

Groton Daily Independent

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Saturday, March 19

CDE in Groton
State A Boys Tourney in Rapid City
Birthdays: Katie Zeeb, Landon Kokales
10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Pastor at Rosewood
4:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran 5th graders and parents meet
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, March 20

PALM SUNDAY
Birthdays: Kassidi Stumpf, Dale Busing, Shanda Sundstrom
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran SS & Confirmation
9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran fellowship
10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
10:00am: St. John's Lutheran School
10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with Communion
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
3:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle serves at Golden Living Center
6:30pm: Easter Cantata at C&MA Church

Monday, March 21

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Turkey gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, tea bun, fruit.
Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.
Anniv: Tim & Peggy Fliehs
Birthdays: Cheyenne Leonhardt, Courtney Pray,

MCKIVER COLLISION
Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!
13556 400th Ave., Groton SD 57445
Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Understanding Our Food and Those Who Produce It

By Rep. Kristi Noem

March 18, 2016

Earlier this month, people around the country celebrated National Agriculture Day. In South Dakota, our lives and livelihoods are deeply tied to agriculture – whether we live in town or on a farm. But in so many other areas of this country, people are fundamentally disconnected from the way their food is produced.

For most families, food is one of the top expenditures each month – often times, only falling behind housing and transportation costs. Still, a 2011 study by the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance found 72 percent of consumers knew nothing or very little about farming or ranching. While not everyone farms, everyone does eat, so it's important that more people understand where their food comes from.

Creating this understanding will be critical – especially as more and more pressure is put on farmers and ranchers to produce the food needed to support a growing global population. This is a national security necessity as much as it is a humanitarian mission. During a congressional hearing late last year, John Negroponte, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Iraq and then Director of National Intelligence under President George W. Bush, explained that the need for more food “could affect political stability” and could “fuel further instability in the Middle East.” He went on to observe that “the world must increase food production by 50 to 60 percent to satisfy expected global population growth and changing consumption patterns by 2050.”

These realities make it all the more important to invest in our agriculture community.

Many reading this column likely know I have spent my life farming and ranching in South Dakota. As our state's only member in the U.S. House of Representatives, I try to share what it is like to live in our shoes, because it's essential that folks have a better understanding of the risk that comes with agriculture and the significance of a stable food supply. They should know the kind of capital farmers bury in the ground each spring, hoping to get the crop and prices needed to keep their operation going. They ought to see the hard work, long hours, and extreme risk that come with running a ranch – especially now that calving season is upon us.

South Dakota ranchers have been blessed this year so far with good weather for calving. But I remember many years when we were calving in sub-zero weather. We'd stay up all night, so we could be there to get the calf somewhere warm enough to survive. And no matter how attentive you were, there would always be those heartbreaking times where all you could say was “Maybe next year.”

Even beyond understanding the dynamics of food production and food security, I believe our country would benefit greatly from seeing how we live in an agriculture community. I love this segment from Paul Harvey's tribute to farmers: “God had to have somebody willing to ride the ruts at double speed to get the hay in ahead of the rain clouds and yet stop in mid-field and race to help when he sees the first smoke from a neighbor's place.” A little more of a farming and ranching mentality would go a long way in this country.

To all of South Dakota's farmers and ranchers, thank you for doing what you do. Because of your work, our families are fed, our national security is stronger, and the world is better off.

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Groton Legion Auxiliary News

On Monday March 7, 2016 the monthly meeting was called to order by the president, Michelle Erickson. Opening Prayer recited by the chaplain. The flag pledge and auxiliary preamble were recited in unison. Thirteen members were present. No minutes or treasurers available since secretary and treasurer were absent. The district newsletter from Jackie Omland was read, asking all members to stress membership. The theme for March is

" I promise to breath life into our organization, Members helping Members."

Membership awards received were Columbus Day 35% on October 12, 2015, Veterans Day 45% on November 11, 2015, and Pearl Harbor Day 60% on December 7, 2015. The certificates will be filed.

Remember March 15, 2016 is the American Legions Birthday and Jan will furnish an ice cream cake for their meeting on Monday 3-14-2016

. Elvira Moen, the Children and Youth Chairman, is working on the Beads of Courage Program for children coping with serious and life threatening illness. Bead Kits will be available for purchase at the District IV meeting April 8, 2016 in Bowdle, S.D.

Chairman Goeringer, the gift shop chairman, sends a big Thank You to all units that participated in sending gifts to Fort Meade. .She said that 46 veterans were served; 24 volunteers put in over 221 hours.

Girls State Applications are due April 1st and year end reports are due April 15th. Also Legionette of the Year nominations are due March 15th and all poems and essays are also due

Twenty-four, hand written and colored with a design, Thank Yous were received from the third graders in appreciation of the dictionaries given to them by the auxiliary.

Members voted to send a monetary donation to the Mikey D Chapter to be used for their expenses.

May 22, 2016 has been designated as day for ditch clean-up on highway 37.

Plans were made for workers helping with the Legions annual Spring Fling. Marge, Rose and Bonnie, and Sherry will furnish bars. Two shifts, 3-6 pm and 6-9 pm will help in kitchen.

Scholarship applicants were Marlee Jones from Groton and Brody Sombke from Columbia.

Pat Larson presented her report on box tops and grocery store tapes.

Previous to the meeting, Deb and Tami served a light lunch. Hostess for April 4th meeting will be Meri and Pat.

Chaplain gave the Prayer for Peace. Meeting adjourned.



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!

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





Six Year Check-Up of Obamacare

Six years ago, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act (ACA) into law. Commonly called Obamacare, this law was intended to provide all Americans with access to quality, affordable, low-cost health care. Not surprisingly, we have found that the opposite is happening. Instead, health care costs are soaring, premiums have risen at record rates and access to care continues to challenge consumers. And there is no sign of these damaging effects slowing down.

For many families across the United States, health insurance premiums are the biggest household expense. I continue to hear from South Dakotans who simply cannot afford their new plans under the ACA, yet they are required by law to purchase the plans or face steep tax penalties. In one case, the premium for a healthy married couple in their 50's now costs more than \$15,000 annually. That doesn't even include co-pays or deductibles that they pay when they go to the doctor. Another individual told me her premium increased 40 percent in 2016, so she now pays \$1,270 each month for her health insurance. These are just a few of the many stories I continue to hear about rising premiums and higher out-of-pocket costs because of Obamacare.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the ACA costs American taxpayers more than \$116 billion a year. In fact, on average, every household in the United States can expect more than \$20,000 in new taxes over the next 10 years because of the ACA. And health care providers are being hurt by the law's administrative costs. A recent survey of U.S. doctors found that many are struggling to handle growing paperwork demands. Even more alarming, their paperwork burden is getting worse, bogging down time and energy that could otherwise be spent on the patient. These are heavy burdens to place on the already over-taxed, over-regulated American public.

When Republicans took over the Senate last year, we made it our mission to repeal the ACA. In December 2015, the Senate for the first time passed a reconciliation bill that would have repealed major parts of the Affordable Care Act. Not surprisingly, it was vetoed by the president, and the House of Representatives was unable to override his veto. In order to fully get rid of the ACA, we need to maintain Republican control of both houses of Congress and elect a president in November who will commit to its repeal. We must also come together to create a real replacement plan that is patient-centered and truly affordable for all Americans.

After six years, we know that too many South Dakota families and businesses have been hurt by this poorly-written law. I will continue working in the Senate to repeal Obamacare and replace it with a market-based plan that is actually affordable and will drive down costs. Healthy competition within the private insurance marketplace would allow families and individuals to purchase the health care plan that best fits their needs and budget.

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South Dakota Pump Price Average Soars 29 Cents in 30 Days

South Dakota's gas prices are seven cents higher than one week ago, AAA reports. Today's statewide average is \$1.937 per gallon today, a price South Dakotans haven't seen since the first week of January.

"Prices increased by double digits due to a decline in gasoline supplies, relatively strong demand and continued refinery maintenance," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "Comparatively low oil costs continue to provide drivers with year-over-year savings at the pump."

	Today	Last Week	Change	Feb. 16	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$1.932	\$1.813	\$0.119	\$1.723	\$0.209	\$2.433
Brookings	\$2.037	\$1.826	\$0.211	\$1.649	\$0.388	\$2.516
Huron	\$1.868	\$1.894	-\$0.026	\$1.771	\$0.097	\$2.431
Mitchell	\$1.960	\$1.812	\$0.148	\$1.696	\$0.264	\$2.351
Pierre	\$1.982	\$1.942	\$0.040	\$1.667	\$0.315	\$2.539
Rapid City	\$1.832	\$1.822	\$0.010	\$1.854	-\$0.022	\$2.211
Sioux Falls	\$1.903	\$1.784	\$0.119	\$1.919	-\$0.016	\$2.422
Vermillion	\$1.924	\$1.713	\$0.211	\$1.499	\$0.425	\$2.409
Watertown	\$1.997	\$1.886	\$0.111	\$1.593	\$0.404	\$2.451
Yankton	\$2.105	\$1.827	\$0.278	\$1.734	\$0.371	\$2.383
South Dakota	\$1.937	\$1.806	\$0.131	\$1.662	\$0.275	\$2.394

Retail averages in the vast majority of states (47) are up on the month, and consumers in 35 states have seen prices increase by a dime or more.



Nationwide, gas prices jumped by 12 cents per gallon this week, which is the largest weekly increase since early March, 2015. The national average has moved higher for 18 of the past 20 days for a total of 23 cents per gallon, and today's price of \$1.94 per gallon is the highest average in two months, although it's 50 cents below the price on this same date last year.

Prices typically move higher at this time of year as gasoline demand begins to increase and refineries conduct seasonal maintenance. This year's refinery maintenance season is characterized by lower-than-expected prices for crude oil and ample supplies, which should help keep pump prices relatively low compared to recent years.

California (\$2.59) regained its spot as the nation's most expensive market for retail gasoline, and drivers in the state are paying a nickel more per gallon than second-place Hawaii (\$2.54). New Jersey (\$1.69) and South Carolina (\$1.70) are the nation's least expensive markets for retail gasoline, and a total of six states are posting prices at or below \$1.75, which is 14 states fewer than a week ago.

Projected reductions in global oil supply and Iran's slower-than-expected return to the global oil market reportedly contributed to both Brent and West Texas Intermediate closing out the week at 2016 highs. However, oil prices opened this week's trading session lower on the news that Iran plans to increase oil production significantly. Conversations about when and if the market has reached its bottom persist, and

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market fundamentals continue to point to supply outpacing demand, which could cause prices to once again turn lower.

The latest data shows that the U.S. oil rig count fell to 386 rigs last week, marking 12 straight weeks of rig-count declines. According to the U.S. EIA, domestic production declined from year-ago levels for the first time in more than four years, largely due to lower-than-expected crude oil prices. Despite this reduction in production, the agency lowered its projections for crude oil prices because domestic production remains more resilient than expected.

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI was up 66 cents and settled at \$38.40 per barrel, which marked the fourth straight week of oil price increases.

GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

March 21, 2016 - 7pm

Groton City Hall

- 1) Minutes
 - 2) Bills
 - 3) Walking Path
 - 4) Auth to Pool School – Fargo – Apr 18-19
 - 5) Fire Dept requests – Brown Bag Permit – April 16
 - 6) Hire Summer Employees
 - 7) Equalization
- And Any Other Business That Comes Before The Council

GROTON CITY COUNCIL

March 22, 2016

Groton City Hall

- 1) Equalization

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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.

The Livestream logo features a red stylized 'L' icon to the left of the word 'livestream' in a lowercase, sans-serif font.The Dollar General logo consists of the words 'DOLLAR GENERAL' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered within a bright yellow rounded rectangular background.

Special Exception Hearing
Monday, March 28th, 7 p.m.

Groton Community Center

**If you can't make it to the
hearing, watch it live on**

gdilive.com



Open
House

March 17-19

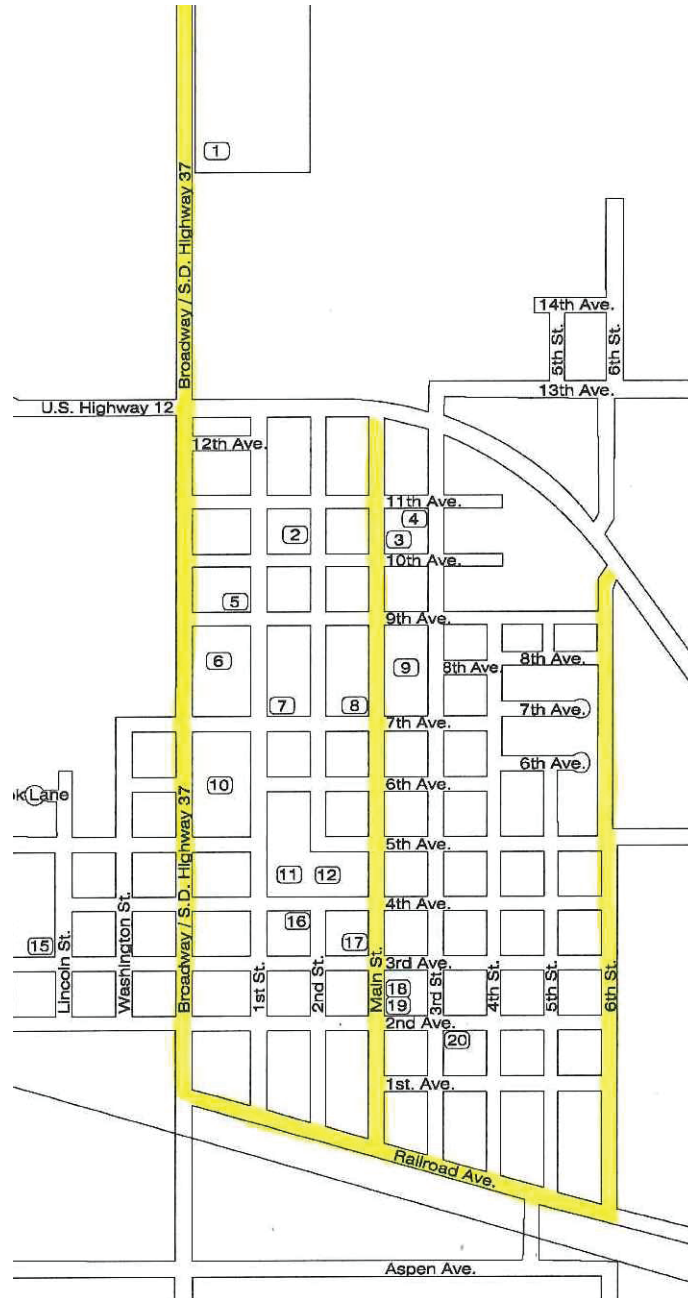


Discounts - Door Prizes - Samples
Fun!

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 19, 1968: During a severe weather event, hail up to 1.75 inches in diameter fell 2 miles south of Brookings. In addition, hail 1.00 inch in diameter fell 3 miles northeast of Sioux Falls.

March 19, 2006: Heavy snow of 7 to as much as 20 inches fell from the afternoon of the 18th until around noon on the 20th. The South Dakota Department of Public Safety issued a travel advisory for any travel but especially for the State Basketball Tournament travelers. Interstate-90 was closed on Sunday into Monday morning with many people stranded. Many cars and trucks were stuck on the roads. Many schools and meetings were postponed or canceled. Snowfall amounts include 8 inches at Blunt, Onida, and Lake Sharpe, 9 inches at Mission Ridge, 10 inches at Pierre, 11 inches at Fort Pierre and near Stephan, 12 inches at Eagle Butte, 14 inches northwest of Presho, 16 inches at Murdo, and 20 inches near Iona.








1907: The highest March temperature in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was set when the temperature soared to 97 degrees. Dodge City, Kansas also set a March record with 98 degrees. Denver, Colorado set a daily record high of 81 degrees.

1948: An estimated F4 tornado moved through Fosterburg, Bunker Hill, and Gillespie, Illinois, killing 33 people and injuring 449 others. 2,000 buildings in Bunker Hill were damaged or destroyed. Total damage was \$3.6 million dollars.

2003: One of the worst blizzards since records began in 1872 struck the Denver metro area and Colorado's Front Range began with a vengeance. Denver International Airport was closed stranding about 4,000 travelers. The weight of the snow caused a 40-foot gash in a portion of the roof forcing the evacuation of that section of the main terminal building. Winds gusting to 40 mph produced drifts six feet high in places around the city. Snowfall in foothills was even more impressive. The heavy wet snow caused numerous roofs of homes and businesses to collapse. The estimated cost of property damage alone, not including large commercial buildings, was \$93 million dollars, making it the most costly snowstorm on record for the area. In Denver alone at least 258 structures were damaged. Up to 135,000 people lost power during the storm and it took several days for power to be totally restored. Mayor Wellington Webb of Denver said, "This is the storm of the century, a backbreaker, a record breaker, a roof breaker." Avalanches in the mountains and foothills closed many roads, including Interstate 70, stranding hundreds of skiers and travelers. The Eldora Ski area 270 skiers were stranded when an avalanche closed the main access road. After the storm, a military helicopter had to deliver food to the resort until the road could be cleared. Two people died in Aurora from heart attacks after shoveling the heavy wet snow. The National Guard sent 40 soldiers and 20 heavy duty vehicles to rescue stranded travelers along a section of I-70. The storm made March 2003 the snowiest March on record, the fourth snowiest month on record and the fifth wettest March on record. The total of 22.9 inches is the greatest 24-hour total in March. The storm also broke 19 consecutive months of below normal precipitation for Denver. The 31.8 inches of snow was recorded at the former Stapleton Airport in Denver for its second greatest snowstorm on record (the greatest was 37.5 inches on 12/4-12/5/1913) with up to three feet in other areas in and around the city and more than seven feet in the foothills. Higher amounts included: Fritz Peak: 87.5 inches, Rollinsville: 87.5 inches, Canin Creek: 83 inches, Near Bergen Park: 74 inches, Northwest of Evergreen: 73 inches, Cola Creek Canyon: 72 inches, Georgetown: 70 inches, Jamestown: 63 inches, Near Blackhawk: 60 inches, Eldora Ski Area: 55 inches, Ken Caryl Ranch: 46.6 inches, Aurora: 40 inches, Centennial: 38 inches, Buckley AFB: 37 inches, Southwest Denver: 35 inches, Louisville: 34 inches, Arvada: 32 inches, Broomfield: 31 inches, Westminster: 31 inches and Boulder: 22.5 inches. This storm was the result of a very moist intense slow moving Pacific system which tracked across the four corners and into southeastern Colorado which allowed a deep easterly upslope to form among the front-range.

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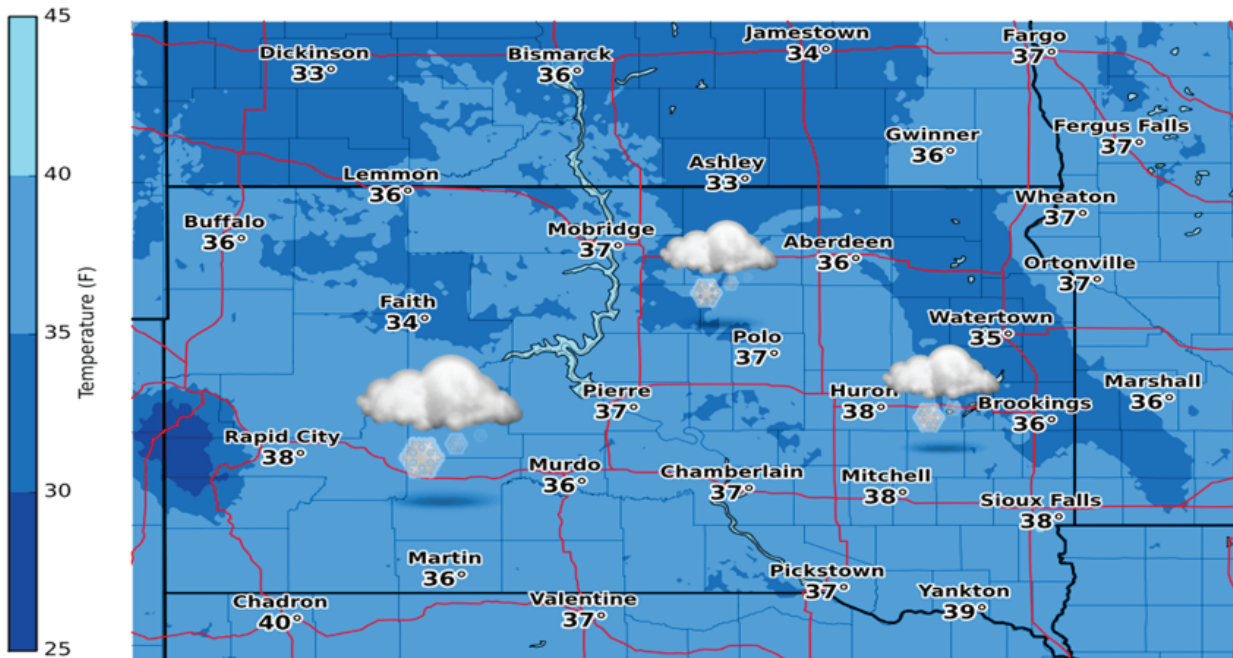
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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
40% 30%						
Chance Snow then Chance Rain/Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 35 °F	Low: 20 °F	High: 42 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 52 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 53 °F



Cold Again Today with Snow Showers this Morning

Today's Highs
Valid: March 19, 2016



National Weather Service
Aberdeen SD
03/19/2016 03:30 AM CDT

Follow Us:   
weather.gov/aberndeen

Published on: 03/19/2016 at 3:40AM

Scattered snow showers should end this morning, with dry conditions expected this afternoon. It will remain cold today, with highs in the 30s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 31.2 at 4:40 PM

Low: 24.4 at 7:48 AM

High Gust: 13 at 1:43 PM

Precip: 0.00 (1" Snow)

Today's Info

Record High: 75° in 1910

Record Low: -11 in 1965

Average High: 41°F

Average Low: 21°F

Average Precip in March.: 0.63

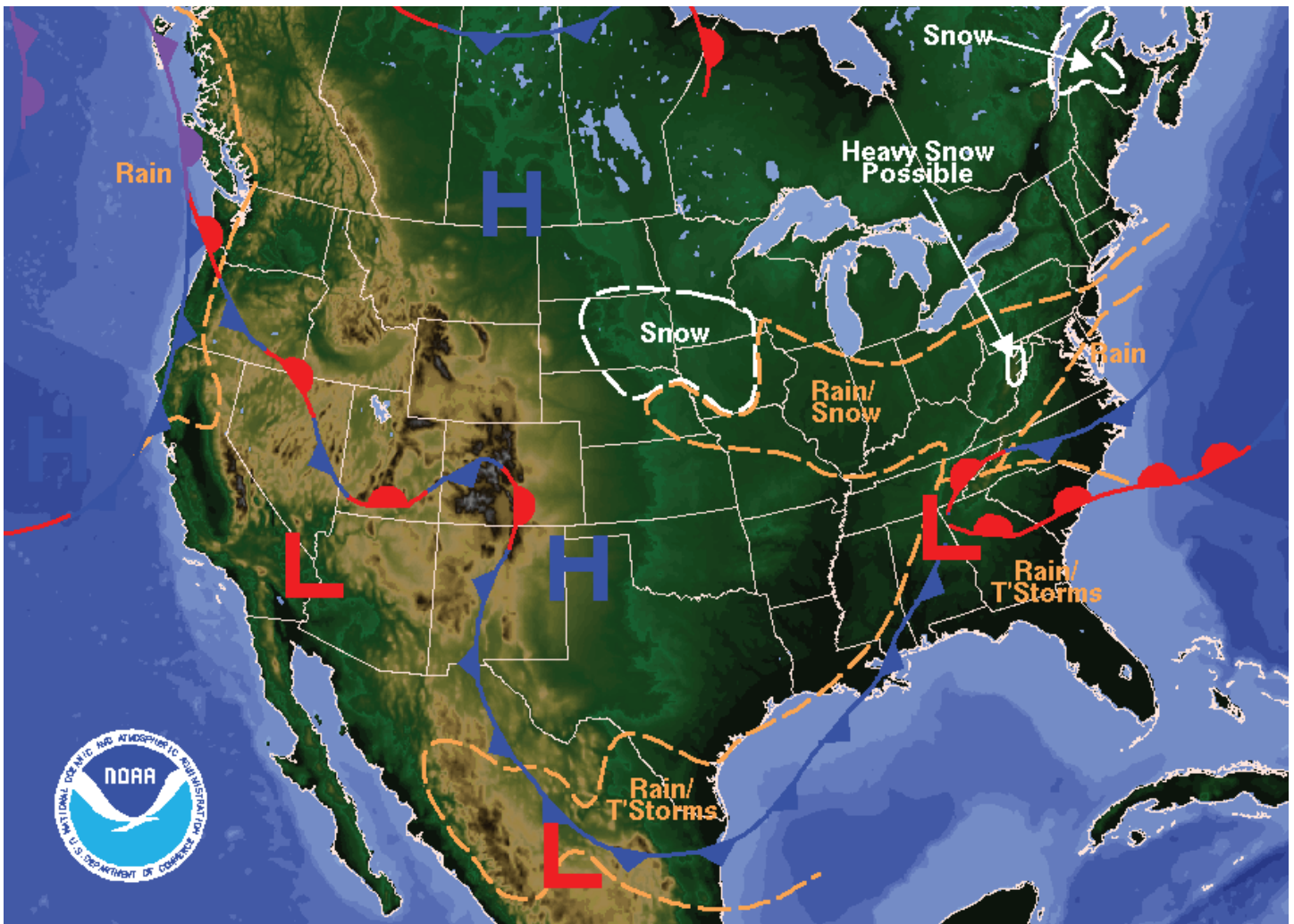
Precip to date in March.: 0.35

Average Precip to date: 1.65

Precip Year to Date: 0.95

Sunset Tonight: 7:45 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:35 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Mar 19, 2016, issued 4:43 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



SERIOUS PROBLEM

During World War II a Marine was huddled in his foxhole. He had not received any mail for weeks and was feeling lonely and afraid. One day, with bullets flying overhead and bombs bursting all around him, he was handed an envelope. Excited and joyful, he immediately opened it, expecting some encouraging words.

Unfortunately, it was a statement from a collection agency that read, "If this invoice is not paid in full within five days you will be in serious trouble."

We often experience days that are filled with one difficulty or disappointment after another. Wherever we look, we seem to be under attack or in trouble.

But every difficulty becomes an opportunity for God. With His Spirit in our hearts, His Words in our minds and His angels around us, we know that His presence will sustain us.

Seek the Savior, and you will have His strength for life's battles, His courage for life's conflicts and His presence amidst life's pain.

Prayer: Father, there are days when we all feel the stress of life's battles and the loneliness of being abandoned. In the midst of the darkest days and the longest nights, may we learn to place our trust in You for our salvation: in Your Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 18:25-32 With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.

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News from the Associated Press

Woman injured in Sioux Falls apartment shooting

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a bullet went through an apartment window, injuring a 47-year-old woman who lived in the residence.

Police say the woman suffered minor injuries in the shooting that occurred about 11:30 p.m. on Friday.

Police say at least two people were seen fleeing the area after the shooting.

Police say the investigation is continuing.

Anyone with information is asked to contact authorities.

Dakotas to share in grants administered by Forest Service

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Dakotas are among 41 states that will share in \$272 million this year to support local schools, roads and forests.

The money comes from the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

The payments from the Forest Service may be used to support public schools and roads and to help maintain and improve the health of forests. Money also may be used to develop community wildfire protection plans and for emergency services reimbursements on national forests.

Rapid City man gets 40 years in prison in roommate's death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has been sentenced to 40 years in prison in the death of his roommate.

Twenty-one-year-old Anthony Smith was sentenced Friday in the February 2015 killing of 57-year-old Farrel Phelps. Prosecutors say Phelps was struck several times with a hammer.

Smith had pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of first-degree manslaughter. He was originally charged with second-degree murder.

The prosecutor had recommended a life sentence for Smith, while Smith's attorney asked for 25 years.

Friday's Scores The Associated Press

BOYS' BASKETBALL

State AA Tournament

Consolation Semifinal

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 63, Aberdeen Central 55

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 63, Rapid City Central 52

Semifinal

Sioux Falls Lincoln 63, Rapid City Stevens 45

Sioux Falls Washington 61, Pierre 57

State A Tournament

Consolation Semifinal

Sioux Valley 67, Aberdeen Roncalli 60

Winner 70, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 60

Semifinal

Sioux Falls Christian 69, Chamberlain 52

State B Tournament

Consolation Semifinal

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Corsica/Stickney 71, Harding County 58
White River 47, DeSmet 46
Semifinal
Irene-Wakonda 56, Chester 51
Warner 61, Potter County 51

Maryland holds off South Dakota State, 79-74

NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS, Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A turnover by South Dakota State in the closing seconds helped Maryland avoid a place with all the other top seeds that lost in the first round of this topsy-turvy NCAA Tournament.

The Terrapins held off South Dakota State 79-74 Friday, behind a career-high 27 points from Jake Layman. Deondre Parks fumbled a pass from Keaton Moffitt for the 12th-seeded Jackrabbits (26-8) in the closing seconds and Rasheed Sulaimon picked up the ball and stuffed it for the final score. South Dakota State was seeking its first victory in the NCAA Tournament, but was undone by cold shooting in the first half.

"We don't ever talk about losing," Maryland coach Mark Turgeon said, even after the Jackrabbits stormed back from 18 points down in the closing minutes of the game.

"We knew about yesterday's upsets," Turgeon said. "Today we obviously knew Hawaii beat Cal."

"But besides that we were just really locked in," Turgeon said. "Down the stretch we were just good enough defensively."

Melo Trimble added 19 points and Jared Nickens 14 for fifth-seeded Maryland (26-8), which made 51 percent of its shots, including nine 3-pointers.

Maryland plays 13th-seeded Hawaii, a 77-66 winner Friday over California, in Sunday's second round.

Parks scored 22 points for the Jackrabbits, who trailed by double digits much of the game before getting hot in the final minutes.

"Had a 11-point lead, and they hit back-to-back 3s and everything changed," Turgeon said.

Better-seeded teams are just 13-11 so far in the tournament, with eight squads seeded 10 or above advancing. No. 2 Michigan State is the highest-ranked seed to lose.

South Dakota State coach Scott Nagy was proud of his team for battling back from adversity.

"We just were so bad offensively in the first half," when they shot just 26.5 percent, Nagy said. "We scored 52 points in the second half. So we clearly played better offensively."

South Dakota State post player Mike Daum said he and his teammates never got upset at falling behind.

"We had that set in our mind that we can win this game no matter what, no matter who we play," Daum said. "It just didn't happen."

After trailing by double digits most of the game, South Dakota State got 3-pointers from Parks and George Marshal to cut the Maryland lead to five points with 2:54 left.

Trimble hit a pair of free throws for a 72-65 lead for Maryland, but Parks replied with two.

Maryland then turned the ball over when the shot clock expired. George Marshall missed a 3-point shot but was fouled by Trimble with 1:03 left. Trimble fouled out on the play.

Marshall hit all three free throws to cut Maryland's lead to 72-70 with 1:03 left, then fouled out shortly after.

Layman hit both free throws for a 74-70 lead.

Tevin King was fouled going for a rebound and made one of two to cut Maryland's lead to 74-71 with 24 seconds left.

The Jackrabbits then started to foul.

Layman hit a pair of free throws for a 76-71 lead with 18 seconds left.

Parks was fouled shooting a 3-pointer and sank all three free throws to cut Maryland's lead to 76-74 with 13 seconds left.

Jaylen Brantley then made one of two for Maryland.

With 3 seconds left, Moffitt's pass to Parks was deflected away and Sulaimon picked up the ball and slammed it home for the final score.

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"If I had the final play over, I would have called a timeout," Nagy said. "We knew what to do, but we just had personnel in there that we don't normally have in there in those situations."

The Jackrabbits played in the NCAA Tournament in 2012 and 2013, losing in the first round both times. Maryland, ranked 18th in The Top 25, has a 40-24 record in the NCAAs and is making its 26th appearance. The Terps won the national title in 2002.

Maryland has had a roller coaster season. The Terrapins raced to a 22-3 start and were ranked No. 2 in the second week of February. They stumbled at the end, losing five of eight, including a loss to Michigan State in the semifinals of the Big Ten tournament.

TIP INS

Maryland: All five Maryland starters average in double figures, averaging between 14.4 and 11.1 points per game ... Maryland allowed just 66.9 points per game this season and led the Big Ten with 110 blocked shots ... the Terrapins sank 24 of 27 free throws.

South Dakota State: Among power conference foes, South Dakota State posted wins over TCU and Minnesota this season, but lost to Texas Tech ... South Dakota State did not shoot a free throw in the first half, they finished the game making 16 of 17 ... the Jackrabbits made 10 of 29 from 3-point range.

UP NEXT

Maryland plays 13th-seeded Hawaii, a 77-66 winner over California earlier Friday, on Sunday.

Tara VanDerveer, former star Jennifer Azzi take NCAA stage

JANIE McCAULEY, AP Sports Writer

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — At 3:30 a.m. on a brutally cold morning while leaving the Ukraine, her U.S. teammates already on the bus outside the hotel, Jennifer Azzi stopped for a group of begging, poverty-stricken elderly women and handed out all of her remaining currency and her extra clothes.

Moments later, the rest of the Americans stepped back off the bus and followed suit.

"Everyone, all the players, all the coaches, just kind of walked by them except for Jennifer," Hall of Fame Stanford coach and then-U.S. coach Tara VanDerveer recalled Friday. "She's really a genuine, really special person. ... Jennifer thinks of other people a lot."

That moment from early 1996 when she was coaching Azzi on the Olympic team that went on to win gold that summer in Atlanta is still so vivid for VanDerveer. She coached Azzi's All-American career on The Farm, too.

On Saturday, VanDerveer will coach the fourth-seeded Cardinal (24-7) against Azzi's upstart West Coast Conference tournament champion San Francisco squad (21-11) in the Lexington Regional. It's the Dons' first NCAA berth since 1997.

"Jennifer was for Stanford women's basketball what Steph Curry is for the Warriors," VanDerveer said Friday, sitting in her office conference room watching the women's tournament and reflecting on Azzi's time on campus. "I think that in some ways that that team was kind of the original, 'Wake up, here's women's basketball.' But we've got to beat her. We've got to win."

USF's Kalyn Simon hit a half-court shot ala Curry to get practice started at Maples Pavilion.

"I'm trying not to kind of do the down memory lane at the moment," Azzi said.

No. 5 seed Miami (24-8) takes on 12th-seeded South Dakota State (26-6) in the first game Saturday afternoon.

VanDerveer recruited sixth-year USF coach Azzi "very hard," as in she and her staff making 20 total trips to the Knoxville, Tennessee, area pursuing Azzi back before recruiting limits were put in place.

"I wondered, 'Is this player really worth it?'" VanDerveer said. "She put Stanford basketball on the map, with her great teammates. She didn't have the same role on the Olympic team that she did at Stanford, where she was a starter and a star. She came off the bench for us. People gave her some, 'How come you're not playing more, starting?' She's like, 'I'm going to win the same gold medal.' Honestly, I can't think of a bad day coaching Jennifer."

There was the day Azzi had a triple-double for the Cardinal but they lost the game and she was "beside

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herself upset, 'We need to run more sprints, Tara, we need to work harder,'" VanDerveer recalled her saying, along with Azzi's request to come rebound for her that Sunday.

Another time, even though the coach was so ill she was throwing up, VanDerveer came and rebounded for Azzi — who always had to make 8 of 10 shots from every spot.

"So, this one time she made seven, I go, 'I think that was eight,' she goes, 'Nope, that was seven,'" VanDerveer said. "I'm like, 'Come on, move on to the next spot.'"

Both women have helped make each other better. Azzi learned plenty along the way from VanDerveer, who is 23 wins from joining former Tennessee coach Pat Summitt as the only women's coaches with 1,000 career victories.

"Tomorrow is going to be very emotional. I think I just need to accept that it's going to be," Azzi said. "It's very surreal coming back to Stanford. I'm so proud of the team that I'm coaching."

The Cardinal are coming off a rare first-round loss in the Pac-12 tournament.

VanDerveer has shared Azzi stories at times.

"She's told us about times when Jennifer Azzi twisted her ankle and would stay up all night icing it so she could play the next day," guard Brittany McPhee said.

TOURNAMENT TIDBITS:

When Miami lost to Iowa last March for a berth in the Sweet 16, Jessica Thomas had already run for the tunnel when coach Katie Meier pulled her star player back to the Hawkeyes' rockin' home court to watch the opponent celebrate. That heartbreak and defeat is largely what has fueled the Hurricanes to take a bigger step this time around.

"We learn way more from losses and we take moments like that and that just drives us," Meier said. "The team left and I grabbed her back, I yanked her back onto the court and said, 'You stand here and watch this.'"

Meier compared the way South Dakota State's post players spread the floor to the Netherlands team Miami faced during its foreign tour last year.

"That's pretty cool she compared us to them," said Jackrabbits sophomore guard and leading scorer Macy Miller, averaging 15.3 points per game. "I haven't heard that one before."

Man who led authorities on hour-long chase pleads guilty

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A man who led police on an hour-long chase from the Standing Rock Indian Reservation to Bismarck has pleaded guilty.

William Schneider is charged in federal court with four counts for the incident that happened last March after he was pulled over in Fort Yates. Schneider pleaded guilty to assaulting a federal officer and false statements.

Authorities say one of the officers was allegedly hurt after he tried to stop Schneider from driving away. Schneider allegedly drove as fast as 95 mph during the chase and ordered a passenger to throw out a bag of drugs and a firearm.

In exchange for the plea, prosecutors agreed to drop charges of prohibited person in possession of a firearm and fleeing.

The Standing Rock reservation straddles the North and South Dakota border.

In effort to preserve language, website posts news in Lakota

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A new website created with a primarily Native American audience in mind is posting news, features, sports and weather entirely in Lakota — the first of its kind to do so — in an attempt to help preserve a language that after forced assimilation policies is now spoken by fewer than 2,000 people.

The site was developed by partners who have been involved in several initiatives to embed the Lakota language in various aspects of life. Their goal with Woihanble.com — which translates to "dream" — is to

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get the language out of the classroom.

"Nowadays, everyone spends much of their daily life online; visiting websites, reading news, checking the weather, browsing social media, or any number of other activities," said Matthew Rama, one of the creators. "But until now, there has never been a site with as much content strictly in Lakota. So in that respect, we are bringing the language to the people in a brand-new way."

Other media outlets provide news of interest to the community, but in English. Woihanble.com's local news content comes from two area weeklies that mostly focus on Native American issues. The site has an agreement with those weeklies to translate stories into Lakota, with links back to the original articles. And in recognition that many people who speak the language well do not read it easily, news stories include audio clips in Lakota.

"A lot of fluent speakers are not necessarily accustomed to reading 1,500-word articles on arcane subjects," said Peter Hill, another of the website's creators. "So having the audio version and having the article read to you is going to make it a lot more accessible to a lot more people."

The Lakota people say their language originated from the creation of the tribe, long before Europeans came to North America. But the number of speakers has shrunk through the decades, falling to 6,000 by the early 2000s and to just 2,000 as of last year. Those remaining have an average age approaching 70.

A chief reason for the decline of Lakota speakers is a now-halted federal education mandate that in the late 19th century and early 20th century forced Native American children into boarding schools, where they were required to speak English and were punished if they were caught speaking their native languages. That limited or erased the Lakota fluency of some Native Americans who later were unable or unwilling to teach it to their children.

David Posthumus, an assistant professor of Native American studies at the University of South Dakota, said efforts to preserve the language can be bolstered by providing people with real-world resources.

"If you are learning German, Spanish or whatever, you have all kinds of novels, books, movies, TV shows, media, news organizations that you can to and get that kind of practical experience outside the classroom, and you don't always get that with Lakota," Posthumus said. "The ultimate goal is to inspire and empower younger generations to speak, comprehend, read and write the Lakota language."

Articles on the site now cover topics like meth on the reservation and a protest against an oil pipeline. The creators plan to post several news stories every week, and Hill will write some original content.

The website's creators are involved in other efforts to promote the language, including a Lakota immersion day care on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota that's funded by federal, state and private grants. The website does not have specific funding on its own, but is considered part of the same project.

Police searching for man who escaped from sheriff's vehicle

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Police in South Dakota are looking for a man who escaped from a Davison County sheriff's vehicle while he was handcuffed.

Authorities say 29-year-old Jamie Benedict kicked out a window and fled after he was arrested during a traffic stop in Mitchell on Thursday night. Shortly after he escaped, police received a report of a stolen pickup in the area. The pickup was found in Armour on Friday morning.

Police say the traffic stop yielded 44 grams of methamphetamine, a digital scale, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. A passenger in Benedict's car, 29-year-old Tianna Allman, of Rapid City, is charged with several counts, including possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

Minnesota company buying North Dakota frozen pizza brand

VALLEY CITY, N.D. (AP) — A Minnesota-based food company is buying the rights to a popular North Dakota brand of frozen pizza.

Officials with Bernatello's Foods say the deal to take over Pizza Corner of Valley City takes effect May 20. It will be moving production of pizzas from Valley City to other Bernatello's facilities.

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Bernatello's says there will be an opportunity for Pizza Corner employees to remain with the company. Bernatello's is based in Maple Lake, Minnesota, and has additional production operations in Wisconsin. The company says it will increase the fleet of trucks to expand the sales and delivery of Pizza Corner pizzas, concentrating on routes throughout the Dakotas.

Pizza Corner owner Dave Zubrod says the timing was right to sell to a company that can take the brand to a national level.

Brother of polygamous leader extradited for fraud trial

ST. GEORGE, Utah (AP) — One of the polygamous leaders accused of organizing a multi-million dollar food stamp fraud scheme has been extradited from South Dakota.

Seth Jeffs, brother of well-known Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints leader Warren Jeffs, on Thursday was moved from South Dakota to Utah.

Seth Jeffs will be arraigned Monday in federal court in St. George on charges of conspiracy to commit Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Jeffs is one of 11 people indicted in the case. Authorities say the polygamous sect on the Utah-Arizona border diverted at least \$12 million worth of federal benefits and that Jeffs ordered food stamp recipients to buy items to put in the church's storehouse.

Dwight Yoakam, Blackhawk added to State Fair lineup

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Country music singer Dwight Yoakam and the country band Blackhawk have been added to the entertainment lineup for this year's South Dakota State Fair.

The two acts will perform at the grandstand on Friday, Sept. 2. General public ticket sales begin June 29.

The fair earlier announced that country star Kip Moore and opening act Reckless Kelly will perform at the grandstand on Saturday, Sept. 3.

This year's fair runs from Thursday, Sept. 1, through Monday, Sept. 5.

Next in Hulk Hogan sex tape suit: punitive damages, appeals

TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — The eye-popping \$115 million award for former pro-wrestler Hulk Hogan isn't the final round in his sex tape lawsuit against Gawker Media.

Next up, the jury will return to court Monday to award punitive damages in the case that's been closely watched by First Amendment experts, media lawyers and privacy advocates.

And even when the jury's done, there will be appeals.

The jurors reached their decision Friday evening. Hogan, whose given name is Terry Bollea, sued Gawker for \$100 million for posting a video of him having sex with his former best friend's wife. Hogan contended the 2012 post violated his privacy.

Jury awards this large are often reduced by appeals courts.

Dead Brussels gunman hoped for Islamic State suicide mission

LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

AYA BATRAWY, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The Algerian gunman newly linked to the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris joined the Islamic State group in 2014 and told the extremists he wanted to die as a suicide bomber, bypassing the choice to be a fighter. He was instead shot to death by a police sniper in the raid that led authorities to Europe's most wanted fugitive.

Previously unknown to authorities, Mohamed Belkaid died Tuesday in the apartment, firing on police while accomplices fled.

Salah Abdeslam, the fugitive from the Nov. 13 attacks, had left behind a fingerprint. Belkaid's Kalashnikov

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assault rifle was found near his body along with an Islamic State flag.

According to documents given to The Associated Press by the Syrian opposition news site Zaman al-Wasl, Belkaid told the extremists he had traveled throughout Europe — including to Spain, Germany and France — and listed his residence as Sweden. He provided a passport to the group and a phone number for a close relative, which on Friday rang as a non-functioning line. Phone directories in Sweden have a man named Mohamed Aziz Belkaid listed in Marsta, a northern Stockholm suburb. Calls to the listed numbers were not answered and Swedish authorities could not be reached for comment.

In the documents, he said he had no experience as a jihadi and no one to vouch for him as he crossed the border on April 19, 2014. Islamic State prizes the growth of its networks abroad, and having a sponsor is seen as both a sign of credibility and a way to measure the extent of its reach.

Belkaid listed his occupation as a candy maker.

German intelligence authorities say they also have a copy of some of the same documents as the Syrian opposition site, and that they are believed to be authentic.

Belkaid's "application" to the Islamic State group and his subsequent ties to the Nov. 13 attackers, many of whom met and trained together in Syria, highlights the difficulty in uncovering the extent of the plot that led to 130 deaths in Paris. In two years, Belkaid transformed from an aspiring jihadi into a Kalashnikov-toting fighter linked to a cell that carried out the deadliest attack in France since World War II.

"We know that there is a certain number of other people identified and at large who probably participated in the Paris attacks. There are others we think could go into action through the existence of other cells in Belgium or elsewhere in Europe. So the threat remains important and we're going to continue the investigations," said Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders.

French President Francois Hollande said Friday that more people were involved in the attacks than initially thought, and predicted more arrests would follow that of Abdeslam and four others. In a further sign of the widening net, Interpol warned members to be vigilant for more accomplices fleeing now that Abdeslam is in custody — and has information desperately sought by investigators trying to learn about the Nov. 13 attacks and head off new ones.

Swedish media reported that Belkaid married a Swedish-born wife 16 years his elder and got his residency permit in 2011. Media also said he left Sweden in late 2013 or early 2014; she died later that year.

Swedish media said the man had convictions for petty crimes, including thefts.

On Friday, Belgian prosecutors said Belkaid was "most probably" an accomplice of Abdeslam and had been using a fake Belgian ID card in the name of Samir Bouzid. A man using that ID was one of two men seen with Abdeslam in a rental car on the Hungarian-Austrian border in September.

The same fake ID was used on Nov. 17 to transfer 750 euros to the cousin of Abdelhamid Abbaoud, the suspected ringleader of the attack. Both Hasna Ait Boulahcen and Abbaoud died in a police siege of the apartment paid for by that transfer, which was destroyed by a suicide attacker holed up with the two.

Belkaid was killed Tuesday by a police sniper in Brussels. A Kalashnikov assault rifle was found by his body, as well as a book on Salafism, an ultraconservative strain of Islam. Elsewhere in the apartment, police found an Islamic State banner as well as 11 Kalashnikov loaders and a large quantity of ammunition, the prosecutor said.

Muhammad Ali's boyhood home restored, to be open to public

BRUCE SCHREINER, Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — As a boxer and humanitarian, Muhammad Ali stood out. So does the bright pink home in Kentucky where he shadowboxed and played pranks on his brother.

The small frame residence where the former heavyweight boxing champ grew up will soon open to fans, allowing a glimpse into Ali's life before the world came to know him.

Renovations are nearing completion on the two-bedroom, one-bathroom house in western Louisville. Entering the home is like stepping back in time when Ali — known then as Cassius Clay — lived there with his parents and brother, said the former Pennsylvania state boxing commissioner and catalyst for the project.

"You walk into this house ... you're going back to 1955, and you're going to be in the middle of the Clay

family home," said George Bochetto, a Philadelphia lawyer. The longtime Ali fan co-owns the house with Las Vegas real estate investor Jared Weiss.

The developers are aiming for a May 1 grand opening, capping about nine months of reconstruction on the once-abandoned house, Bochetto said. They spent more than \$300,000 on the venture, which includes buying the house next door and turning it into a welcome center and gift shop.

It was the neighborhood where Ali began dreaming of a boxing career.

He lived in the home when he left for the 1960 Olympics. His gold medal performance launched a career that made him one of the world's most recognizable figures as a three-time heavyweight boxing champion. The Clay family moved after Ali signed a professional contract, Bochetto said.

Using old photos from inside and out, the developers set out to portray the home just as it looked when Ali lived there. They replicated its furnishings, appliances, artwork and even the home's pink exterior, he said.

"We're trying to demonstrate where it all began," Bochetto said of the home, where the former boxer's family lived from the late 40s until the early 60s. "How did Ali become Ali?"

Ali's younger brother Rahman Ali, a former fighter himself, consulted on the reconstruction.

Looking at the home moved Rahman Ali to quiet reflection. "It's just like my boyhood," he said. "The only things missing are Dad and Mom. Otherwise, it's perfect."

The brothers shadowboxed together in the home, and it was there that the future champion showed his mischievous side. When the boys were in bed he tied string to a curtain and pulled it when his younger brother wasn't looking. He told his brother that ghosts were moving the curtains.

At the outset, the home will be open for tours Thursday through Sunday, said Bochetto, adding general admission will be \$8. Three videos, including a 15-minute documentary on Ali's childhood and another in which Rahman Ali recalls growing up with his brother, will be featured.

The museum won't chronicle Ali's boxing career, focusing instead on his formative years, according to Bochetto. Ali's accomplishments as a boxer and advocate for peace and social justice are displayed in exhibits at the Muhammad Ali Center in downtown Louisville.

Ali, now 74, has been battling Parkinson's disease. He and his wife Lonnie haven't toured the site but have an open invitation to do so, according to Bochetto.

He said the modest home will offer encouragement to future generations.

"You don't have to be from any particular neighborhood, any particular kind of house," Bochetto said. "You can be from anywhere and you can become great ... And this is a living monument to just that."

Heavy winds as Dubai plane crashes in Russia, killing 62

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

ADAM SCHRECK, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Dubai airliner with 62 people on board nosedived and exploded in a giant fireball early Saturday while trying to land in strong winds in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don, killing all aboard, officials said.

Several planes had trouble landing at the airport at the time of the crash, with one trying to land three times before giving up and diverting to another airport, experts said.

Russia's Emergencies Ministry said the Boeing 737-800 operated by FlyDubai was carrying 55 passengers, most of them Russians, and seven crew members. FlyDubai confirmed there were no survivors and said four children were among those killed.

It was FlyDubai's first crash since the budget carrier began operating in 2009. Its fleet consists of mint 737-800 aircraft like the one that crashed.

Closed-circuit TV footage showed the plane going down in a steep angle and exploding. The powerful explosion left a big crater in the runway and pulverized the plane but investigators quickly recovered both flight recorders. The cause of the crash wasn't immediately known, but officials and experts pointed at a sudden gust of wind as a possible reason.

"By all appearances, the cause of the air crash was the strongly gusting wind, approaching a hurricane level," said Rostov regional Gov. Vasily Golubev.

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According to weather data reported by Russian state television, when the FlyDubai plane first tried to land, winds at ground level weren't dangerously strong, but at an altitude of 500 meters (1,640 feet) and higher they reached a near-hurricane speed of around 30 meters per second (67 miles per hour).

Later, when the plane crashed, winds near the surface reached 22 meters per second (49 miles per hour) and could have been even stronger at altitude.

Several planes had landed in Rostov-on-Don shortly before the Dubai airliner was scheduled to touch down, but other flights later were diverted.

Ian Petchenik, a spokesman for the flight-tracking website Flightradar24, told The Associated Press that the FlyDubai plane missed its approach, then entered a holding pattern, circling for about two hours before making another landing attempt. It said a Russian Aeroflot plane scheduled to land around the same time made three landing attempts but then diverted to another airport.

Flightradar24's data indicated that the Dubai plane began climbing again after a go-around when it suddenly started to fall with vertical speed of up to 6,400 meters per minute (21,000 feet/min).

"It was an uncontrollable fall," said Sergei Kruglikov, a veteran Russian pilot, said on Russian state television. He said that a sudden change in wind speed and direction could have caused the wings to abruptly lose their lifting power.

He said the pilots would have understood seconds before the crash that they were going to die, but "passengers and the cabin crew likely didn't realize they were facing imminent death."

FlyDubai CEO Ghaith al-Ghaith said the plane attempted to land in line with established procedures. He added that the pilots hadn't issued any distress call and hadn't attempted to divert to an alternate airport.

"As far as we know, the airport was open and we were good to operate," he said, adding that the plane couldn't have landed without air traffic controllers' permission.

"Our primary concern is for the families of the passengers and crew who were on board. Everyone at FlyDubai is in deep shock and our hearts go out to the families and friends of those involved," he added.

Al-Ghaith said the plane's pilots, who were from Cyprus and Spain, had 5,965 and 5,769 hours of flying time respectively, making them "quite experienced." The cabin crew included two Russians and citizens of the Seychelles, Colombia and Kyrgyzstan.

The plane was built in 2011 and underwent a detailed maintenance inspection known as a C check in January, he added.

President Vladimir Putin offered his condolences to the victims' families and top Russian Cabinet officials flew to the crash site, 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the Russian border with Ukraine, to oversee the investigation.

Alexander Neradko, head of the Russian state civil aviation agency, Rosaviatsiya, said it was up to the pilot to decide if weather conditions allowed the landing and said that traffic controllers in Rostov-on-Don acted in line with standard instructions.

"Our air traffic controllers were acting in full accordance with international rules and there is no reason to talk about any flaws in their work," he said in televised remarks from Rostov-on-Don.

A local online newspaper, Donday.ru, released what it said was the recording of conversations between the Dubai plane's crew and air traffic controllers, in which the pilot, who sounded calm, was inquiring about weather conditions. The authenticity of the tape couldn't be independently confirmed.

Russian Transport Minister Maxim Sokolov, who also arrived in Rostov-on-Don, said the airport fully conformed to modern standards.

"(The airport's) complete overhaul was completed last year, and it has received all the necessary clearances, including international ones," he said.

Pilot Vitaly Sokolovsky told Rossiya 24 television that a sudden gust of wind could be particularly dangerous at low altitude while the plane was flying slowly at low power and the pilot was throttling up the engines to make another attempt at landing.

Emirati authorities including the president, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, sent condolences to Putin. Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who also serves as the Emirates' vice president and prime minister, expressed his regrets on his Twitter feed.

In a statement expressing "shock and grief," Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades confirmed that the pilot was a Cypriot, Aristos Socratous from Limassol.

Officials said the plane and bodies of the victims were blown into small pieces by the powerful blast, making identification long and difficult. Investigators, however said the plane's cockpit conversation recorder and another one recording flight data were in satisfactory condition.

The airline was launched in 2008 by the government of Dubai, the Gulf commercial hub that is part of the seven-state United Arab Emirates federation. It has expanded rapidly in Russia and other parts of the former Soviet Union.

Dubai is a popular destination for Russian vacationers, and many Russian expatriates live and work in the city. The carrier has been flying to Rostov-on-Don since 2013. The airline says, in all, it operates more than 1,400 flights a week.

FlyDubai has a good safety record. In January 2015, one of its planes was struck on the fuselage by what appeared to small-arms fire shortly before it landed in Baghdad. That flight landed safely.

Garland would move Supreme Court to left, but how far?

MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Merrick Garland's judicial record over nearly two decades indicates he would side more often than not with the Supreme Court's liberal justices on a range of cases splitting the court along ideological lines.

The real question, to be answered definitively only if Garland wins Senate confirmation, is how far to the left would the court shift if a new liberal majority were in place.

Garland's ascension could well be a game-changing moment that would make the court significantly more liberal on social issues, government regulation and access to the courts. That's driving Republicans to demand that any choice to fill the seat held by Justice Antonin Scalia, who died last month, must wait until after the next president takes office in January 2017.

Yet liberals who wanted President Barack Obama to make a bold choice are voicing mostly tepid support for Garland, even as they called on Republicans to allow hearings and a vote on the nomination.

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders said Thursday that should he win in November, he would want the White House to withdraw Garland's nomination if the Senate hadn't acted by then. "Between you and me, I think there are some more progressive judges out there," Sanders told MSNBC's Rachel Maddow.

Supporters of Garland's nomination say the left-right assessment misses the mark.

"Some justices want to move the law in a particular direction if the cases come along. I think Judge Garland is the opposite of that. I think he is a judge who believes that the appropriate role is to look at the case in front of him and decide it the best way he can and as narrowly as he can," said Andrew Pincus, a Washington lawyer who argues regularly at the Supreme Court.

In Garland's votes and opinions on the federal appeals court in Washington, he often deferred to the policy choices of lawmakers, to regulations developed by federal agencies and to the actions of police and prosecutors. Like all lower court judges, he also was constrained by Supreme Court decisions.

"The bottom line is there's little doubt that Merrick Garland will be with the new liberal majority in all the 5-4 cases that have gone the other way, ranging from campaign finance to voting rights and affirmative action," said Jeffrey Rosen, president and CEO of the nonpartisan National Constitution Center.

That would put Garland somewhere to the left of Justice Anthony Kennedy, whose vote was decisive in so many controversial cases, and well to the left of Scalia in most areas. Garland might resemble Justice Stephen Breyer, another longtime appeals court judge who is a reliable liberal vote, though he and Scalia would sometimes effectively trade places in criminal cases.

Harder to predict, based on his record, is what Garland would do in cases that ask the high court to jettison one of its decisions.

As it happens, that's precisely what Sanders and his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton want the court to do with the 2010 Citizens United ruling on campaign finance that's hated by their party. Citizens United was a 5-4 outcome with Scalia in the majority.

Garland's record in campaign finance cases in recent years is mixed.

He joined his colleagues in a unanimous vote to strike down limits on contributions to independent advocacy groups, a decision that led to the rise of super political action committees.

The court concluded that its ruling in March 2010 was compelled by the Supreme Court's decision in the Citizens United case two months earlier that freed corporations and labor unions to spend unlimited sums of money in elections for Congress and president, though independent of any campaign for office.

In a second case, Garland wrote for a unanimous court last July to uphold a 70-year-old ban on campaign contributions from people who hold contracts with the federal government. Garland wrote that the ban was in line with the government's interest in preventing corruption.

Election law expert Richard Hasen of the University of California at Irvine law school wrote that he is persuaded that Garland would vote to uphold challenged campaign finance restrictions like the one he confronted last year.

And if he had been on the court when Citizens United was decided, he would have been with the dissenters, Hasen said. But the issue now is whether Garland would be willing to overturn the ruling.

"My guess is that this would be a struggle for him, less about the merits of the case and more about the proper role of the justice (particularly if he becomes the new swing justice) on a court that is ideologically and politically divided," Hasen said in an email.

Guns rights advocates point to two votes that they say make them worry that Garland also could vote to overturn the Supreme Court's 2008 ruling in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, written by Scalia, that proclaimed an individual's right to own a gun, at least for self-defense at home. That, too, was a 5-4 ruling.

In 2000, Garland was part of a 2-1 majority that said the FBI could retain gun purchase records for six months to make sure the computerized instant background check system was working. The FBI's position was challenged by the National Rifle Association and other gun-rights groups.

Seven years later, Garland wanted the full court to reconsider a decision by a three-judge panel that struck down Washington's ban on handgun ownership. The appeals court voted 6-4 against a new hearing in the case, for which Scalia later wrote the majority opinion.

The court where he's served since 1997, and as chief judge since 2013, also handles the lion's share of challenges to federal regulations, including actions taken by the Environmental Protection Agency. Scalia had been a leading critic on the court of EPA climate-change policy, and his death is a potentially devastating loss to opponents of efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Garland, on the other hand, has been friendlier to EPA action.

He drew the ire of industry groups in 2001 when he upheld use of the Endangered Species Act to protect the arroyo toad in California, rejecting arguments that federal officials lacked authority because the toad lived only in California. He also dissented in a case that overturned the EPA's anti-haze regulations, which business groups considered overly burdensome.

Unease over UK austerity flares as prominent minister quits

DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Smoldering tensions within Britain's ruling Conservative Party have exploded as a prominent minister resigned over the government's plans to cut benefits for the disabled while giving tax breaks for the better off.

Iain Duncan Smith quit late Friday, two days after the cuts were unveiled in a sixth consecutive austerity budget — a plan that has drawn criticism from many members of Prime Minister David Cameron's own party. The work and pensions secretary said he could no longer support policies that he believes are driven more by political ideology than economic necessity.

"I have for some time and rather reluctantly come to believe that the latest changes to benefits to the disabled and the context in which they've been made are a compromise too far," Duncan Smith wrote in

his resignation letter.

His decision laid bare escalating tensions within the Conservative Party as Britain prepares for a June 23 referendum on whether to leave the European Union. Duncan Smith, a former party leader nicknamed the "quiet man," is a prominent advocate of leaving the EU, while Cameron supports continued membership.

While Cameron has allowed ministers to follow their own beliefs on the EU issue, he has found it a formidable task to hold his government together as the debate heats up. The Sun newspaper captured the internal warfare with a headline that alluded to the ancient rebellion against Julius Caesar and warned Cameron to beware the "IDS of March."

The resignation followed days of uproar over plans to trim personal independence payments for the disabled — a proposal met with such fury that the government had been promising to rethink it.

In his resignation letter, Duncan Smith said the cuts were "not defensible" in a budget that gave benefits to wealthier taxpayers, and he argued for broader reforms that would "focus resources on those most in need." He has long argued that benefits such as fuel subsidies for the elderly should be means tested so they only go to those in need.

Cameron nevertheless argued that Duncan Smith had accepted the changes only days ago.

"In light of this, I am puzzled and disappointed that you have chosen to resign," he wrote in reply to Duncan Smith's letter of resignation.

Many at Guantanamo apparently not 'too dangerous' after all

BEN FOX, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — In the last comprehensive review of prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay, the U.S. government decided nearly 50 were "too dangerous to transfer but not feasible for prosecution," leaving them in an open-ended legal limbo.

Now it seems many may not be so dangerous after all.

A review board that includes military and intelligence officials has been taking a hard look at these men and helping to steadily chip away at the list of indefinite detainees, who are a significant obstacle to President Barack Obama's push to shut down the detention center at the U.S. military base in Cuba.

The first 23 decisions announced by the Periodic Review Board as of this month have skewed heavily in favor of the prisoners. It has unanimously cleared 19 for release, and said five will continue to be held but will be re-evaluated again later. Some of the approved have already left Guantanamo while the rest are expected to depart over the summer.

Lawyers for detainees welcomed the initial results, although they say the men shouldn't have been held without charge for so long in the first place.

"These people have not been reviewed in over six years. They have changed, circumstances have changed, and they have needed a fresh look," said Pardiss Kebriaei, a lawyer for the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights who represented a prisoner cleared by the Periodic Review Board.

The deliberations of the board are private. But David Glazier, a professor at Loyola Law School who has analyzed records of the proceedings released by the Pentagon, said the members appear to be treating past assessments of prisoners "with a healthier degree of skepticism" than officials did in the past.

"If you just care about justice for human beings it's a little odd that it's taken 14 years to ask the questions in a hard enough way to discover that," said Glazier, a former Navy officer and expert in military law.

Detainees approved for release by the board over the past two years have included a Saudi accused of being a bodyguard for Osama bin Laden who waged one of the longest hunger strikes while at Guantanamo and a Kuwaiti who was alleged to be a "spiritual adviser" to the al-Qaida leader, though he would only have been about 20 at the time.

A Yemeni prisoner was cleared in January after authorities determined he was just a low-level jihadist fighter but had been mistaken for an al-Qaida facilitator or courier with a similar alias.

In Congress, where there is strong opposition to closing the detention center, the administration is seen as moving too fast to release men some fear will resume the behavior that got them locked up in the

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first place. "The administration's mad rush to push detainees on allies and partners has to stop," Rep. Ed Royce, a California Republican who is chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said in January after 10 prisoners on the cleared list of 2010 were sent to Oman for resettlement.

There are 91 men held at Guantanamo, down from nearly 250 when Obama assumed the presidency. Those left include 36 who are cleared for release if security conditions can be met in the countries where they will settle. Seven face trial by military commission, including five charged with planning and supporting the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, 2001. Three others have been convicted.

The Obama administration wants to close the detention center and hopes to overcome the opposition in Congress to moving any prisoners to the U.S. by bringing down the population at Guantanamo to what officials have called the "irreducible minimum."

The administration says it has no plans to go further and turn the base itself over to Cuba — a demand Obama is likely to hear during his visit to Havana starting Sunday.

The January 2010 review designated 48 men for indefinite detention under the international law of war until the end of hostilities, a vague time frame in the war against terrorist groups such as al-Qaida. It also said 44 other detainees should be considered for prosecution. But few can now be tried due to court rulings that limited the jurisdiction of military commissions and the ban on sending them to the U.S., where they might otherwise be tried in federal court.

Men from both categories are now eligible to go before the Periodic Review Board, including some not likely to be released.

"There are people in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility who it is not safe to transfer ... They have to stay in U.S. detention," Defense Secretary Ash Carter told reporters last month.

The board is made up of representatives of six agencies, including the Defense Department, Justice Department and Office of the Director of National Intelligence. They convene in Arlington, Virginia, while the detainee sits in a trailer on the base, one foot shackled to the floor. They communicate by video teleconference.

Board members consider not just past allegations, but whether the detainee could pose a threat in the future, weighing such factors as his behavior while in custody and what he might do after Guantanamo, said David Remes, a Washington-based lawyer who has represented four detainees cleared by the board.

"These guys have been held at Guantanamo for 14 plus years, most of them. It's not that surprising that after all this time the board concludes that they are no longer significant threats," Remes said.

The Director of National Intelligence reported this month that 5 percent of Guantanamo prisoners released since January 2009, when the U.S. began using the multi-agency screening process, have re-engaged in terrorism and 8 percent are suspected of it. That compares to 21 percent confirmed and 14 percent suspected under the earlier system.

Typical of those cleared for release by the PRB is Ghaleb al-Bihani. Born in Saudi Arabia but a citizen of Yemen, he traveled to Afghanistan as a 22-year-old and trained at an al-Qaida camp. His lawyers told the board he worked as an assistant cook. When he appeared before the board, he assured the members he would lead a peaceful life, that all he wanted was to get out of Guantanamo, get an education and find a wife. He has studied English and Spanish while at Guantanamo and asked the board to send him to Europe, Latin America, Asia or Qatar.

"I am against violence and I want to build a new life," he said, according to a transcript released by the Pentagon.

He may get that chance. The Pentagon announced about a month after his hearing that he was cleared for release. But that was two years ago and his lawyer says his departure is long overdue.

"Most of these men want to forget about this chapter, want to forget that Guantanamo ever happened to them," Kebriaei said.

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AP Exclusive: Drug lord gains weight, reads books in prison

BY MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Drug lord Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman is getting some self-help advice and gaining a bit of weight in prison under his new, tighter-security regime, but Mexico’s formerly most wanted man is apparently not doing so well in the love department.

Guzman, who tunneled out of the same prison last July, now has two guards standing outside his cell watching him every minute of the day. There is a dog whose only job is to test his food before he eats it to make sure it’s not poisoned. He no longer has a television, but gets free reading material.

Since he was recaptured in January, Guzman has read the classic “Don Quijote,” and has now started a Spanish-language translation of “The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here for?” by Rick Warren, a California-based evangelical pastor. The self-help book contains quotes that might pertain to Guzman, like “A pretentious, showy life is an empty life; a plain and simple life is a full life.” And “We are products of our past, but we don’t have to be prisoners of it.”

The description of his post-escape prison life comes from a federal official who was not authorized to be quoted by name under official policy. The official and a colleague granted the exclusive interview to The Associated Press following a spate of complaints by Guzman’s lawyers and relatives who said his health was suffering in prison and that he couldn’t sleep.

Before he escaped, Guzman was allowed a four-hour conjugal visit every nine days. In addition, the officials said, he was supplied with Viagra.

But Guzman hasn’t been given Viagra since he was recaptured and returned to the prison on Jan. 8. Nor has he received any conjugal visits. He only applied for permission to renew them this week.

The officials said Guzman has gained a small amount of weight and lowered his blood pressure since he was taken back to the Altiplano prison west of Mexico City.

He is under constant observation from a ceiling-mounted camera which — unlike the one in the cell from which he escaped — has no blind spots.

Guzman’s associates tunneled him out of prison through the thin concrete floor of his shower stall last July in a spot which surveillance cameras were not designed to reach.

The floors of the prison’s top-security cells have since been reinforced with a 16-inch (40-centimeter) bed of concrete with a double layer of rebar.

During his most recent time on the run, Guzman met with Mexican actress Kate del Castillo, purportedly to discuss a project to document his life in a movie.

But Del Castillo said in interview with ABC aired Friday that Guzman may have just been infatuated with her, or the drug-trafficking character she played in a TV series, Teresa Mendoza.

“He probably had a crush on Teresa Mendoza,” Del Castillo told Diane Sawyer. “I think he was never interested in the movie.”

Prosecutors later said her contacts with Guzman, and the October 2015 meeting with Guzman and American actor Sean Penn in a remote area of northeastern Mexico, helped lead them to eventually recapturing the drug lord. A chain of leaked emails between Guzman and Del Castillo suggest authorities were monitoring their text conversations.

Del Castillo said she didn’t know she was under surveillance.

“No, to be honest I didn’t think about it,” she said. “I thought he (Guzman) knew what he was doing by texting.”

Prince says he’s writing a memoir, performs for NYC audience

MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Prince announced he’s writing his memoir, told the audience he was leaving to change clothes and came back to perform songs for the feverish New York City crowd.

Prince announced Friday that his book — with working title is “The Beautiful Ones” — will be released

next year by publishing house Spiegel & Grau.

"If you don't mind, I'm going to go home and change real quick and come back and party with y'all," Prince said.

And he did.

He returned to the dark room to perform for the audience, which included Harry Belafonte, Trevor Noah, R&B singer Maxwell, journalists and music industry players. Now in another ensemble, Prince performed on piano from the second level of the venue, as the crowd looked up and sang along to songs like "When Doves Cry," "If I Was Your Girlfriend," "Let's Work," "Hot Thing" and "All the Critics Love U In New York."

"New York, do you want to play with me?" yelled Prince, who was getting help from a DJ when performing. "You know how many hits we got? You know how long we gon' be here? It's time to jam!"

Dancers also were on the second level with Prince, and at one point he put his leg over the railing and stuck his microphone out to the crowd.

Before his performance, the pop icon said Spiegel & Grau made him "an offer I can't refuse."

He added that the book will start with his first memory.

"This is my first (book). My brother Dan is helping me with it. He's a good critic and that's what I need. He's not a 'yes' man at all and he's really helping me get through this," Prince told the audience.

"We're starting from the beginning from my first memory, and hopefully we can go all the way up to the Super Bowl," he said.

At one point Prince asked the crowd: "You all still read books right?"

The audience roared loudly.

According to a press release about the memoir released Friday, "Prince will take readers on an unconventional and poetic journey through his life and creative work." It says the book will include stories about Prince's music and "the family that shaped him and the people, places, and ideas that fired his creative imagination."

The 57-year-old Minneapolis-born Prince is one of the most successful musical acts of all-time. He has released four albums in the last 18 months, including two on the Tidal streaming service last year.

New York-based Spiegel & Grau is an imprint of Penguin Random House. The book will be released in the fall of 2017.

China journalist linked to petition on president disappears

GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A Beijing-based journalist linked with an online petition calling for the Chinese president's resignation has been missing since he disappeared from the Beijing airport on his way to Hong Kong several days ago, his lawyer said Saturday.

Jia Jia has not been seen since Tuesday, said the lawyer, Yan Xin, in the latest instance of a Chinese government critic vanishing without a trace.

Yan said he could not confirm that the government is holding Jia because local police and airport, airline and immigration officials have all denied knowledge of his case. But Jia's friends believe he may have unwittingly implicated himself when he warned an editor friend about the publication of an anonymous letter asking President Xi Jinping to step down.

Jia's friends believe that his disappearance is related to the petition, which surfaced briefly on the government-linked news site Wujie earlier this month during China's parliamentary session and attracted intense interest among watchers of Chinese politics.

The petition criticized Xi's handling of economic and domestic affairs and noted that more and more factions of the Communist Party oppose the president's tightening grip over speech, government bureaucracy and dissent within the party. The letter was taken down shortly after it was published, with the website saying it had been hacked.

Even though similar letters have been published before, the petition, which was signed "Loyal Communist Party Members," struck a raw nerve because there have been hints of resistance to Xi's rule within the

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uppermost ranks of the party, said Chinese University of Hong Kong politics expert Willy Lam.

Jia's wife has not heard any word on her husband's whereabouts, Yan said. Chinese police are required by law to notify family members of a detained person within 24 hours unless the case endangers state security. Detainees in politically sensitive cases are frequently held much longer without any official acknowledgment.

Jia has worked for news outlets in the mainland and in Hong Kong, and his past criticism of state censorship and corruption may have made him a person of interest for government investigators.

In the early hours of March 5, Jia told a group chat in an online messaging app that he had spoken to Ouyang Hongliang, a Wujie editor, to let him know that the petition had been published on the site.

"They're handling it," Jia told the chat group, according to a screenshot seen by The Associated Press. "I bet someone will be fired."

Jia denied any involvement in the petition, according to two of his friends.

Jia is the latest critic of China's government to go missing. Several booksellers in Hong Kong disappeared in recent months after publishing salacious material about Xi and other Chinese leaders. The booksellers have resurfaced to say that they left for mainland China on their own volition, while their friends maintain they were abducted by Chinese agents but compelled to later say otherwise.

Yan, Jia's lawyer, said he has been fruitlessly inquiring about Jia. He said government agencies would not give information about his client unless a formal case has been brought against him.

"The authorities will only answer our questions if we have a case to refer to, but we haven't received any notification of a case," Yan said.

Rights groups have expressed concern about Jia's disappearance, with the Committee to Protect Journalists calling on Chinese officials to disclose if and where they are holding him.

Obama, Republicans take Supreme Court fight to airwaves

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama called again Saturday for Senate Republicans to consider his nominee for the Supreme Court, Merrick Garland.

Republicans countered by warning Democrats not to "seek to further divide our nation" by using the Supreme Court fight "to score cheap political points in an election year."

In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama acknowledged that "we're in the middle of an especially noisy and volatile political season."

However, the president argued: "At a time when our politics are so polarized; when norms and customs of our political rhetoric seem to be corroding - this is precisely the time we should treat the appointment of a Supreme Court justice with the seriousness it deserves. Because our Supreme Court is supposed to be above politics, not an extension of politics. And it should stay that way."

Obama urged Senate Republicans to "give Judge Garland the respect he has earned. Give him a hearing. Give him an up-or-down vote. To deny it would be an abdication of the Senate's constitutional duty. It would indicate a process for nominating and confirming judges that is beyond repair."

In the GOP response, Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., said the battle over the vacancy created by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia was unique because an Obama choice would push the court's 4-4 split in the liberal direction and because the vacancy occurred "in the middle of an election year." Scalia died Feb. 13.

Tillis repeated the GOP argument that they would give voters a chance to decide the next justice by postponing action until the president elected in November makes a choice. He never mentioned Garland, whom Obama nominated Wednesday.

"The president and Democratic leaders aren't exactly thrilled with giving the American people a voice," said Tillis, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Tillis said Republicans were already moving on to addressing drug addiction and the needs of the military and veterans and said the next move was up to Obama and congressional Democrats.

"Will they join us in doing our jobs on behalf of the American people?" he said. "Or will they instead seek to further divide our nation by turning the Supreme Court process into a blatantly partisan back and forth? Are they going to resort to blocking and sabotaging important legislation and good-faith efforts to

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help the American people, all in the name of seeking to score cheap political points in an election year?"

Shortly after Scalia's death, Tillis cautioned Republicans against ruling out any Obama choice before he announced it, citing the unlikely scenario that the president would pick a candidate as conservative as Scalia. Tillis said a blanket refusal could seem "obstructionist."

On Friday, Illinois Sen. Mark Kirk became the first GOP senator to publicly abandon his party leaders' insistence on blocking the process until a new president makes a nomination.

"It's just man up and cast a vote," Kirk said on the "Big' John Howell" show on Chicago radio station WLS. "The tough thing about these senatorial jobs is you get yes or no votes. Your whole job is to either say yes or no and explain why."

Kirk faces a tough re-election contest this fall and is considered one of the most endangered Senate GOP incumbents.