

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Wednesday, March 16

End of the Third Quarter

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

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

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

**Birthdays:** Adam Harder, Lane Tietz, Arlys Kluess, Darrell Knudsen, Iver (Matt) Finnesand, Lane Yoder

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

12:00pm: iwanis meets at the Community Center

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

6:00pmL Emmanuel Lutheran Lenten Meal (League Serves)

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

7:00pm: St. John's Lutheran Worship

## Come meet with local hiring businesses!

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

# 2016 ABERDEEN AREA JOB FAIR

## Thursday, March 17

12:30 – 5 p.m.

Aberdeen Civic Arena

215 S Washington St

Please use West entrance

SD-2076330D

## Sponsored By :

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

Let the Department of Labor and Regulation help you prepare

Write your resume • Fill out applications • Practice interviewing skills

There is no  
cost to attend!

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program  
USDOL Funded

 south dakota department of  
**labor and regulation**  
Your workforce experts.  
[www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)  
americanjobcenter

For more information:

DLR Aberdeen Local Office  
420 S Roosevelt St  
605.626.2340



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

**The cardboard/paper**  
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

© 2015 Groton Daily Independent

**Harry Implement**  
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

## THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

Prices for Medical Airlifts Can Hit the Stratosphere

By Trudy Lieberman,  
Rural Health News Service

Not many of us think about needing air ambulances. We don't dwell on that possibility, but for people hurt in car accidents or who live in smaller or rural communities without medical care at hand, being airlifted to a hospital can mean the difference between life and death.

Increasingly, the service also can mean the difference between getting well at a price you can afford or at a price that could push you over a financial cliff. Air ambulances have become the centerpiece of a nationwide dispute over balance billing, a practice that requires unsuspecting families, even those with good insurance, to pay a large part of the bill.

In Nebraska a woman who was injured when her van rolled on a gravel road found herself with a \$44,000 air ambulance bill. Her insurance paid most of the bill. A North Dakota man who got a \$67,300 bill from a company that transported his wife to the Mayo Clinic had to pay more than \$50,000 out of pocket. In Ohio, a man filed for bankruptcy because he owed \$22,000 to an air ambulance company, which had placed a lien on his home.

And so it goes in other states where patients have complained about balance billing, this particularly dark side of the medical marketplace, which affects all healthcare services, not just air ambulances.

It works like this. You have health coverage, incur a medical bill, and assume the service is covered by your insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid. Then comes the surprise! The bill isn't covered because the provider is not in your insurer's network. You're on the hook for the entire amount.

Sometimes it's impossible to tell if a provider belongs to a network or not. When you are wheeled into the operating room, are you going to ask the anesthesiologist if he or she belongs to the hospital's network? How many accident victims suffering from trauma are going to direct EMS workers to check if the air service is in or out of network before they're lifted to a hospital?

You can also get stuck even if the ambulance company is in the network. An insurance payment may not come close to covering the cost. "Rates ambulance companies charge private patients are much more than they are charging to Medicare or Medicaid patients," says Chuck Bell programs director at Consumers Union, the non-profit publisher of Consumer Reports.

The industry argues that Medicare rates are too low and some patients have no insurance so only by charging insured patients higher fees can they stay in business, Bell told me. "The air ambulance industry has grown rapidly, and prices have shot up a lot with some companies trying to make a quick buck." For one large company the average bill went from about \$17,200 in 2009 to \$40,000 in 2014.

The problem with air ambulances is an example of the disorderly introduction of medical technology without any planning or regulation. Patients are trapped in the middle of a tug of war between insurers that want to keep payments low and air ambulance companies that are eager for profits.

To collect more revenue from privately insured patients, ambulance companies sometimes resort to aggressive collection practices asking for financial information from privately insured patients to assess which ones have assets they can go after, Bell explained.

One solution is to ban balance billing for the air ambulance industry and create a fee schedule for the entire market-

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

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

place, but that seems unlikely because of a 1978 federal law that deregulated the airlines and prohibited the federal government from regulating prices and schedules in the states. North Dakota passed a law requiring those needing air ambulances to use a list of providers that are part of insurers' networks. One company sued, and the issue is tied up in court.

Other federal laws may also inadvertently prevent a national solution that would apply to all consumers no matter what kind of insurance they had.

The usual shopping advice doesn't apply here. But you can check your insurance benefits and at least know if you are covered for these services. You can look at a chart from the Kaiser Family Foundation that offers guidance about your state's rules on balanced billing. And, you can make a lot of noise with state officials if you face one of these bills.

Some companies offer membership programs for a nominal fee that will pay some portion of the bills. These cards, which are not insurance, may not cover the full cost, and you may be picked up by a service that doesn't honor your card. And in an emergency are you going to look for your card and tell the EMS worker, "Hey, call this one?"

Have you had experience with balance billing? Write to Trudy at [trudy.lieberman@gmail.com](mailto:trudy.lieberman@gmail.com).



**By Richard P. Holm M.D.**

## Elder abuse

Caring for the elderly my whole clinical life has been an honor and a pleasure, but some experiences have been heartbreaking. Elder abuse is one of the saddest, and can come in the form of physical harm and neglect, emotional cruelty, or financial exploitation.

A couple of years ago a frail, confused, elderly person arrived in the emergency room with a fracture, bruises,

sores, and was quite unclean. His family described that the patient had fallen multiple times recently, and I could see his needs were overwhelming his care providers. If there hadn't been physical abuse, there was at least neglect. After surgery and hospital care, we were able to send the patient to a nursing home. We all need to be aware when there might be possible physical abuse, and call for help when we see it.

Another case was one of emotional abuse with blaming, shouting, and anger put upon an incapacitated elder. It was by a visiting emotionally-ill family member who had arrived from afar and was unloading his own emotional baggage upon the frail and defenseless parent. The patient had been admitted for a medical issue, and the nurses were the first to recognize the abuse. Police were notified and the visitor was banished from visiting the patient in the hospital and even when the patient went home.

Financial abuse was evident in another case, when a son called, and said his 80-plus-year-old mother and her new boyfriend had recently been going to the bank and removing large sums from the mother's savings account. The son believed his mother was losing it, had been spending thousands of dollars for herbal and supplemental cures for memory problems, had unpaid bills everywhere, and now was being manipulated by an opportunist. He asked me how to protect his Mom's money.

I saw the patient in the office, obviously the mother was demented and incapacitated. A judge confirmed her incompetence and determined the son as power of attorney. Problems could have been avoided had the son been more watchful, had the mother made financial plans, and had a bank's trust department or a bookkeeping business been asked to pay bills.

None of us are safe from abuse. When people become frail or lose their mental capacity, then bad people can take advantage of them. Elder abuse can come in the form of physical harm and neglect, emotional cruelty, or financial exploitation, and is more common than you would expect.

Be aware, and take precautions.

## Prom *Open House*

Monday, March 21st  
3:30pm-7pm

Saturday, March 26th  
10am-2pm

\*Designers on hand for specialized ordering

\*Choose designs specific for you

\*Gems, ribbons, and jewelry



## The Life of Meta Pray

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

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

Meta died Sunday, March 13, 2016 at Golden Living Center, Groton, surrounded by her loving family.

Meta Albertina was born on January 24, 1920 in Edmunds County, Pembroke Township, near Wetonka on her parent's farm. She was the oldest of three children born to Henry and Meta Henrietta (Plautz) Kienast. Her mother died when Meta was three years old. She had four older half-siblings and three younger half-siblings. She lived in several different communities while growing up including, Antigo, Wisconsin, near her mother's parents, Shawano and OshKosh, Wisconsin and Mitchell, Madison, and Aberdeen, South Dakota. She attended school through the eighth grade. At the age of eighteen, she moved to Aberdeen and worked at several businesses, including Pred's clothing store and the Capital and Orpheum movie theatres.

It was at a dance in Aberdeen where she met her future husband, Floyd Pray. They dated for several years before being united in marriage on October 16, 1945 at her parents' home. Floyd waited to marry Meta until he could provide her with a home and they married after he had purchased a farm north and west of Groton. They welcomed three children to this union, Sharen, James, and Clifford.

Meta was dedicated to being a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. She loved the farm, helping with chores and preparing great meals for family and friends. She enjoyed raising a garden and harvesting the fruits of her labors. She spent many hours crocheting beautiful doilies and tablecloths. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and was in the Lucky 13 Card Club. She and Floyd enjoyed bowling and card playing. In later years, she and Floyd moved to Groton and later returned to the farm home. After Floyd died in 1988, Meta moved to Groton. In 2005, she moved to the farm home of her son and daughter-in-law, Cliff and Carna and lived there until 2014. In July 2014, she moved at Rosewood Court, an assisted living facility in Groton and in June of 2015 when she moved to Golden Living Center in Groton. She shared many stories of her growing up years, life on the farm with Floyd, raising her children, and caring for her grandchildren. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother and remained sharp and witty throughout her life.

Meta leaves behind her children, Sharen Burckhard of Brandon, SD, James Pray of Groton, and Cliff and Carna Pray, of Groton, and her siblings Ruth (Robert) Pray of Groton and Henry (Virginia) Kienast of Aberdeen. She is also survived by her grandchildren Darren Burckhard, Brandon, SD; Tricia Burckhard, Sioux Falls, SD; Kelly Pray, Dallas, TX; Paula (Pray) and Paul Winther, Mina, SD; Michele (Pray) and Shawn Kelly, Plano, TX; Kevin Pray, Ferney, SD; Lisa Pray (Cody Monson), Aberdeen, SD; and Jasper Pray, Boston, MA, and by step grand-children, Joshua and Merrie Atherton, Bristol, SD; Adam and Becca Atherton, Grand Forks, ND; and Nathan Atherton, Grand Forks, ND. She loved her eight great-grandchildren, Jerry Burckhard, Shelby Burckhard, Corey Bieber, Alexa Rossman, Madeline Kelly, Christopher Kelly, Hailey Pray and Laila Roberts and seven step great-grandchildren, Kristin, Bryce and Harleigh Winther, Christina Guerra, Mackenzie and Delaney Atherton and Audrey and Teddy Atherton. She was blessed with one great-great granddaughter, Harper Heerde. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Floyd, one daughter Nancy, who died at birth, her daughter-in-law, Barb Pray, her parents, seven sisters, and her in-laws, Charles and Emma Pray.

Pallbearers will be Kelly Pray, Darren Burckhard, Kevin Pray, Corey Bieber, Kenny Pulling, and Nathan Atherton. Honorary pallbearers are the rest of her grandchildren and great-children.



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## Mike Kerrigan Benefit

Sunday, March 20, 4 p.m.

Conde Community Center

Taco Feed ~ Silent Auction ~ Free Will Donation  
To help defray costs of Mike's medical expenses

Drop donations off at

Harvey's Sinclair, Conde

For more information contact Ron

Worlie at 605/382-7606

City of Columbia has opening for city finance officer and city maintenance worker. Call at 396-2655 apply before April 4th application deadline.

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

## Groton Lions Club

The Groton Lions Club held their March monthly meeting, last Thursday.

Lee Schinkel presented three new applications for membership, all of which were elected as new members of the club. They are Sebastian Hammel, and Lee and Sharla Nickeson.

Justin Olson led the business session, and Lee was pro tem secretary.

Preceding the meeting, several youth from Emmanuel Lutheran and Methodist churches, assisted in filling Easter eggs for the annual Easter egg hunt for kids, Saturday, March 19, 10 am, in the city park. Saturday, March 26, is the alternate date. Michelle Mullenburg and Greg Heilman chair this event.

Michelle is also chairman of the annual city wide rummage sale, set for Saturday, May 7.

June 12 is the show n shine show at Terry Thompson's farm. Justin reported on his facebook and give work.

Pastor Elizabeth Johnson, Justin Kersten, and Lee, will chair our first ice cream social for seniors age 80 and over, the community.

Election of officers was held, with Dave Pigors elected president, Lee, first VP; Justin, second VP, Nancy Larsen, secretary, and Mark Wattier, treasurer.

## Governor Signs Bills Into Law

PIERRE, S.D. – In addition to the Native American student achievement bills, Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed the following bills into law:

HB 1029 – An Act to make an appropriation to the Department of Health to fund the rural residency program and to declare an emergency.

HB 1043 – An Act to revise the state aid to special education formula.

HB 1046 – An Act to make an appropriation to the railroad trust fund and to declare an emergency.

HB 1061 – An Act to provide a tuition benefit to certain teachers who enroll in courses under the management and control of the Board of Regents that are not subsidized by the general fund.

HB 1064 – An Act to apply certain penalties regarding damages, tampering, and malicious acts to certain railroads that carry passengers.

HB 1068 – An Act to revise provisions related to the conversion of nonprofit corporations.

HB 1078 – An Act to grant limited immunity from arrest and prosecution for certain alcohol related offenses to persons who assist a person in need of emergency assistance or who are themselves in need of emergency assistance.

HB 1127 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning road districts.

HB 1134 – An Act to provide for access to certain property for the purpose of making surveys.

HB 1183 – An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the jurisdiction of magistrate courts to issue protection orders.

SB 2 – An Act to revise the distribution of the revenue from the alcoholic beverage fund.

SB 26 – An Act to revise certain provisions concerning sex offender registration and to require an offender to notify of intended foreign travel.

SB 43 – An Act to increase the unemployment insurance penalty for failure to pay contributions or make reports.

SB 45 – An Act to revise certain provisions of the building South Dakota fund programs.

SB 49 – An Act to revise certain fees collected by the secretary of state to make an appropriation for an online business registration and filing system, and to declare an emergency.

SB 90 – An Act to ensure that members of the public are able to access and record public meetings.



## Open House

March 17-19

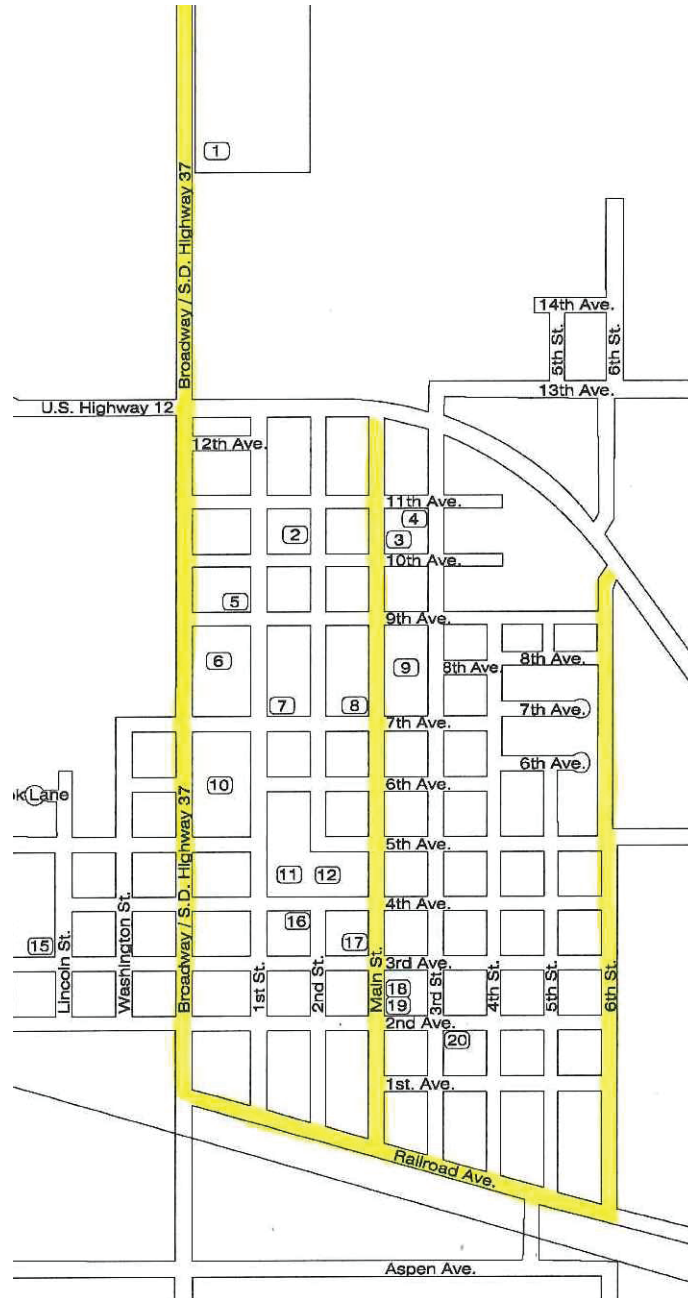


Discounts - Door Prizes - Samples  
Fun!

101 North Main Street - Groton - Thur & Fri 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-4pm

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**Effective March 8th, 2016 until further notice**

**To Help Preserve Our Streets**

**GROTON Garbage Pickup Service**

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

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

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

**bring their garbage to the Bus Barns.**

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

**Thank you for your cooperation!!**





## OPEN HOUSE

**March 17-18-19**



**Hop on in for savings!**

**Sign up for door prize!**

*Lori's*   
*Pharmacy*

CARDS, GIFTS & NOVELTIES

**1205 N 1st St., Groton**

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## Today in Weather History

March 16, 1963: Beware the Ides of March. A severe blizzard strikes North Dakota and Minnesota. The blizzard began on a Saturday night while many are traveling, and thus claims 71 lives. Winds gust to 75 mph at Duluth, Minnesota, and reach 85 mph at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Snow drifts twelve feet high are reported in north central Minnesota. A cold front traveling 30 mph crosses Minnesota in just seven hours.

March 16, 2012: Temperatures reaching eighty degrees or higher in March across central and northeast South Dakota is a rare occurrence, and for this to occur in mid-March is extremely rare. On March 16th, several locations across the area set record highs by topping the 80 degree mark including Aberdeen, Mobridge, and Pierre. Sisseton and Watertown also set records for March 16th. Aberdeen topped out at 81 degrees, Mobridge reached 83 degrees, with 86 degrees at Pierre.

1885: On this date through the 21st, Pointe-des-Monts, Quebec Canada received 98 inches of snowfall.

1942: A deadly tornado outbreak occurred over the Central and Southern US on March 16-17th. The tornado outbreak killed 153 people and injured at least 1,284. Best estimate indicates this event contained 13 F3 tornadoes, 6 F4s and one F5. The F5 tornado occurred north of Peoria, Illinois, in the towns of Alta, Chillicothe before crossing the Illinois River and striking the town of Lacon. A quarter of the homes in Lacon were destroyed and debris was carried for 25 miles.

1975 - A single storm brought 119 inches of snow to Crater Lake, O,R establishing a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1986: A small but rare tornado touched down perilously close to Disneyland in Anaheim, California.

1987 - Softball size hail caused millions of dollars damage to automobiles at Del Rio TX. Three persons were injured when hailstones crashed through a shopping mall skylight. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)


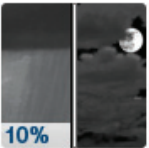





1988 - A winter storm produced heavy snow in the Central Rockies. Winds gusted to 80 mph at Centerville UT. Eighteen cities in the southeastern U.S. reported new record low temperatures for the date, including Tallahassee FL with a reading of 24 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)


1989 - A winter storm brought heavy snow and high winds to the southwestern U.S. Winds gusted to 60 mph at Lovelock NV, Salt Lake City UT, and Fort Carson CO. Snow fell at a rate of three inches per hour in the Lake Tahoe area of Nevada. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced large hail and damaging winds from northwest Florida to western South Carolina. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 75 mph at Floridatown FL. Sixteen cities across the northeastern quarter of the nation reported record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 78 degrees at Burlington VT smashed their previous record for the date by 23 degrees. New York City reported a record high of 82 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


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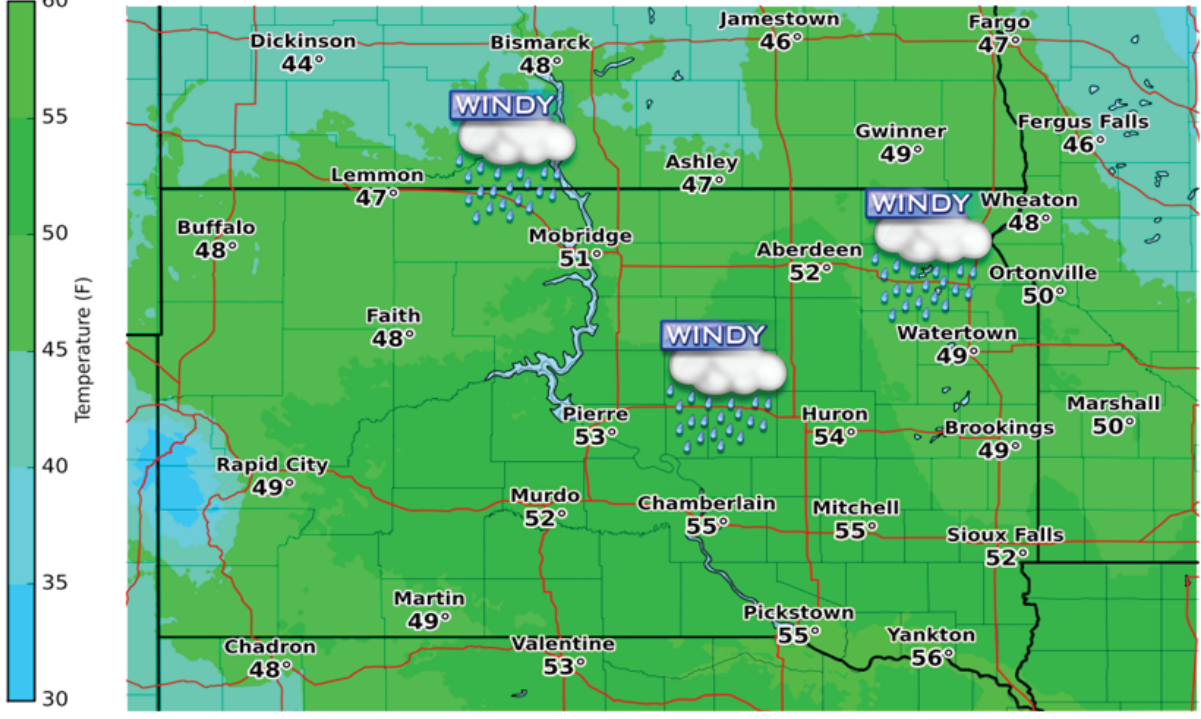
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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
30%	10%	20%	20% 20%	20% 20%		
Breezy. Mostly Sunny then Scattered Showers	Isolated Showers and Blustery then Mostly Cloudy	Breezy. Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Rain	Slight Chance Rain/Snow then Slight Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow then Slight Chance Rain/Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 52 °F	Low: 28 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 25 °F	High: 40 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 42 °F






## Windy and Cooler Today










**National Weather Service**  
Aberdeen SD  
03/16/2016 05:05 AM CDT

**Follow Us:**   

[weather.gov/aberndeen](http://weather.gov/aberndeen)

 [weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)

 National Weather Service Aberdeen

 @NWSAberdeen

Updated: 3/16/2016 5:29 AM Central

Published on: 03/16/2016 at 5:33AM

Temperatures will get progressively cooler through the week, with highs dropping down into the upper 40s to low 50s today. There is also the possibility for a few sprinkles or light showers this afternoon. By Friday, highs will only be in the upper 30s to low 40s.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 57.8 at 3:27 PM

**Low:** 31.4 at 11:58 PM

**High Gust:** 28 at 3:39 AM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 81° in 2012

**Record Low:** -17 in 1906

**Average High:** 40°F

**Average Low:** 20°F

**Average Precip in March.:** 0.51

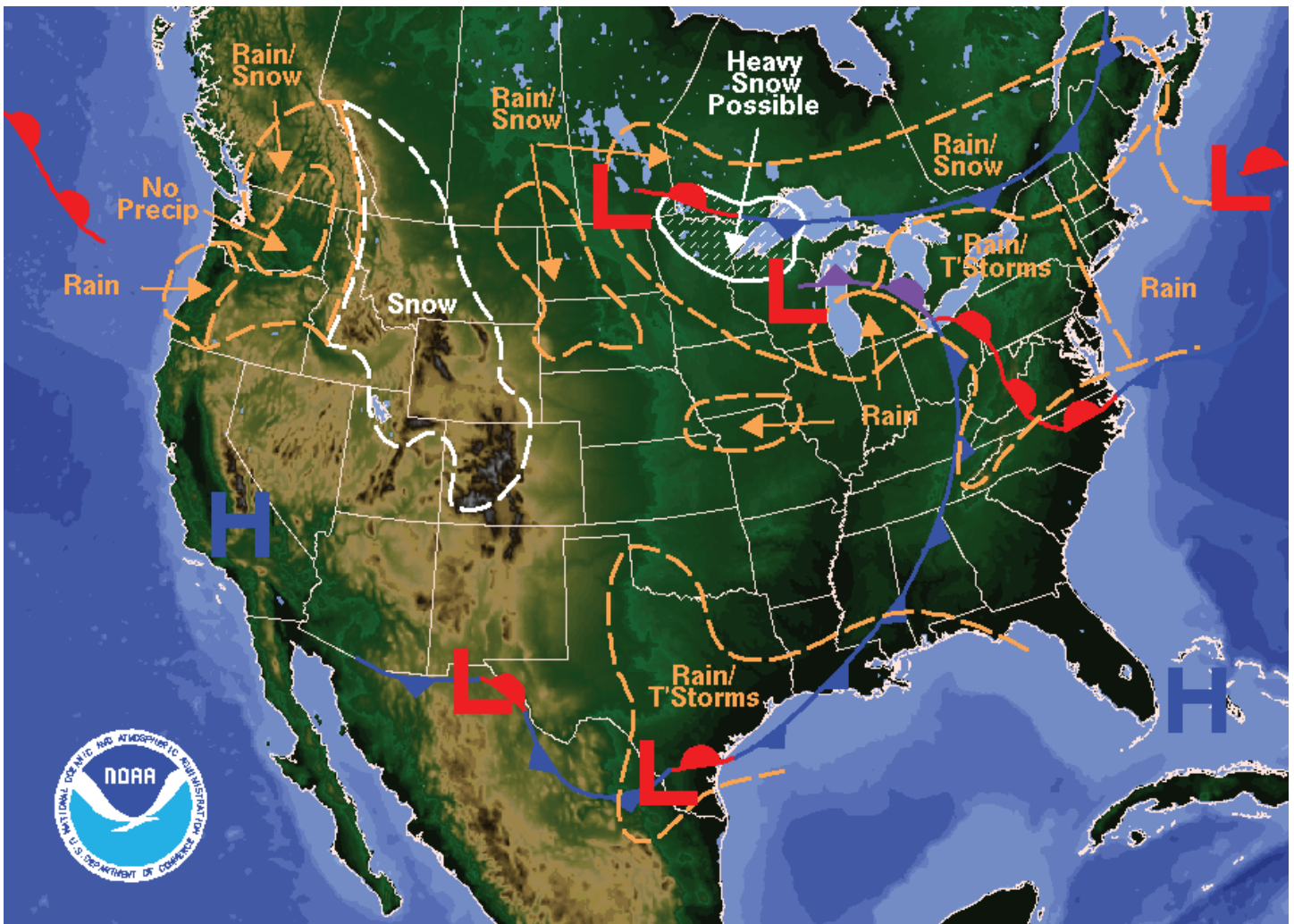
**Precip to date in March.:** 0.35

**Average Precip to date:** 1.53

**Precip Year to Date:** 0.95

**Sunset Tonight:** 7:41 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:41 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Mar 16, 2016, issued 3:53 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

"It took me forty years," said an old man, "to learn three simple things: that I could not do anything to save my soul, that God did not expect me to save my soul, and that provided salvation for my soul when He died on the cross."

Some friends wanted to free a prisoner. They smuggled a pistol into the prison to subdue the guard and a ladder to scale the wall. Then they arranged for the getaway car. "But," asked the prisoner, "how do I get out of my cell?" "That is up to you," they answered. He did not escape because he could not take the first step to get out of his cell.

God took the first step in our salvation. He loved the world so much that He gave His only Son. Now, we must do one of two things: we must accept what He has done or reject what He has done. But some object and ask: "Why can't I be neutral and leave the Lord alone?" Because He will not leave you alone.

This saving Lord is a seeking Lord. He is seeking to give each one all that he needs for time and eternity. It is your move. What will you do with Jesus?

**Prayer:** Jesus, I'm ready to take the first step. I know that I cannot do anything to save my soul. I realize that You did it all for me when You died on the cross and then arose on the third day. Come into my heart now: in Thy Name. Amen.

**Scripture for Today:** Psalm 3:8 From the Lord comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Fort Pierre fire chief leaving for job in Harrisburg**

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The volunteer fire chief in Fort Pierre is stepping down. Cody Lengkeek is moving to Harrisburg to start a new job. His last day with the Fort Pierre department is Friday.

Lengkeek has been with the fire department for 10 years, the last two as chief. Current Assistant Chief Justin Jones will succeed him.

### **Augustana men's hoops team advances in national DII tourney**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Augustana College men's basketball team has made it to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division II national tournament.

The Vikings downed Northwest Missouri State 80-78 at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls on Tuesday night to advance.

Augustana will face Tarleton State in the quarterfinals on March 23 in Frisco, Texas.

### **Deadline extended for Roy Lake concessionaire proposal**

LAKE CITY, S.D. (AP) — People interested in operating a resort in South Dakota's northeast corner are being given roughly two more months to hand in their proposal to state parks officials.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department says proposals for the operation of Roy Lake Resort, located inside Roy Lake State Park, will now be accepted through May 4.

The department is offering a 10-year lease after the current operator, who owns the facilities and equipment for the resort, notified the state of the intent to sell.

A department summary shows interested operators would have to make a required investment of \$975,000.

The park is 3 miles southwest of Lake City off South Dakota Highway 10. Its amenities include a multi-lane boat ramp, two campgrounds and a swimming beach.

### **S. Dakota governor approves moving alcohol funds to counties**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota counties experiencing what officials say are rising court and jail expenses will get a share of state alcohol tax collections, under a measure Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed into law Tuesday.

Supporters successfully argued that counties dealing with alcohol-related costs should get a quarter of the tax money from a state alcohol fund. Such collections totaled about \$14.4 million last fiscal year.

The law will provide a predictable, sustainable revenue source to help defray alcohol- and drug-related costs, said Duane Sutton, president of the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners.

"We think this is history-making," he said. "This money will come in handy at a critical time."

South Dakota counties get most of their revenue from property taxes, and state law limits yearly increases. Meanwhile, about 80 percent of county spending is required by law, limiting local officials' flexibility.

The bill passed through both legislative chambers with margins that would suggest a veto from Daugaard could have been overridden.

A legislative committee during the 2016 session voted down a more substantial plan that would have allowed counties to impose sales taxes.

## **Aberdeen Police: 2 linked, charged in skimmers found in Nov.**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Police in Aberdeen say two men are facing identity theft and other charges in connection with the skimmers found on gas pumps in the area.

Police say 46-year-old Wilmar Vargas-Rodriguez, of Las Vegas, and 26-year-old Robinsdel Gonzales Abreau, of Aberdeen, are suspected of being involved in the placement of the devices that steal information from debit cards or credit cards when people use them to pay for gas.

Vargas-Rodriguez was arrested last week after a high-speed chase. Police say Vargas-Rodriguez and Abreau were arrested in connection with the skimmer found at an Aberdeen gas station in November. Police also linked Vargas-Rodriguez to the skimming devices found earlier this month outside Aberdeen city limits.

It wasn't immediately clear Tuesday if either man has an attorney who could comment on the case.

## **Fifth-seed Maryland enters NCAA Tournament lacking momentum**

**DAVID GINSBURG, AP Sports Writer**

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Maryland needs a solid performance in the NCAA Tournament to avoid the stigma of being an underachieving squad that failed to capitalize on an abundance of talent.

After adding three solid starters to a team that finished second in the Big Ten last season, the Terrapins raced to a 22-3 start and were ranked No. 2 in the second week of February.

From there, things went sour. A surprising home loss to Wisconsin launched a horrid run of five defeats in eight games — including an embarrassment at Minnesota and an 18-point drubbing by Indiana.

Now, coming off a 64-61 setback against Michigan State in the semifinals of the Big Ten Tournament, 18th-ranked Maryland enters the NCAA Tournament as a fifth seed, looking to fulfill the grand expectations it carried into the season four months ago.

The quest begins Friday against South Dakota State.

"We played in a really tough league, we had a tough schedule and we lost ourselves for a little bit but we're ready to play," coach Mark Turgeon said Tuesday after running the team through a vigorous practice. "We're 25-8 and we feel really good about ourselves. We got a lot better last week, we've gotten a lot better this week. By Friday, we're going to be a lot better than we are right now. We're in a good spot. We're a really good team."

That's certainly how it looked on paper in November. Sophomore guard Melo Trimble and senior Jake Layman, who received NCAA Tournament experience last season, were joined by 6-foot-11 freshman Diamond Stone and transfers Rasheed Sulaimon and Robert Carter Jr.

When they're working in unison, the Terps are tough to beat. Lately, though, they've been exceedingly average. The hope is that a strong showing in the second half against the Spartans last weekend was the start of something big.

"We continue to have great practices and you see it all coming together," Turgeon said. "The Michigan State game gave us a lot of confidence. Shot 35 percent and lost by three. I would like to think the guys are excited and feel good about what lies ahead."

Trimble, the Big Ten preseason player of the year, went 2 for 15 from the floor in that game. But he was wearing a big smile Tuesday.

"After that loss to Michigan State, we could just hang our heads and not have any confidence for the next tournament," Trimble said. "But the way we practiced today, you'd have thought we won the (Big Ten) tournament. This team has a lot of confidence in our defense."

All five starters are averaging in double figures, but Maryland's bid to go far in the tournament could be decided by its performance on the other end of the floor. The Terrapins were blowing away Nebraska in the Big Ten quarterfinals before a lackadaisical effort made the game far closer than it should have been.

"I think what we've done to this point is lock in when we need to lock in, defensively," Turgeon said. "We're up 20 against Nebraska and we wouldn't lock in to finish that game off. Michigan State, we locked because we had to. And there was just part of the season where we just weren't playing well. But most of the time they've locked in."

If Maryland doesn't get it right in the NCAA Tournament, there will be no second chance.

"I feel like this is what we've been preparing for the whole year," Carter said. "This was our goal from the beginning of the season. We want to be our best at this time and we feel like it's time to make a run."

Last year, the Terrapins were eliminated in the second round. Far more is expected of this squad.

"We want to leave a legacy," Layman said. "That's our mindset going forward."

## Mother suing state over son's death up against deadline

The mother of a teenager who died while in state custody is up against a May 25 court deadline to find an attorney to handle her lawsuit against the state

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The mother of a teenage boy who died while in state custody is running out of time to find an attorney to handle her lawsuit against the state.

Dawn Van Ballegooyen is seeking unspecified monetary damages for the death of her son, Brady Folkens, 17, who had been in custody at the State Treatment and Rehabilitation Academy, where he was held for skipping school and smoking marijuana. State officials said he died in a Sioux Falls hospital of lymphocytic myocarditis caused by parvovirus B19, which is considered a common virus, after it spread to his heart and damaged the organ.

But Dr. Lars Aanning, a retired surgeon from Yankton who frequently serves as an expert witness on medical cases, determined that the evidence from Brady's autopsy and medical records doesn't point to parvovirus B19 causing the heart damage. He believes the heart damage was most likely caused by an autoimmune reaction to minocycline, a medication that Brady was taking because of acne.

Van Ballegooyen claims that state officials administered the minocycline, even though Brady had a bad reaction to the medicine a year earlier, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/1XpKglF>) reported.

"I didn't even know he was on the medication until after he passed," she said.

Van Ballegooyen sued in federal court in December 2014, alleging state negligence. But her attorneys withdrew a year ago, and after three extensions, a judge set a May 25 deadline for her to find new counsel.

Aanning's review of the autopsy, which was performed by Dr. Raed Sulaiman, found that a key antibody that should have been present with a parvovirus B19 was not in Brady's case, meaning that the virus wouldn't have caused his heart to fail. Aanning also found evidence that the results from one test were substituted for the results of another test.

"I think nobody thought that anybody with a tooth's comb would look over that autopsy report carefully," Aanning said.

Sioux Falls lawyer Gary Thimsen, who's representing the state, said he's prevented by federal law from discussing specifics about Brady's medical issues. But he said the state turned over all medical files counselors' notes and all other records Van Ballegooyen has sought related to her son.

Sulaiman declined to comment on the autopsy.

## Tri-Valley School could be state's 1st with armed employees

COLTON, S.D. (AP) — A school district in southeastern South Dakota has taken a step toward becoming the first in the state to allow school employees to carry guns under a law approved three years ago.

The board of the Tri-Valley School District gave unanimous approval Monday to a so-called school sentinel program. Final approval could come next month, but the policy wouldn't take effect immediately. State law requires that school personnel be trained, and parents could also choose to put the issue up for a vote.

Superintendent Mike Lodmel said in a statement Tuesday that the district of nearly 900 students moved to start the program over concerns about the rural location of its only building and how long it would take law enforcement to respond to a crisis. Colton has fewer than 1,000 residents and is about 25 miles northwest of Sioux Falls.

The decision comes five months after a teenage student at Harrisburg High School, about 35 miles away, was charged with attempted murder in the shooting and wounding of the principal.

But Lodmel told parents in a letter Tuesday that, "This was not a knee-jerk reaction to recent news events."



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"The board has devoted substantial time, thought, discussion, and planning in reaching this decision, and has involved law enforcement throughout the process," he wrote.

State legislators passed the school sentinel law in 2013, three months after the deadly Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut. Supporters of the law argued that school boards, particularly in rural areas where no law enforcement officers are stationed in school buildings, need the option of arming teachers, administrators or volunteers to protect against attacks.

The law requires anyone taking part in a school sentinel program to complete training designed by the same commission that sets training standards for law enforcement officers. Local law enforcement agencies also have to approve such a program, and school employees cannot be forced to take part.

The district has already been in contact with its insurance carrier and has sought information from law enforcement regarding training, which is expected to last 80 hours and would address firearms proficiency, use of force, legal issues, first aid and weapons retention and storage. The district says it won't release the names of people designated to carry guns.

Reaction among parents is mixed, KSFY-TV reported.

Becky Sehr said she would be comfortable with trained school staff having guns.

"I would rather have someone there who can respond right away if something is happening than wait 20 minutes for a cop to show up," she told the Sioux Falls television station.

Shayna Weinacht said she worries about unintended consequences.

"I've got little girls in (school), and what if somebody accidentally got ahold of the gun?" she said.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

### The Associated Press

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

1. MATH AND MOMENTUM POINT TO TRUMP NOMINATION, CLINTON ALSO SURGES

GOP officials grapple with whether to embrace the billionaire businessman or rally behind a longshot alternative.

2. NORTH KOREA'S HIGHEST COURT SENTENCES U.S. TOURIST TO 15 YEARS WITH HARD LABOR

Otto Warmbier, a University of Virginia undergraduate, was convicted and sentenced for subversion in a one-hour trial.

3. WHERE #METROMAGEDDON WILL MAKE FOR A SOUL-SUCKING COMMUTE

The rail system serving the Washington, D.C. area faces a full-day shutdown for an emergency safety inspection of its third-rail power cables.

4. CRITICISM OF EGYPT'S PRESIDENT GATHERS MOMENTUM AS HONEYMOON ENDS

The boldness of the criticism suggests that President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's aura as the man who "saved the nation" from Muslim Brotherhood rule and the chaos of revolution has faded.

5. BOMB KILLS 15 IN NORTHWEST PAKISTANI CITY OF PESHAWAR

Suspicion likely is to fall on the Pakistani Taliban and other allied militant groups for the bomb that ripped through a bus carrying government employees.

6. WHAT SOME OF THE MILLIONS OF DISPLACED SYRIAN CHILDREN MISS THE MOST

AP photographer Muhammed Muheisen offers portraits of 14 children in refugee camps who say they miss going to school and their friends.

7. WHY TOURISTS CAN NO LONGER HIKE TO NEW ZEALAND'S GLACIERS

Rapid melting of the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers have made it too dangerous for people to hike onto them, ending a century-old tradition.

8. HOW MEXICANS ARE EXPOSING LAZY COPS, LITTERERS AND ARROGANT DRIVERS

Mexicans are increasingly taking to social media to post videos of bad civic behavior.

9. WHERE ARE THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE ON THE PLANET

Denmark, perhaps better known for its fictional, suicide-agonizing prince Hamlet, has just won that very accolade.

## 10. WHO WON THE FIRST TWO GAMES OF THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

Wichita State's guards led a 70-50 win over Vanderbilt; Florida Gulf Coast beat Fairleigh Dickinson.

### **50 years later, black basketball team's victory resonates**

**TIM REYNOLDS, AP Basketball Writer**

MIAMI (AP) — The opposing team's locker room is a place Pat Riley has generally considered off-limits for almost all his basketball life: Do not enter except under extreme circumstances.

Fifty years ago was one of those circumstances.

Riley and his teammates on Kentucky's all-white squad had just lost the national championship game to little Texas Western, which started five black players. It was a historic moment in both college basketball and U.S. race relations.

As he left the floor that day, Riley realized he had not shaken hands with the winners. So the Kentucky star found the nerve to venture into the Texas Western locker room.

"It was just joy," Riley recalled recently. "Just joy. Their players were in there, their families were in there. I just went immediately, quickly through there, said what I had to say and left them to have their moment. And what they did that night has resonated for 50 years since."

March 19, 1966. Texas Western 72, Kentucky 65.

At the height of the civil rights movement, it was much more than a basketball game. Immortalized — and introduced, perhaps, to a new generation — through the movie "Glory Road" 10 years ago, the game marks its 50th anniversary during the opening weekend of this year's NCAA Tournament.

And in all eight of the NCAA men's games that will be played on the actual anniversary date, black players and white players will compete alongside and against one another, not held back from attending a certain school because of the color of their skin.

"The contributions that that team made and the way those guys stuck together — they're the reasons also why I have a job at the University of Alabama," said Crimson Tide coach Avery Johnson, a former NBA player. "And why a lot of these other African-American players around the country can go and play at these Division I schools and play in such a way that they don't have to look over their shoulders because of racial situations."

Such is the legacy of what Texas Western did that night at Cole Field House in Maryland.

By winning a game, they changed the game.

"I never felt that we were playing against five black players," said Riley, a winner of nine NBA titles and now president of the Miami Heat. "I don't know what they felt. Only now, 50 years later can maybe the truth come out and all of the thoughts come out about that night. It turned out to be a rather significant moment in African-American history from the standpoint of what it did for college basketball and the segregation and the integration part of it."

The latest data collected by Richard Lapchick and his Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida showed that at the Division I men's level, more than 57 percent of the basketball players are black. And two years ago, 51 percent of women's Division I players were black. (Most of the coaching and administrative positions in college basketball are still held by whites.)

"The greatest number of career prospects are in college sport rather than professional sport because of the number of jobs available," Lapchick said in issuing his latest college report. "That makes it even more important for us to create expanded opportunities in college sport for women and people of color."

A Texas Western effect, if you will.

It happened for players 50 years ago, or at least started to happen.

Hall of Famer Bob McAdoo left his home state of North Carolina in the late 1960s to spend his first two years of college at a small school in Indiana. He said he did so in part because of the pressures that came with being a young black man playing in the South at that time.

Then his father fell ill, and McAdoo wanted to be closer to home. Then-North Carolina coach Dean Smith told him that coming to what was then a nearly all-white campus might not be easy.

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"But I'll treat you like a son," McAdoo recalled Smith saying. "So that told me I would be all right, and I went to North Carolina. Things were changing."

Texas Tech coach Tubby Smith — who was Kentucky's coach from 1997 through 2007, winning a national title there — remembers watching the Kentucky-Texas Western game on television. In black and white, of course. And he was rooting for the Miners.

"It was like pulling for Joe Louis, pulling for Jackie Robinson, pulling for a lot of African Americans playing sports," Smith said.

Smith, who grew up in Maryland the son of sharecroppers, doesn't remember watching too many games before that one. But every detail of that day Smith remembers. For example, it rained.

"I was just going from my ninth grade to my 10th grade, and I was just going from a predominantly all-black school at George Washington Carver to Great Mills High School," Smith said. "So that was really a watershed moment, a special time for me watching it because that very next year I was going to be playing at Great Mills High School with white classmates and white teammates."

Just like that, Smith realized it didn't have to be blacks vs. whites, even at that time in America.

Most games weren't on television then, and even though Texas Western was 23-0 and ranked No. 2 in the nation at one point, many people didn't see the Miners coming.

"We didn't even hardly know who Texas Western was," Riley said.

Riley doesn't remember any great motivational speech on game day from Adolph Rupp, the legendary Kentucky coach who, to Riley's chagrin, comes across as something of a racist in the movie.

And on the Texas Western side, black Miners star David Lattin said he didn't even realize that coach Don Haskins was going to play only the team's black players. Lattin said Haskins barely even made any mention of race that season, including the day of the title game.

"He said, 'You know what? It's up to you.' And he walked out of the room," Lattin said. "So he didn't tell us that he was just going to play the black guys. He didn't say that. I had no idea that's what he was talking about. We never even realized that until the game was over."

Over the years, Riley has been invited to plenty of Texas Western reunions. He's been to a few, and got to shake those same hands again, as he did in the locker room that night.

Riley abhors losses. This one, he has practically embraced. Beaten, he said, by a most deserving team.

"When it comes down to how good were they, they could have been one of the best ever," Riley said. "The best ever."

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AP Sports Writers Schuyler Dixon in Dallas, John Zenor in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Gary B. Graves in Lexington, Kentucky and AP Writer Betsy Blaney in Lubbock, Texas, contributed to this report.

## After a night of primary victories, Clinton looks ahead

LISA LERER, Associated Press

CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Sweeping to victory in four key primary contests, Hillary Clinton has solidified her hold on the Democratic nomination, allowing her to begin the work of unifying her party against GOP front-runner Donald Trump.

The process won't be pretty: Rival Bernie Sanders has tapped into a deep vein of anti-Washington sentiment in the Democratic Party, turning what was once expected to be an easy race for Clinton into a far tougher competition. He's vowed to continue all the way to the national convention in July.

But Tuesday night's victories allow Clinton to claim wins in key general election battlegrounds across the country — North Carolina, Florida and Ohio — and demonstrate her appeal to Rust Belt voters who will play a pivotal role in November.

A decisive win in Florida, Tuesday's biggest delegate prize, left her on track to expand an already-commanding lead. Clinton now has at least 1,561 delegates, nearly two-thirds of the total needed to win the Democratic nomination. Sanders trails far behind with at least 800.

Ever so carefully, Clinton is trying to move some of her focus off the primary race. Over the past few

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days, she has begun peppering her standard stump speech with subtle calls for party unity and more direct attacks on Trump's rhetoric, experience and plans.

"I'm going to keep working as hard as I can, but I think it is important that we really do focus on the really dangerous path that Donald Trump has laid out here," she said in Raleigh, North Carolina.

As results rolled in Tuesday evening, she released her first Spanish-language ad in Arizona — an ad that focused not on Sanders but on Trump. And she held her victory party in southern Florida, just miles from where Trump was holding his own election night party at Mar-a-Lago, his private club.

Clinton aides say they plan to compete hard for the rest of the primary season and note that coming caucuses in Western states favor Sanders.

"It is not up to us when the primary ends," said Clinton communications director Jen Palmieri. "There are still a lot of states to go."

Sanders strategist Tad Devine said late Tuesday night the Vermont senator's campaign feels "very good about the calendar ahead."

After Tuesday's contests, the race shifts to contests in Arizona, Idaho and Utah on March 22 and Alaska, Hawaii and Washington state on March 26. April includes contests in Wisconsin, Wyoming and New York, which Clinton represented in the Senate but is becoming a major target for Sanders.

"We're going to have to demonstrate that we can win some big states," said Devine.

Clinton aides argue that a Trump-Sanders-Clinton competition in the next weeks could set up a powerful contrast for Clinton, elevating her as an experienced potential commander in chief.

But this hasn't been an election year that's rewarded experienced party politicians. And some Clinton backers worry that she could face a barrage of similar and simultaneous attacks from both Sanders and Trump over her trade policy, Wall Street ties and funding from outside groups.

In Ohio and North Carolina, trade was central in the just-ended primary fight. Sanders escalated his attacks on Clinton, repeatedly chiding her past support of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which her husband signed into law during the 1990s, and her decision last year to come out against the Trans-Pacific Partnership after calling it the "gold standard" as President Barack Obama's secretary of state.

In Illinois, Sanders used embattled Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, a Clinton ally whose approval rankings have sunk amid criticism of his record on policing and his high-profile battles with public-sector unions, to paint Clinton as a "Wall Street Democrat."

It wasn't enough to top Clinton, who eked out a narrow win in the state where she grew up. The win surprised Clinton's top aides in Brooklyn, who broke out into spontaneous cheers and dancing at the campaign headquarters.

Her team attributed Clinton's win in Ohio to a more forceful economic message, with Clinton taking a harder position against trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Still, exit polls showed that Sanders' attacks had some impact. Voters in Illinois and Missouri who said trade takes jobs from Americans tended to back Sanders; those who considered trade beneficial generally supported Clinton.

Trump, too, did well with anti-trade voters. Nearly 6 in 10 Republicans, according to the exit polls, said they believe foreign trade is more likely to cost U.S. jobs. Those voters favored Trump.

Those findings indicate that states like Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan could play a key role in a general election, prompting questions about Clinton's Midwestern strength, despite her wins in Ohio and Illinois.

Supporters hope to offset losses among working-class voters with moderate Republicans, turned off by Trump's divisive rhetoric.

"Trump will get a lot of Reagan Democrats," said former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell. "But for every Reagan Democrat he gets, we will get a suburban Republican."

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## Clinton sweeps Ohio, Florida; Trump, Kasich split; Rubio out

**JULIE PACE, Associated Press**

**THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press**

CLEVELAND (AP) — Hillary Clinton triumphed Tuesday in the Florida, Ohio, North Carolina and Illinois presidential primaries, putting her in a commanding position to become the first woman in U.S. history to win a major-party nomination. Donald Trump strengthened his hand in the Republican race with a big win in Florida but fell in Ohio to that state's governor, John Kasich.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio ended his once-promising campaign after his devastating home-state loss, so the GOP primary is now down to three candidates: Trump, Kasich and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Trump also picked up wins in North Carolina and Illinois. The billionaire businessman told a victory rally, "This was an amazing night."

Trump is the only Republican candidate with a realistic path to the 1,237 delegates needed to clinch the nomination before the July convention. But his loss in Ohio kept hope alive for mainstream Republicans dismayed by his candidacy and suggesting the real estate mogul can still be stopped in a convention fight.

"The campaign goes on," Kasich declared at a victory rally. Now thrust into the center of a campaign that has been bitingly personal, Kasich vowed to "not take the low road to the highest office in the land."

Both the Republican and Democratic races in Missouri's presidential primaries were too close to call Wednesday morning.

A confident Clinton pivoted quickly to November during her victory rally, assailing Trump's hardline immigration positions and support for torture. "Our commander-in-chief has to be able to defend our country, not embarrass it," she declared.

Underscoring Republican concerns about Trump, Rubio focused heavily on an implicit critique of Trump in a speech announcing he was dropping out of the race. The senator urged Americans to "not give in to the fear, do not give in to the frustration."

A favorite of Republican leaders, Rubio is the latest candidate to fall victim to an unpredictable election cycle and Trump's unmatched ability to tap into the public's anger with Washington and frustration with sweeping economic changes.

Clinton's victories in Ohio, Florida and Illinois were blows to rival Bernie Sanders and bolstered her argument that she's the best Democratic candidate to take on the eventual Republican nominee in the general election. Her win in Ohio was a particular relief for her campaign, which grew anxious after Sanders pulled off a surprising win last week in Michigan, another important Midwestern state.

Clinton kept up her large margins with black voters, a crucial group for Democrats in the general election. Democratic voters were more likely to describe Sanders as honest, but more likely to describe Clinton's policies as realistic, according to exit polls.

Campaigning Tuesday in North Carolina, Clinton said "the numbers are adding up in my favor." She signaled an eagerness to move on to a possible general election showdown with Trump, saying he's laid out a "really dangerous path" for the country.

In Missouri, the margins between Trump and Cruz and between Clinton and Sanders, were less than one-half of 1 percentage point, meaning the losing candidate can request a recount. The Associated Press did not call either race.

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

The atmosphere at his events has deepened the concern over his candidacy in some Republican circles. Rubio and Kasich have suggested they might not be able to support Trump if he's the nominee, an extraordinary stance for intraparty rivals.

His closest competition so far has come from Cruz, who has kept relatively close to the businessman in the delegate count and has been urging other candidates to drop out so he can take Trump on one-on-one.

After another good night for Trump, some Republicans were struggling to come to grips with the prospect of him becoming the nominee and desperate to find long-shot ways to stop him.

A group of conservatives planned to meet Thursday to discuss options including a contested conven-

tion or by rallying around a third-party candidate. While such no candidate has been identified, meeting participants planned to discuss ballot access issues, including using an existing third party as a vehicle or securing signatures for an independent bid.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., did not rule out the idea of being drafted by the party at the convention. "People say, 'What about the contested convention?'" Ryan said in an interview with CNBC. "I say, well, there are a lot of people running for president. We'll see. Who knows?"

Despite concerns from party leaders, Republican voters continue to back Trump's most controversial proposals, with two-thirds of those who participated in GOP primaries Tuesday saying they support temporarily banning Muslims from the United States.

The exit polls were conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and television networks.

Trump's Florida victory brought his delegate total to 621. Cruz has 396 and Kasich 138. Rubio left the race with 168 delegates.

Clinton has at least 1,561 delegates, including the superdelegates who are elected officials and party leaders free to support the candidate of their choice. Sanders has at least 800. It takes 2,383 to win the Democratic nomination.

## **NTSB says feed truck shifted track before Amtrak accident**

**ROXANA HEGEMAN, Associated Press**

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A truck used to deliver feed to a business where cattle are fattened hit a train track and shifted it at least a foot before an Amtrak train derailed in southwest Kansas and injured at least 32 people, an investigator said.

National Transportation Safety Board member Earl Weener did not say Tuesday if the feed truck was the cause of the Amtrak Southwest Chief's accident the day earlier.

But he said the impact of the truck from the Cimarron Crossing Feeders LLC shifted the train tracks 12 to 14 inches. The train was traveling 60 mph when the engineer applied the emergency brake, stopping 18 seconds later after traveling another 919 feet.

Amtrak's Southwest Chief was carrying 131 passengers and 14 crew members when it derailed early Monday, moments after an engineer noticed a significant bend in a rail and applied the emergency brakes, authorities said. At least 32 people were hurt, two of them critically.

Dave Gibbs, a passenger from Pueblo, Colorado, who was on the train, said Tuesday after learning of the NTSB finding that there should be some repercussion for whoever damaged the tracks because a lot of lives were affected by the derailment.

"I would probably be willing to travel on the train again because, you know, it definitely puts my mind a little more at ease that it wasn't an issue with Amtrak — that it was actually not their fault," Gibbs said.

The railroad tracks run alongside the south side of a paved highway, and are not fenced off from it. Fresh tire tracks were found on both sides of the highway near the derailment, and investigators put up crime scene tape to preserve the evidence. Cimarron Crossing is located north of the highway, and there is a gap in the fence separating that land from the highway where the tire tracks were found. The tire tracks were not located at a designated rail crossing.

Investigators reviewed data from cameras and recorders on the train as well as the condition of the rails and crew performance.

Cimarron Crossing has been "very cooperative" and granted investigators access to the truck, Weener said. NTSB posted photos of the vehicle on its Twitter feed. The business is licensed to feed up to 20,000 head of cattle. Huge grain bins were visible on the property from the site of the derailment.

Cimarron Crossing declined comment.

Weener said that forward facing video from the lead locomotive allowed investigators to identify a "localized distortion" in the track in the area of the impact. The track had last been inspected on Thursday.

The train was making a 43-hour journey from Los Angeles to Chicago when it derailed shortly after midnight along a straight stretch of tracks in flat farmland near Cimarron, a small community about 160

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miles west of Wichita. Eight cars derailed, and four of them ended up on their sides.

Four of them remained hospitalized Tuesday, including two people still in critical condition who were airlifted to Amarillo, Texas. The rest had been released.

BNSF Railway, which owns the track, has asked the public to contact their emergency number posted at railroad crossings and on their website about any incident involving railroad tracks in the wake of Amtrak derailment. The company repaired about 1,000 feet of track at the site on Tuesday, allowing freight and passenger service to resume over the route.

Amtrak said in a statement Tuesday that BNSF has restored the route and normal Southwest Chief service is returning in western Kansas.

The future of the Southwest Chief service — the only Amtrak route through Kansas, with stops at six cities — had been uncertain in recent years. Amtrak had warned it might stop or reroute the line because of disputes over who would pay to install safety technology, but officials reached a deal last year.

Tens of millions of dollars were invested in improving parts of the rail line in Colorado and Kansas.

NTSB said it generally takes a year before it issues a final report on the cause of an accident.

## Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 16, the 76th day of 2016. There are 290 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 16, 1926, rocket science pioneer Robert H. Goddard successfully tested the first liquid-fueled rocket at his Aunt Effie's farm in Auburn, Massachusetts.

On this date:

In 1751, James Madison, fourth president of the United States, was born in Port Conway, Virginia.

In 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed a measure authorizing the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

In 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Scarlet Letter" was first published.

In 1935, Adolf Hitler decided to break the military terms set by the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') by ordering the rearming of Germany.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces declared they had secured Iwo Jima, although pockets of Japanese resistance remained.

In 1966, Gemini 8 was launched on a mission to rendezvous and dock with Agena, a target vehicle in orbit; although the docking was successful, the joined vehicles began spinning, forcing Gemini to disconnect and abort the flight.

In 1968, during the Vietnam War, the My Lai (mee ly) Massacre of Vietnamese civilians was carried out by U.S. Army troops; estimates of the death toll vary between 347 and 504.

In 1974, the Grand Ole Opry House opened in Nashville with a concert attended by President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat.

In 1984, William Buckley, the CIA station chief in Beirut, was kidnapped by Hezbollah militants (he was tortured by his captors and killed in 1985).

In 1985, Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, was abducted in Beirut; he was released in December 1991.

In 1991, a plane carrying seven members of country singer Reba McEntire's band and her tour manager crashed into Otay Mountain in southern California, killing all on board. U.S. skaters Kristi Yamaguchi, Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan swept the World Figure Skating Championships in Munich, Germany.

In 2003, American activist Rachel Corrie, 23, was crushed to death by an Israeli military bulldozer while trying to block demolition of a Palestinian home in the Gaza Strip.

Ten years ago: Iraq's new parliament met briefly for the first time; lawmakers took the oath but did no business and adjourned after just 40 minutes, unable to agree on a speaker, let alone a prime minister. The Senate narrowly passed a \$2.8 trillion election-year budget blueprint.

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Five years ago: Pakistan abruptly freed CIA contractor Raymond Allen Davis, who had shot and killed two men in a gunfight in Lahore, after a deal was reached to pay \$2.34 million to the men's families.

One year ago: Los Angeles prosecutors filed a first-degree murder charge against real estate heir Robert Durst in the killing of his friend, Susan Berman, who had acted as Durst's spokeswoman after his wife, Kathleen, disappeared in 1982.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian-director Jerry Lewis is 90. Country singer Ray Walker (The Jordanaires) is 82. Movie director Bernardo Bertolucci is 75. Game show host Chuck Woolery is 75. Singer-songwriter Jerry Jeff Walker is 74. Country singer Robin Williams is 69. Actor Erik Estrada is 67. Actor Victor Garber is 67. Actress Kate Nelligan is 65. Country singer Ray Benson (Asleep at the Wheel) is 65. Rock singer-musician Nancy Wilson (Heart) is 62. World Golf Hall of Famer Hollis Stacy is 62. Actress Isabelle Huppert is 61. Actor Clifton Powell is 60. Rapper-actor Flavor Flav (Public Enemy) is 57. Rock musician Jimmy DeGrasso is 53. Actor Jerome Flynn is 53. Folk singer Patty Griffin is 52. Movie director Gore Verbinski is 52. Country singer Tracy Bonham is 49. Actress Lauren Graham is 49. Actor Judah Friedlander (FREED'-lan-duhr) is 47. Actor Alan Tudyk (TOO'-dihk) is 45. Actor Tim Kang is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Blu Cantrell is 40. Actress Brooke Burns is 38. Actress Alexandra Daddario is 30. Rhythm and blues singer Jhene Aiko is 28. Rock musician Wolfgang Van Halen is 25.

Thought for Today: "No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself, and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be the true." — From "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne, American author (1804-1864).

## Hula competitors avoid iconic flower because of fungus

**JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, Associated Press**

HONOLULU (AP) — In years past, hula students would make pilgrimages into ohia forests on Hawaii's Big Island to gather blossoms and leaves from the trees to adorn dancers' lei, hair, hands and feet for the world's most prestigious hula competition.

They would also pay respects to Laka, the goddess of hula, and seek inspiration.

But at this year's upcoming Merrie Monarch Festival, the red and yellow blossoms that normally adorn dancers will be missing.

That's because many competitors are heeding calls to avoid the flowers so they don't spread a fungus that's killing the trees that grow them. Scientists are worried what's known as rapid ohia death will wipe out the backbone of Hawaii's native forests and watersheds — the islands' source of fresh water.

"It doesn't grow anywhere else in world," said Sam Ohu Gon III, senior scientist and cultural adviser for the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii. "If it goes extinct here, that's it globally. It's gone."

For now, the disease is only on the Big Island. But with thousands of people descending upon the usually sleepy Big Island town of Hilo for the festival that starts March 27, some fear people could unintentionally spread the fungus to other islands.

People going into the forests to harvest the blossoms and leaves could spread the disease through sticky spores of the fungus that can travel on vehicles, tools and shoes.

Scientists don't want to tell festival organizers and participants what to do about an important cultural practice. The flowers are said to be Laka's physical representation and an important symbol of hula.

"We're all mainland haoles," said J.B. Friday, University of Hawaii forester, using a word meaning white person to refer to the three scientists leading the effort to battle the disease. "We're not going to tell Hawaiians what to do."

And so members of a rapid ohia death working group set out to conduct outreach in an effort to educate about the disease, while being sensitive to the flower's iconic presence at the festival.

Competitors spend all year or longer planning their moves and selecting the foliage that will help tell the story of the mele, or song. "Often restrictions on cultural actions are looked at as oppression," Gon said.

Many participants have been receptive to avoiding ohia lehua, an unprecedented move in the festival's 53-year history.

One group, Halau Hiiakainamakalehua, of Honolulu, won't be using any ohia — or anything that comes



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from the forests.

"For me, the competition is less important than losing one of our biggest hula resources," said one of the group's leaders, Robert Kaupu. "We're trying to send a message: don't go in the forest now."

Maui's Pukalani Hula Hale has been preparing for two years to make a festival comeback after a 13-year absence.

The group's soloist will wear ohia lehua in her lei when she performs a kahiko —the most ancient form of hula — to vie for the title of Miss Aloha Hula. But the blossoms will come from Maui, where the disease hasn't been found.

"We would always use from our island," said the group's leader Hiilei Maxwell-Jean.

Some participants say that everyone should refrain from using it, regardless of where it's gathered from.

"In solidarity, we should all show our togetherness in showing that we understand what's going on," said Kamaka Kukona, of Maui's Halau O Ka Hanu Lehua. "Right now safety is taking precedence over our decorative purposes."

Organizers are leaving it up to the groups to decide whether or not to use ohia, said festival director Luana Kawelu.

Because participants must submit their lists of adornments well in advance, judges are being instructed not to penalize groups that substitute ohia, she said.

"That floored me when I learned that," said Christy Martin, of the university's Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species.

Such an extraordinary allowance gives her hope their outreach worked. "It really made me understand that these kumu are true leaders," she said, using the Hawaiian word for teacher. "They're taking this issue seriously."

Hawaiians have long depended on ohia cosmologically, artistically and medicinally, said Kalena Silva, a professor of Hawaiian studies at the university's Hilo campus.

Silva suggested observing a period of prohibition, noting that there have been periods when fishing in certain areas was prohibited to allow for the replenishment of stocks. Silva said it's worth a halt to its use for such a precious cultural symbol.

"To me, it feels like we're about to lose a member of the family," he said. "We're keenly aware of the fragility of our ohia forests now."

## **A murder of crows? Dead birds found along Michigan railroad**

SPRINGFIELD, Mich. (AP) — A murder of crows? Dozens of dead birds have been found along railroad tracks in southern Michigan, and wildlife officials are trying to figure out what happened to them.

Some area residents estimated there could be as many as 300 carcasses stretching at least 200 yards along the tracks, the Battle Creek Enquirer reported (<http://bcene.ws/1pmmige> ). They were discovered Tuesday in Springfield, southeast of Grand Rapids.

A Calhoun County official found 57 dead crows along the tracks Tuesday, Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist Tom Cooley told The Associated Press. Two birds were found to have fractures and may have been struck by a train, Cooley said.

Several dozen crows were found dead near tracks in the same general area last month. About half a dozen were looked at and determined to have been killed by a passing train, he said.

Birds are susceptible to the weather, especially windy or stormy conditions, according to Cooley.

"With these, there's got to be something in that general area that makes them prone to be struck," he said.

The livers of the two birds brought to Lansing on Tuesday will be tested to see if pesticides played a role in their deaths.

## Marines alter women's uniform policy to cover more tattoos

The U.S. Marine Corps is making it easier for women to cover up tattoos by allowing them to wear crew-neck undershirts beneath their uniforms

By TOM BELL

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — The U.S. Marine Corps is making it easier for women to cover up tattoos by allowing them to wear crew-neck undershirts beneath their uniforms.

The Marines made the change Thursday after U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree complained that its dress policy unintentionally discriminated against female recruits. Men are allowed to wear crew-neck T-shirts.

Last month, the Democrat from Maine urged the Marine Corps to amend its rules and accept 20-year-old Kennebunk resident Kate Pimental. She has a tattoo just below her collarbone that says, "Let your smile change the world but never let the world change you."

The Marine Corps has a strict policy on tattoos — especially visible tattoos. Recruits can have no more than four tattoos, and they cannot contain any vulgar, racist, sexist or anti-American words or images or references to drugs. Additionally, sleeve tattoos that cover the arm are prohibited, as are visible tattoos on the neck.

The altered dress code means Pimental can now cover her tattoo, which she got shortly after turning 18.

"There is nothing I want more than to be able to serve as a Marine," she said.

Pingree wrote in a letter to Gen. Robert Neller, commandant of the Marine Corps, that changing the dress code so qualified women applicants like Pimental can join the Marines will "add to the strength and power of today's Marine Corps."

## NFL links football, CTE; could it affect \$1 billion deal?

DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writers

TERESA M. WALKER, AP Pro Football Writers

On the contentious issue of concussions, the NFL has relented on a once-steadfast stance.

Yes, the league acknowledged publicly for the first time, there is a connection between football and the devastating brain disease known as CTE.

The NFL backed Tuesday the comments made at a congressional panel by Jeff Miller, the league's senior vice president for health and safety, that his surprising words "accurately reflect the view of the NFL," league spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

The league has long denied proof linking the sport and the condition called chronic traumatic encephalopathy. As recently as the week of the Super Bowl, Dr. Mitch Berger, a member of the league's head, neck and spine committee, refused to draw a direct line from football to CTE.

So that's what made Miller's admission, at a round-table discussion about concussions, somewhat startling.

He said brain research on former NFL players "certainly" shows a link between football and CTE when asked about the subject. Miller referenced the work of Boston University neuropathologist Dr. Ann McKee, who has found CTE in the brains of 90 of the 94 former pro football players she studied after their death.

"The answer to that question is certainly yes, but there are also a number of questions that come with that," Miller said, deferring to physicians on the science of the subject of CTE evidence.

CTE is tied to repeated brain trauma and associated with symptoms such as memory loss, depression and progressive dementia. Players diagnosed after their deaths include Hall of Famers Junior Seau, Ken Stabler and Mike Webster.

Four Democratic members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter Tuesday to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, asking for answers by March 29 on the league's plans to protect both NFL players and those at the youth levels.

Critics of the NFL's proposed \$1 billion plan to settle concussion claims called Miller's sudden acknowledgement of a football-CTE connection a game changer. The settlement is being appealed by players concerned that it excludes future cases of CTE, what they consider "the signature disease of football."

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The deal announced by lead plaintiffs' lawyers and the NFL in August 2013 would instead pay up to \$4 million for prior deaths involving CTE.

"Given that, the settlement's failure to compensate present and future CTE is inexcusable," lawyer Steven Molo wrote Tuesday in a letter to the federal appeals court in Philadelphia that is hearing his appeal.

Miller's admission might not have any tangible effect on the case, though, given the timing. The appellate reviews are typically only focused on the court records.

"I think it's an uphill battle to have this even debated by the appellate judges, but it does give a glimmer of hope for the objectors," said Andrew Brandt, an ESPN analyst specializing in the business of the league.

The court heard arguments in November on the fairness of the settlement and was expected to issue an opinion in the high-stakes case soon. The NFL and lead plaintiffs' lawyers have said they do not want to incentivize suicide by offering future payments. CTE cannot yet be diagnosed in the living.

The settlement would resolve thousands of lawsuits and cover more than 20,000 NFL retirees for the next 65 years. The league estimates that 6,000 former players (nearly three in 10) could develop Alzheimer's disease or moderate dementia.

They would receive an average of \$190,000, though the awards could reach several million dollars in the most serious cases, including young men with Parkinson's disease or Lou Gehrig's disease.

"We welcome the NFL's acknowledgement of what was alleged in our complaint: that reports have associated football with findings of CTE in deceased former players," lead plaintiffs' lawyer Christopher Seeger said in a statement. "The settlement achieves that, providing immediate care to the sickest retired players and long-term security over the next 65 years for those who are healthy now but develop a qualifying condition in the future."

Chris Nowinski, a former professional wrestler who runs the Concussion Legacy Foundation, noted that millions of children still play tackle football despite the suspected risks. The foundation seeks to study and prevent head trauma in athletes.

"If we actually believe that football is linked to CTE now, then how is the NFL underwriting (youth) tackle football when kids could just as easily play flag and not be exposed to the risk of CTE at such a young age?" he asked.

The impact of the admission on college football is unclear, but a lead attorney in a lawsuit against the NCAA said he also saw this development as a milestone in the process.

"It is amazing to think back to 2011, when we filed the first-ever class action against the NCAA for concussions, and compare the national conversation at that time to what we have now," Chicago-based lawyer Joseph Siprut said.

The admission by Miller could make an impact beyond the gridiron, too.

Plaintiffs in a similar case of retired players suing the NHL for concussion-related damages called on that league Tuesday to acknowledge as much. Commissioner Gary Bettman said last year "from a medical and science standpoint, there is no evidence" of a connection between head injuries and CTE. The NHL didn't respond Tuesday to a request for new comment.

"While the NFL, after intense public pressure, has finally admitted publicly that there is 'certainly' a link, the NHL, to this day, continues to deny that there is any long-term danger associated with suffering repeated concussions and sub-concussive blows, even in the face of compelling medical evidence," the co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs said in a statement.

## Homeless man who spotted California fugitives gets \$100K

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — A homeless man from San Francisco who pointed police toward two Orange County inmates who had escaped from jail will get the lion's share of a \$150,000 reward set up for their successful capture, the Orange County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors awarded Matthew Hay-Chapman \$100,000, said Jean Pasco, a county spokeswoman.

Two Target employees and a man whose van was stolen by the escapees will split the remaining \$50,000.

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Hossein Nayeri, Jonathan Tieu and Bac Duong escaped from Central Men's Jail in Santa Ana on Jan. 22 and were the subject of a statewide manhunt for days.

Hay-Chapman spotted Nayeri and Tieu on Jan. 28 in San Francisco and recognized their stolen white GMC van from news reports. He pointed them out to police officers in the area, leading to their arrest.

The third fugitive, Bac Duong, had surrendered to police in Orange County the day before.

The owner of the stolen van will receive \$20,000, officials said.

Armando Damian, of Los Angeles, called police to say that a man responding to a Craig's List ad had taken it for a test drive on Jan. 23 and not returned.

A Target store manager and a loss prevention officer will each receive \$15,000.

Manager Hazel Javier noticed two men acting suspiciously on surveillance footage on the night of Jan. 22. She showed the video to loss prevention officer Jeffrey Arana and called police because he thought the men might be the fugitives.

A cab driver who was held hostage for a week by the three men did not receive any of the reward money.

## Fans use Lovecraft's fame to promote Providence's weird side

**JENNIFER McDERMOTT, Associated Press**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Fans of H.P. Lovecraft's writings are trying to use the growing fame of the early 20th century fantasy-horror writer to promote Providence's weird side.

Lovecraft so identified with Rhode Island's capital city that he wrote "I am Providence" in a letter. His headstone bears the phrase. Some of Lovecraft's best-known works are set in Providence.

Tuesday marks the 79th anniversary of his death. A light rain fell as about 20 people gathered where Lovecraft's childhood house once stood for the unveiling of a marker.

The nonprofit Lovecraft Arts & Sciences Council placed the marker as part of a broader effort to foster the weird fiction and art community in Providence and highlight Lovecraft and other writers and artists.

## 2nd Pennsylvania justice resigns over raunchy email scandal

**MARK SCOLFORO, Associated Press**

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A second Pennsylvania Supreme Court justice quit the bench Tuesday in a widening scandal over raunchy and otherwise offensive emails that he and others exchanged with friends and lawyers.

Justice Michael Eakin's decision to retire marks the latest fallout since embattled state Attorney General Kathleen Kane began releasing hundreds of emails in 2014 to the media and ethics agencies. Kane has since been indicted on perjury and other charges that she claims were trumped up because she took on the old boys' club of Pennsylvania's judiciary and law enforcement.

Eakin's lawyer, Bill Costopoulos, said at a news conference that an ethics trial on charges related to the emails, which had been scheduled to start in two weeks, would not proceed. He said Eakin would agree to the allegations, leaving "nothing left to try."

"This is the only process I know of in America where you can be charged with sending emails to friends that were inappropriate and face the death penalty," Costopoulos said. "I just don't think that's right."

Justice Seamus McCaffery, a Democrat, abruptly retired in 2014 after being suspended by the court for his role in swapping the emails.

The board that investigates accusations of judicial misconduct has said that Eakin sent or responded to emails that included a satirical video about a busload of "sluts" crashing, a joke about a woman told to keep "her mouth shut," and a joke about Tiger Woods that referred to his African-American and Asian background.

The email scandal, centered on the attorney general's office, has already led to dozens of people being disciplined or losing their jobs.

Eakin, 67, a Republican, has been on the state Supreme Court since 2002.

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During tearful testimony in December, Eakin apologized for what he said he “allowed to happen,” but he accused the news media of sensationalism and argued his job performance hadn’t been affected.

“Perhaps my demeanor is one of the boys,” Eakin said. “But what I sent was to people who were also one of the boys. It was in the locker room. I allowed, I created something that could be released.”

The state constitution says judges lose their pensions if they act in a way that “brings the judicial office into disrepute,” one of the allegations against Eakin. Costopoulos said he hoped that would not occur but it was not certain.

“We have lost one of the finest jurists of our court in the recent past,” Costopoulos said. “His opinions and writing will withstand the test of history. What has happened to him and what has been done to him will not.”

Lynn Marks with the good government group Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts said Eakin’s decision to step down was in the best interests of the judicial system, particularly in how the public perceives it.

“We hope that the court can move on from this, and that the remaining justices and judges at all levels will understand — if they don’t already — how important it is that they be above reproach in their behavior and their words when dealing with all participants in the legal process, including with each other,” Marks said.

When Kane, a Democrat, turned over the new trove of emails in September, it was barely a week after Eakin voted with four other justices to suspend her law license. She argued the emails could violate rules that require judges to act in a way that promotes public confidence and prohibit them from appearing to undermine their independence, integrity and impartiality.

Kane’s license was suspended after prosecutors in suburban Philadelphia charged her with perjury and other offenses for allegedly leaking secret grand jury material and lying about it. She is not seeking a second term this year, and her criminal trial is scheduled for August.

The exchange of explicit and pornographic emails by state prosecutors was uncovered as part of Kane’s internal review of how the office handled the investigation into Jerry Sandusky, the former Penn State assistant football coach now serving a lengthy prison sentence after being convicted in 2012 of 45 counts of child sexual abuse.

Eakin’s resignation leaves the seven-member Supreme Court with five Democrats, one Republican and one vacancy. A replacement would be nominated by Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and require two-thirds confirmation by the Republican-controlled Senate.

Wolf issued a statement calling the case “another reminder of why we must all work with urgency to restore the public’s trust in their government as well as the integrity of the judicial system.”

## Florida woman fights to keep pet alligator ‘Rambo’ at home

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP) — A Florida woman is fighting to keep her 6-foot-long pet alligator in her home. The 125-pound reptile named Rambo wears clothes, rides on the back of a motorcycle and has a bedroom in Mary Thorn’s home in Lakeland.

Thorn has had a license for the alligator for 11 years, but it recently grew to 6 feet. Wildlife officials say that size alligator must have 2.5 acres of land. Thorn tells the Orlando Sentinel (<http://bit.ly/1PagR99>) that even if she had land available, Rambo can’t be left outdoors because of sensitivity to sunlight.

Thorn takes Rambo to schools and charity events to teach people about reptiles. She says she has trained him not to bite.

Florida wildlife commission spokesman Gary Morse says Thorn’s case is under investigation.

## US stocks end mixed, lower, amid drug company rout

MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks ended mixed and mostly lower Tuesday, led by a steep decline in drug company shares as investors worried it will become harder for the companies to raise prices. Materials companies fell along with the price of precious metals.

U.S. stocks have hardly moved over the last two days, following a four-week rally that erased some big

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losses from earlier this year.

"People are kind of re-evaluating where we are," said James Paulsen, chief investment strategist for Wells Capital Management. "It's kind of amazing we haven't pulled back a little more."

The Dow Jones industrial average added 22.40 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,251.53. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 3.71 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,015.93. The Nasdaq composite index slipped 21.61 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,728.67.

Trading has been mixed and fairly calm this week as investors wait for the Federal Reserve's Open Markets Committee remarks on interest rates and the economy on Wednesday. Investors are also awaiting Wednesday's Consumer Price Index report, which Paulsen believes will reveal more than the Fed's statement.

"We ought to be paying attention to the Fed's boss, the economy," he said. "If the economic data gets better, the Fed will raise rates. If it doesn't get better, they won't."

Drug company stocks were not afforded any of the market's tranquility Tuesday. They were pummeled after Valeant Pharmaceuticals, which is already facing scrutiny over its business practices, said its strategy of boosting product prices is no longer viable. Every drug company in the S&P 500 fell, and big drug makers Pfizer and Merck led decliners on the Dow.

Valeant tumbled \$35.53, or 51.5 percent, to \$33.51 after it disclosed disappointing fourth-quarter results, cut its forecasts for 2016 and said it could default on its debt. Valeant is being investigated by the Securities and Exchange commission and Congress is questioning its practice of acquiring older drugs and raising their prices, a strategy shared by other drugmakers.

Endo International lost \$9.51, or 22.6 percent, to \$32.5 and Mallinckrodt fell \$10.10, or 14.5 percent, to \$59.51.

Drugmaker Eli Lilly fell on concerns surrounding the potential approval of a drug designed to treat dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease. The company said Tuesday it is changing the goal of a late-stage trial, and investors worried the change makes it less likely regulators will approve the drug. The stock gave up \$2.67, or 3.6 percent, to \$71.24.

Tech stocks made the biggest gains Tuesday, led by Apple, which rose \$2.06, or 2 percent, to \$104.58 after a Morgan Stanley analyst said first-quarter iPhone sales look stronger than Wall Street had expected.

Mining companies fell with metals prices. The price of gold fell \$14.10, or 1.1 percent, to \$1,231 an ounce. Silver sank 26 cents, or 1.7 percent, to \$15.26 an ounce. Copper slipped less than 1 cent to \$2.23 a pound.

Energy stocks declined as oil prices fell sharply for the second day in a row. Benchmark U.S. crude shed 84 cents, or 2.3 percent, to \$36.34 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the benchmark used to price international oils, lost 79 cents, or 2 percent, to \$38.74 per barrel in London.

In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline slipped 1 cent to \$1.41 a gallon. Heating oil fell 2 cents to \$1.18 a gallon. Natural gas rose 3 cents, or 1.8 percent, to \$1.85 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The Bank of Japan left its monetary policy unchanged Tuesday but downgraded its assessment of conditions in the world's third-largest economy, citing risks from weaker growth in China and other emerging economies and volatility in financial markets, among other factors. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 0.7 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 0.7 percent. Seoul's Kospi was off 0.1 percent and the Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.2 percent.

France's CAC-40 lost 0.8 percent and Germany's DAX shed 0.6 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 0.6 percent.

Bond prices held steady and the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note remained at 1.96 percent. The euro edged up to \$1.1107 from \$1.1097 and the dollar slipped to 113.10 yen from 113.80 yen. The British pound fell to \$1.4158 amid renewed jitters about the June popular vote on whether to remain in the 28-country European Union. The pound fell to a seven-year low last month.

## Activists demand action against industrial chemical in water

MARY ESCH, Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Prized for its ability to make things super-slick, it was used for decades in the manufacture of Teflon pans, Gore-Tex jackets, ski wax, carpets and the linings of pizza boxes and microwave popcorn bags.

Now, with the suspected cancer-causing chemical PFOA being phased out in the U.S., it is still very much around, turning up in the water in factory towns across the country — most recently in upstate New York and Vermont — where it is blamed by residents for cancers and other maladies.

The latest cases have brought renewed demands that the Environmental Protection Agency regulate PFOA the way it does arsenic, lead and dozens of other contaminants, and set stringent, enforceable limits on how much of the substance can be in drinking water.

“Where is the government that is supposed to protect people and the environment? It’s an outrage,” said Tracy Carluccio of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, which uncovered PFOA, or perfluorooctanoic acid, in tap water in New Jersey a decade ago.

In their defense, EPA officials said that the agency has been considering for years whether regulations are needed for PFOA and related perfluorinated chemicals, but that it is a drawn-out testing and evaluation process dictated by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. In the meantime, the EPA has taken action around the country to fine companies and force them to clean up such chemicals.

For now, there are no mandatory limits on how much PFOA, also called C8, can be in drinking water. The same goes for its cousin perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS, which is used in firefighting foam. The Pentagon is checking for traces of PFOS in the water at 664 U.S. military sites where fire or crash training has been conducted.

As part of its review of such chemicals, the EPA ordered nationwide testing of water supplies in 2013.

Of 4,764 water supplies, 103 systems in 29 states had trace amounts of PFOA, but none exceeded 400 parts per trillion, EPA’s advisory level for short-term exposure — water you drink for only a few weeks. Seven had levels slightly over 100 ppt, the new advisory level for long-term exposure — for the water you drink for years — that the EPA is expected to set this spring.

But the EPA’s national survey didn’t tell the whole story.

Towns the size of Hoosick Falls, New York, whose water supply serves just 4,500 people, weren’t included in the testing. Its PFOA level of 600 ppt was discovered in village wells in 2014 only because residents, concerned about what they perceived as a high cancer rate in the plastics factory town, demanded testing.

In January, after the lead crisis in Flint, Michigan, focused national attention on water contamination, EPA and New York officials warned people in Hoosick Falls not to drink the water. The state is promising a new water supply with a price tag of \$10 million.

More recently, testing turned up PFOA at about 100 ppt in drinking water in nearby Petersburg, New York, and North Bennington, Vermont, which also had plastics plants. On Tuesday, Vermont officials said a second round of water testing in North Bennington yielded readings of up to 2,730 ppt.

Michael Hickey, a local insurance underwriter, exposed the contamination in Hoosick Falls, a bucolic community near the Vermont state line known as the hometown of folk artist Grandma Moses.

“My father died of kidney cancer. My grandmother had kidney cancer,” Hickey said. “My concern isn’t really about me; it’s about my 5-year-old son.”

At the least, health and environmental advocates say, communities that have factories and other installations that used the chemical should test their water.

“I would consider it an urgent priority to decrease exposures,” said Philippe Grandjean, a researcher at the Harvard School of Public Health who believes the 100 ppt safe-exposure level EPA is proposing is still 100 times too high.

Vermont health officials, for example, have set that state’s PFOA level at 20 ppt, based on the same research the EPA is relying on.

Class-action lawsuits have been filed as far back as 2001 against companies such as 3M and DuPont over

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PFOA contamination of water near factories or disposal sites in a host of communities, including Decatur, Alabama, and Cottage Grove, Minnesota.

In settling a lawsuit involving 70,000 people in West Virginia and Ohio, DuPont agreed in 2004 to install filters to remove PFOA from water systems in six communities surrounding its Parkersburg, West Virginia plant. In October, DuPont was found liable for a woman's kidney cancer in the first of 3,500 lawsuits filed by people with diseases they blame on the contamination.

The American Water Works Association, a water industry group, believes that nationwide regulation of PFOA isn't needed but that testing for the substance at manufacturing sites would be prudent, spokesman Greg Kail said.

Advanced filtration systems to remove PFOA can cost millions of dollars up front, plus tens of thousands a year in operating costs.

3M invented the chemical 1947, and it became so ubiquitous that more than 98 percent of Americans have traces in their blood, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 3M began to phase it out in 2002 in response to health concerns raised by the EPA. DuPont and eight other companies later agreed to do the same by 2015.

Studies funded by the DuPont settlement concluded PFOA is a "probable cause" of six illnesses, including thyroid disease and kidney and testicular cancer. Those studies were based on people who drank water with PFOA at a level of 50 ppt for a year — half what the EPA is expected to set as the safe level. Other studies have linked PFOA to low birthweight and other problems in children.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo warned that PFOA and other chemicals will probably be discovered in the water across the state and country.

"We allowed waste disposal in fashions that, in retrospect, were not prudent," he said, "and now, in many ways, we are paying the price as a society."

## Haley says she's likely to sign bill restricting abortion

**SEANNA ADCOX, Associated Press**

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Gov. Nikki Haley said Tuesday that she will almost certainly sign a bill banning abortion past 19 weeks in South Carolina.

"I can't imagine any scenario in which I wouldn't sign it," said the Republican governor. She said she will look at the details once the bill reaches her desk.

That could be soon. The GOP-controlled House is expected to vote Wednesday on a compromise the Senate passed last week.

The measure allows exceptions only if the mother's life is in jeopardy or a doctor determines the fetus can't survive outside the womb. That exemption for a "fetal anomaly" was crucial for the bill clearing the Senate, where Democrats have blocked the legislation since 2010.

Such anomalies are generally detected around 20 weeks.

Similar laws are in effect in 12 states. They've been blocked by court challenges in three others. But the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to rule on the ban's constitutionality.

Supporters believe a fetus can feel pain at 20 weeks. Opponents argue such later-term abortions involve women who want a child but are confronted with a medical diagnosis that forces a difficult decision that shouldn't be up to politicians.

The measure's limited definition of "fetal anomaly" means it would be illegal to abort a fetus with a severe disability if the child could live.

Haley said Tuesday that she has always supported anti-abortion measures. She's previously explained that support as personal.

"I'm strongly pro-life, very pro-life and not because my party tells me to be, but my husband was adopted, and so every day I know the blessings of having him there," Haley said during her 2010 campaign for governor.



As a House member that year, Haley voted to end abortion coverage in the state health plan for employees who are victims of rape and incest. The Senate defeated that proposal.

In 2012, Haley signed a bill intended to ensure that a fetus surviving an abortion attempt is not treated as medical waste. It defined a person as anyone who is breathing and has a beating heart after birth, whether by labor, cesarean section, or abortion, copying a 2002 federal law enforceable on federal property.

## **Yale case adds to criticism of how schools investigate rape**

**DAVE COLLINS, Associated Press**

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Yale University's expulsion of the basketball team captain last month is adding to growing criticism nationwide about how colleges investigate and discipline students accused of sexual misconduct.

Jack Montague is vowing to sue Yale for expelling him last month. The dispute involves a sexual encounter in 2014 with a woman who claims it wasn't consensual, but Montague said it was. No criminal charges were filed.

Montague's lawyer says the discipline was based on weak evidence and an unfair process — a complaint echoed by dozens of other disciplined students across the country.

According to the advocacy group Boys and Men in Education, students disciplined for sexual misconduct have filed more than 100 lawsuits against universities nationwide.

## **Cops warn residents of men challenging others to rap battles**

CHARLTON, Mass. (AP) — Police in a Massachusetts town are warning residents to be on the lookout for men challenging passers-by to rap battles.

Charlton police told WCVB-TV (<http://bit.ly/1U4Ktgy>) that a black SUV containing a group of men in their late teens or early 20s pulled up next to three teenage boys Saturday afternoon.

One of the men got out of the vehicle and started rapping. The other men then asked the teens if they wanted to "spit some bars" with them. When the boys declined, the men drove off.

Police say it doesn't appear to be an attempted abduction, but the boys were frightened.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police.

Charlton's website says it's one of the 50 safest cities in Massachusetts.

## **Virtual reality trips are everywhere at South by Southwest**

**MAE ANDERSON, AP Technology Writer**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Virtual reality is big at South by Southwest Interactive, the annual Austin, Texas, tech festival that wraps up Tuesday. It's a big technological development, a business opportunity — and also just a big experiment, as everyone tries to figure out how to use it.

All around Austin, companies like Samsung, Google, The New York Times and even McDonald's were showing off their virtual reality efforts. Because it basically immerses viewers in an artificial world, VR can reach an audience in more direct and fundamental ways than other media. Companies and creators are still feeling their way with the new technology.

"Part of what's so exciting about it is that there are no rules and no best practices, it's still really unclear what this is for and how best to use it," said New York Times editor Sam Dolnick. "We're shaping that at once in real time."

Facebook's long-awaited Oculus Rift begins shipping to the public later this month, and new headsets from HTC and Sony are also on their way. (Google even has a VR headset called Cardboard — which is pretty much exactly what it sounds like — for \$15.) All that is creating a tidal rush of enthusiasm and hype for the new technology.

The opportunity could be big: Deloitte Global predicts that virtual reality will have its first billion dollar year in 2016, with about \$700 million in hardware sales and the remainder from games and other VR

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“experiences.” It estimates headset sales of 2.5 million units this year.

And audiences appear to find VR especially engaging, at least so far. Take, for instance, 360 degree videos, which are typically shot by multicamera setups that capture images in every direction. Viewers can then choose to look at anything in their field of view, as if they were standing where the camera is.

People are 7.5 times more likely to share such videos compared to fixed-frame video, VR journalist Sarah Hill said during a packed SXSW panel discussion on VR storytelling.

At the moment, it’s a challenge to walk around Austin without stumbling across a VR presentation. The New York Times took over the Easy Tiger bar on Austin’s main drag, 6th Street, to host panels and parties that promoted its VR efforts. It provided swivel chairs and headsets for people to watch its virtual reality projects, including “The Displaced,” a 10 minute piece in which viewers follow three child refugees in different nations through their daily lives.

Google threw a VR party to showcase its Tilt Brush 3D VR painting app. At its Google Fiber Space in Austin, animator Chris Prynoski created a painting wearing a VR headset while the image itself appeared on a large screen above him. And there was a 360 degree photo booth, where party goers created 360 images of themselves viewable via Google’s Cardboard headset.

Samsung’s showcase used moving chairs and Gear VR headsets to let festival goers take a bumpy VR ride on a roller coaster via a video it developed with Six Flags. The company also brought virtual reality headsets for festival goers to try out, assuming they were willing to tweet the hashtag “VRondemand” and then send Samsung their location.

At McDonald’s Loft near the Austin Convention Center, the fast-food giant offered festival goers snacks, live music, and VR. Specifically, that is, the chance to use an HTC Vive and its controllers, due out later this year, to paint a colorful mural on a Happy Meal box and throw paintballs in a virtual world. “It’s an emerging technology that has interesting potential applications,” said DeLu Jackson, a McDonald’s vice president of global digital engagement.

Gary Banks, executive producer at digital content studio Groove Jones in Dallas, created the VR game for McDonald’s and says interest in VR has jumped over the past year. “It’s not mainstream yet, so there’s the coolness factor and cachet that brands want to attach to themselves,” Banks said.

Still, creating virtual reality pieces remains rife with challenges. Andrey Doronichev, a product manager for VR apps at Google, said one of them simply involves teaching audiences what to expect from VR pieces. Would-be creators of VR pieces need better tools, too.

The industry also needs new ways to measure how people interact with VR videos. The common metric of “views” may not suffice, particularly if people watch fewer VR videos but spend more time with them, said Mehrshad Mansouri, director of business development for GoPro. But he added that it wasn’t clear what should replace views.

“We don’t have an answer yet, but the current model needs improvement,” he said.