever killed, he was coy and said he didn't know.

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The anger has diminished with age, but he felt it again when his half-brother, Warren Mayes, was shot and killed, then when the tragedy repeated, taking his oldest son, Toliver. He felt it when his half-sister Ann Mayes was left a paraplegic by a shooting.

Legs kicking, a handkerchief snapping, the second line moved past palm trees and pastel-colored houses, over streetcar tracks. A tuba's vibrations and a snare drum's staccato mixed with the high-pitched squeal of a rolling bar's squeaky wheels.

Anthony Lewis, a 52-year-old McDonald's manager, bought a brandy and Coke from the blue cart. He grew up on these streets and knew he could fall victim to them. He knows guys who've served 30 or 40 years for drugs, robberies and murder. He doesn't know anyone who hasn't been touched by the violence.

"Everybody has a story," he said.

Joe Stern, a 73-year-old college English teacher who leads the Prince of Wales Social Aid and Pleasure Club, broke into a rhythmic stomp. He was wearing a baby blue bandana and tie-dye sunglasses.

He too had a hard time quantifying those he's known who've been killed — a musician who played with his club, another friend who was stabbed, a club member's 12-year-old brother. Much of the violence arose from tiny disputes, he said, but all of it weighs on those left behind. He compared its effect on the city's psyche to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

"You can't have that many people being killed all the time without it having some kind of emotional impact," he said. "Some people drink too much. Some people just get a reckless attitude. Some people, they just become numb."

When Lyons learned of his brother's death, he remembers his heart sinking and his body shaking. Years later, when the call came about his son, he dropped the phone and cried. He saw a new side of the pain when he sat in a Texas courtroom where another son was found guilty of murder, and he sat across from relatives of the victim.

He knows he may seem an imperfect messenger of non-violence, given his own past. But it earns him credibility with some youngsters, who call him "O.G." — for old, or original, gangster.

"I know I got to answer. I ain't no saint," he said, "but I'm here to teach better."

Torsos were bending, arms flying, a parasol with black frill twirling. A woman joining the second line carried a container stacked with a rainbow of Jell-O shots. The parade glided by an abandoned house tagged with pink graffiti, a tree growing through one of its shattered windows.

The marchers passed near where a 5-year-old girl was shot and killed at a birthday party a few years ago. Finally, their destination came into view: a green expanse called A.L. Davis Park, where basketball games have ended in gunfire.

Five clusters of shiny red heart balloons tied to a fence marked the end point of the procession — and the paraders clustered for a small ceremony. Barbara Lacen-Keller, founder of the Social Aid and Pleasure Task Force, praised Lyons and presented certificates from the City Council.

"We want the violence to stop. We want the guns to be put down. We're tired of blood in the streets," she said to nods from the audience.

After his release from prison, Lyons vowed never to go back. He sold peanuts and washed cars, living clean, he said, and seeking redemption in life. He started a security company, a music label and mortgage brokerage. And he said he actively started trying to stop the violence he once lived.

His eyes glistened as Lacen-Keller spoke, thinking of his slain son and brother.

Just after the final words of admiration were spoken and the participants began to scatter, a string of pops sounded. They turned out to be from a boy's toy gun.

But the sounds of real-life violence weren't far off.

While the second line had marched, police logs would later show, two armed robberies had been pulled off elsewhere in New Orleans. A couple of hours later, the city recorded its next shooting victim.

2 Baltimore schools officers face charges after video probe

JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Two Baltimore schools police officers have been charged after cellphone video

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surfaced showing one of them slapping and kicking a teen at a school while the second officer stood by. Anthony Spence, 44, and Saverna Bias, 53, turned themselves in Tuesday night, city police announced in a written statement Wednesday morning. Both are charged with second-degree assault and misconduct in office. Spence is also charged with second-degree child abuse. Online court records show both posted bond and were released Wednesday.

In a statement of charges released Wednesday, police allege that a witness said Bias told Spence, "You need to smack him because he's got too much mouth," and Spence then hit and kicked the teen. Police note that Spence was not trying to arrest the teen and wasn't acting in reasonable self-defense.

Attempts to reach Spence's attorney and Bias by phone Wednesday were not successful.

Spence acknowledged in a telephone conversation with The Associated Press on Friday that he was the subject of a criminal investigation into the actions captured on cellphone video last week at the REACH Partnership School. Spence said last week that he wouldn't discuss the matter because the news media would "twist" the story.

"Right now, I'm the bad guy," he said. He referred questions to his lawyer, Michael Davey, who didn't immediately respond to a phone call Wednesday morning.

City police began a criminal investigation into last week's incident at the school after the eight-second clip surfaced. City police said in the statement Wednesday that case is now in the hands of the public integrity unit of the Baltimore state's attorney's office.

The school district has its own police force separate from city police. The school police department is conducting an internal investigation.

School officials initially said officers responded to a reported intruder, and that the young man in the video wasn't a REACH student. On Friday, the school system said in a statement that he is "believed to be a student on the school's roster," as asserted by his lawyer, Lauren Geisser. Geisser has said he's a 10th-grader.

On Monday, Baltimore City Schools CEO Gregory Thornton met with parents to discuss the video and said he will review training and selection of school police officers.

The two officers were put on paid administrative leave. School Police Chief Marshall Goodwin is also on leave, but officials have not said why.

Spence formerly worked for the Baltimore City Sheriff's Office, and was fired in 2002 after he was involved in the violent arrest of a man the officers falsely identified as a robbery suspect.

Spence also serves as the vice president of Sentinel Protection Agency, a private security firm, along with Clyde Boatwright, who is the company's chief executive officer. Boatwright, who was also involved in the 2002 incident as a deputy sheriff and fired from the sheriff's office alongside Spence, is now the Baltimore School Police union president.

Goodwin was a public information officer for the sheriff's office at the time Spence and Boatwright were fired.

3 days of mourning for former first lady Nancy Reagan begin

JOHN ROGERS, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Three days of formal mourning and solemn ceremonies for former first lady Nancy Reagan are set to begin Wednesday.

A small ceremony in the morning for family and friends in Santa Monica, California, will be followed by a motorcade leading to a public viewing in the afternoon at Simi Valley's Ronald Reagan Presidential Library that will continue on Thursday. Eight Secret Service agents who served the Reagans will act as pallbearers when the body is taken from the Santa Monica funeral home.

Friday will be the funeral — which was planned down to the smallest details by the former first lady herself. Just as she was always by his side in life, Nancy Reagan will be laid to rest just inches from President Ronald Reagan on a hillside tomb facing west toward the Pacific Ocean.

Before her death she planned the funeral's flower arrangements, the music to be played by a U.S. Marine Corps band and the people who received invitations to the private memorial.

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Among those who had RSVP'd for the service were former President George W. Bush and his wife, former first lady Laura Bush; former first lady Rosalynn Carter; first lady Michelle Obama; and former first lady Hillary Clinton.

"No doubt about it, the most important of her special requests was that she be laid to rest right next to the president, as close as possible," said John Heubusch, executive director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Library.

"The way the tomb is constructed," he continued, "her casket will literally be set forth in the ground inches from President Reagan's."

The hour-long service, to which approximately 1,000 people have been invited, is to take place on the library's lawn. On a clear day the gravesite affords visitors ocean views.

Those with White House connections who have said they will attend include President Richard Nixon's daughter Tricia Nixon Cox and President Lyndon Johnson's daughters Lynda Bird Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson. Other guests will include Katie Couric, Chris Matthews, Newt and Callista Gingrich, Anjelica Houston, Wayne Newton and Mr. T, the Ronald Reagan Foundation said Wednesday. Mr. T was involved in Mrs. Reagan's "Just Say No" anti-drug efforts during the 1980s.

Capt. Christopher Bolt, commanding officer of the USS Ronald Reagan, will also be in attendance.

"One of our saddest situations is we have so many people who have called or written, saying they would like to attend, but unfortunately it needs to be by invitation only because we only have so much room on the lawn," Heubusch said. "As a result, Mrs. Reagan was very adamant about having some time where the public could come by and pay last respects."

Public viewings are scheduled at the library from 1 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday.

First ladies' funerals, once a quiet affair, changed significantly following the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's widow, Eleanor Roosevelt, in 1962.

Mrs. Roosevelt, a United Nations delegate, author and prominent political figure in her own right, tried to keep the event fairly quiet, limiting the guest list to 250 people, although those guests included President John F. Kennedy, former Presidents Harry Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower, and future President Lyndon Johnson. More than 1,000 mourners jammed the streets outside the church in Hyde Park, New York.

The most recent first lady's funeral was for President Gerald Ford's widow, Betty, in 2011. Some 800 people, including Mrs. Reagan, attended a private memorial service for her in Palm Springs, California, followed by a second, smaller service in her hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

When former President Richard Nixon's wife, Pat, died in 1993 some 4,000 people attended a public viewing for her at the Richard Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California. A private service took place the next day, and Mrs. Reagan and her husband were among those who attended.

Millennials are finally arriving in the car market

DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Millennials were once a source of panic in the auto industry. Dubbed the "go nowhere" generation, they weren't getting driver's licenses, never mind buying cars. Headlines declared it was "The End of Car Culture."

New data suggests at least some of that worry was misplaced. Millennials — especially the oldest ones — are these days buying cars in big numbers. They just had a late start.

Now the largest generation in the U.S., millennials bought 4 million cars and trucks in the U.S. last year, second only to the baby boomers, according to J.D. Power's Power Information Network, which defines millennials as those between 21 and 38 in 2015. Millennials' share of the new car market jumped to 28 percent. In the country's biggest car market, California, millennials outpaced boomers for the first time.

Industry watchers say it's been hard to get a read on millennials because the generation is big and diverse, ranging from recent college graduates to settled-down suburbanites. Automakers were also unsure about the impact of new transportation choices, like ZipCar and Uber, which helped millennials delay car buying. But as they got jobs and started families, millennials headed into car dealerships just like previous

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generations.

"This whole idea that they're not going to need cars is absolutely ridiculous," said Steven Szakaly, the chief economist for the National Automobile Dealers Association. "The new car buyer age is just happening much later."

It's a very different story from 2010, when millennials — who make up around 30 percent of the population — bought just 17 percent of new cars. Auto executives wondered aloud if the trend would be permanent.

In 2011, a University of Michigan study showed a steady decline in the number of young people getting their driver's licenses. In 1983, the survey found, 87 percent of 19-year-olds had a license. By 2010, that had fallen to 69 percent. Millennials told the study's authors that they were too busy to get licenses and were happy to hitch rides from others.

But there was more to the story. The advent of graduated licensing laws — which make teens practice driving in stages before granting a full license — was one reason millennials were getting their licenses later. An even bigger reason? The economy.

For many millennials, the Great Recession hit just as they were getting their first job or graduating from college. By 2010, millennials' unemployment rate reached 13 percent — four percentage points higher than the national average — according to a report by the White House Council of Economic Advisers. For teens, things were even worse. The teen unemployment rate rose from 15 percent to 26 percent between 2006 and 2012.

Millennials' unemployment rate has improved to around 8 percent. Add low interest rates and low gas prices to the mix and the car market suddenly looks more enticing to young buyers.

Lucy Mueller, 26, lived in Los Angeles for eight years without a car. She took buses and trains, hitched rides with friends and used ride-sharing services like Lyft. Her commutes lasted more than an hour each way. Finally, last July, she bought a slightly used 2015 Fiat 500.

"Now that I have a car, it's almost bewildering to me. I feel like a grown-up," said Mueller, a project manager and video producer for financial software maker Intuit.

Several things kept Mueller out of the car market. She didn't have a credit card until a year ago; without any credit history, financing a car would have been difficult. Also, like many recession-weary millennials, Mueller wanted to avoid accruing debt, so she saved enough for a substantial down payment.

Szakaly says it will take millennials another four to five years to match the spending power of boomers. According to government data, the median household income for people ages 25-34 is \$54,243. For those ages 55-64, it's more than \$60,000. In addition, the average 25-year-old has more than \$20,000 in student debt, according to Goldman Sachs. That's enough to buy a new Kia Optima sedan.

Bret Hyde, a cameraman with Access Hollywood in New York, waited until he was 37 to buy his first car. He and his wife used to rent ZipCars or take buses to visit friends and family. It was tiresome and expensive, he said, but there wasn't much parking in their old neighborhood. After moving to a new neighborhood and renting a garage last spring, the couple bought a 2015 Nissan Rogue SUV.

Sheryl Connelly, a futurist with Ford Motor Co. who studies buying trends, said even as millennials start buying cars in bigger numbers, their attitudes are different than previous generations. Owning a car and getting a driver's license aren't the milestones they once were, and that may be a permanent change.

"The sense of freedom and independence that used to come with getting a vehicle has been arguably displaced by the cellphone," she said.

Automakers have taken note. They're improving in-car technology to make it easier for young drivers to stay connected to their friends and music while they're driving. They're forming partnerships with ride-hailing and car-sharing services and conducting mobility experiments of their own. And they're ditching things that don't appeal to millennials. Toyota Motor Corp. is axing its youth-oriented Scion brand, for example, after finding that millennials prefer the Toyota brand.

"Millennials are going to be the main generation we will cater to as an industry," says John Humphrey, J.D. Power's senior vice president of global automotive operations.

Iran fires 2 missiles marked with 'Israel must be wiped out'

JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI (AP) — Iran test-fired two ballistic missiles Wednesday with the phrase "Israel must be wiped out" written in Hebrew on them, state media reported, a show of force by the Islamic Republic as U.S. Vice President Joe Biden visited Israel.

Such phrases have been emblazoned on Iranian missiles before, but this test comes shortly after the implementation of a nuclear deal with world powers, including the U.S., and follows similar drills in recent days.

Hard-liners in Iran's military have fired rockets and missiles despite U.S. objections since the deal, as well as shown underground missile bases on state television.

There was no immediate reaction from Jerusalem, where Biden was meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who strongly opposed the nuclear deal.

Biden, speaking next to Netanyahu, did not acknowledge the missile launch directly but he issued a strong warning to the Iranians.

"A nuclear-armed Iran is an absolutely unacceptable threat to Israel, to the region and the United States. And I want to reiterate which I know people still doubt here. If in fact they break the deal, we will act," he said.

The semiofficial Fars news agency offered pictures Wednesday it said were of the Qadr H missiles being fired. It said they were fired in Iran's eastern Alborz mountain range to hit a target some 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) away off Iran's coast into the Sea of Oman. The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which patrols that region, declined to comment on the test.

Fars and state media reported the Hebrew inscription on the missiles.

Soldiers often write slogans or messages on rockets and missiles. During Israel's 2006 war with Lebanon's Hezbollah militants, Israeli children were photographed writing messages on artillery shells in a community near the border. More recently, pictures emerged online of U.S. missiles bound for Islamic State group targets that had "From Paris with love" written on them, referring to last year's attacks.

Fars quoted Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the Revolutionary Guard's aerospace division, as saying the test was aimed at showing Israel that Iran could hit it.

"The 2,000-kilometer (1,240-mile) range of our missiles is to confront the Zionist regime," Hajizadeh said. "Israel is surrounded by Islamic countries and it will not last long in a war. It will collapse even before being hit by these missiles."

Israel's Foreign Ministry declined to immediately comment. Iran has threatened to destroy Israel in the past. Israel, which is believed to have the only nuclear arsenal in the Mideast, repeatedly has threatened to take military action against Iran's nuclear facilities.

Hajizadeh stressed that Iran would not fire the missiles in anger or start a war with Israel.

"We will not be the ones who start a war, but we will not be taken by surprise, so we put our facilities somewhere that our enemies cannot destroy them so that we could continue in a long war," he said.

The firing of the Qadr H missiles comes after a U.S. State Department spokesman on Tuesday criticized another missile launch, saying Washington planned to bring it before the United Nations Security Council.

A nuclear deal between Iran and world powers including the U.S. is now underway, negotiated by the administration of moderate President Hassan Rouhani. In the time since the deal, however, hard-liners in Iran's military have made several shows of strength.

In October, Iran successfully test-fired a new guided long-range ballistic surface-to-surface missile. It was the first such test since Iran and world powers reached the landmark deal last summer.

U.N. experts said the launch used ballistic missile technology banned under a Security Council resolution. In January, the U.S. imposed new sanctions on individuals and entities linked to the ballistic missile program.

Iran also has fired rockets near U.S. warships and flown an unarmed drone over an American aircraft carrier in recent months.

In January, Iran seized 10 U.S. sailors in the Gulf when their two riverine command boats headed from Kuwait to Bahrain ended up in Iranian territorial waters after the crews "misnavigated," the U.S. military said. The sailors were taken to a small port facility on Farsi Island, held for about 15 hours and released after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke several times with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.